

Submission
No 718

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Dear Members,

As a resident and ratepayer in the Parkes LGA I would like to voice my strong opposition to the planned Energy from Waste incinerator being constructed in Parkes.

As a farmer and investor in the local community, I find it extremely concerning that this proposal is even being considered. The potential for negative environmental and health impacts of this project cannot and must not be overlooked.

This type of incinerator has already been rejected in the Sydney region due to health concerns. In fact, they are banned in every location in NSW, except for four approved sites: one of which is Parkes. Clearly, the NSW Government does not place the same value on our lives as it does on those of our city cousins.

The Parkes area has some of the most productive farmland in the State and this project has the potential to contaminate the soil, waterways, water sources and livestock we produce. As the rivers flow downstream, so too do the chemicals they contain. Soon, what was a problem for our area becomes a much bigger and more widespread issue. As the food produced in Parkes makes its way to Sydney and you sit down to dinner at night, ask yourself "am I eating my own rubbish"

Overseas, countries are beginning to wake up to the dangers of these facilities, with the EU withdrawing funding for new incinerators. As usual, Australia is running behind.

I would like to include some extracts from publications regarding these types of incinerators:

" the technology is an outdated, unsustainable method for waste disposal, as burning waste, especially plastics, produces dangerous air emissions and results in massive quantities of hazardous wastes that are difficult to dispose of safely."

- Incinerating waste emits large volumes of CO₂, pollutes the environment with a variety of highly toxic dioxins and other toxic chemicals (including substances linked to cancer, damage to the immune system, reproductive problems, developmental defects and other serious health concerns) in quantities exceeding planetary limits, and contributes to biodiversity loss.
- Incineration destroys valuable phosphorus resources in biowaste and disrupts global biogeochemical cycles.
- Communities living near incinerators may be at higher risk of health issues due to their harmful effects.
- Fly ash and bottom ash from incinerators are highly contaminated with dioxins and other chemicals such as PFAS.
- Alternatives to waste incineration exist and are better investments of public funds.

I would also like to include the following blog from Toxics Free Australia Posted on 23rd October 2025 as an example of the complete disregard the NSW Government has for regional residents:

Media Statement

23rd October 2025

NSW Government rolls out the red carpet for incineration.

Today the NSW Government released the first chapter of the NSW Waste and Circular Infrastructure Plan.

This is a plan to fast-track dangerous waste to energy incineration projects into NSW regional communities especially and to burn waste across the whole of NSW. If implemented, this will lead to widespread dioxin and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) contamination threatening the food chain and agricultural exports.

This is not a plan that supports a sustainable waste management system or Circular Economy for NSW.

The plan hypes up a fake waste “crisis” to justify extraordinary actions to fast track approvals for the waste incineration sector, while ignoring the infrastructure needed to create a truly sustainable waste management system and Circular Economy.

This plan is insulting to all NSW citizens, especially the thousands of farmers, families, independent experts and civil society organisations that have been working to educate all levels of government and their elected MPs about the very real threats waste incineration brings with it. We demand a moratorium on waste incineration in NSW and across Australia.

Releasing this plan on the eve of a statewide parliamentary inquiry into Waste to Energy in NSW, concluding on the 31st October, demonstrates just how desperate the waste incineration industry is to get a foothold in Australia, and the degree of influence this industry holds over the NSW government.

Greenwashing of waste incineration across Australia and particularly in NSW, is peddled by the incinerator industry and their lobbyists, some regulators, MP’s and local governments. Incredibly, the NSW government released an absurd factsheet claiming waste incineration is no more polluting than a leaf blower.

The citizens of NSW deserve the truth about this most expensive and polluting way to make energy or manage waste.

There is nothing pragmatic or essential about waste incineration. It is an industry in decline globally because of its massive carbon footprint and toxic pollution legacies including millions of tonnes

of toxic ash. The misinformation being peddled by the NSW government and industry, looks ridiculous compared to the EU Commission recommendation to its member states, in 2017, to not invest in waste incineration, to decommission old incinerators and not build new ones. Instead, they are incentivising investment in sustainable Zero Waste models.

The NSW Government agencies are promoting waste incineration ahead of sustainable Zero Waste management models and in doing so will create a massive climate bomb for Australia, undermining the Federal Governments Net Zero, Nature Positive and Made in Australia policy agenda.

As the UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur for toxics and hazardous waste, Dr Marcos Orellano, declared after visiting Australia recently, “Waste incineration is the end of the line for the fossil fuel industry.”

Plastic waste (a petrochemical and fossil fuel material) is the prime fuel for waste incinerators, including the production of Refuse Derived Fuels and Processed Engineered Fuels, which the NSW government is promoting.

The NSW Government plans to establish an Interagency Working Group as part of this plan, but it does not include Health or Environment agencies. Further, the industry will be provided with concierge and agency expertise to fast-track approvals for their projects.

This plan is a slap in the face for all the NSW communities that placed their faith in the government, to uphold their human rights, for food security and the rights of farmers, for the health and safety of their children and their future and for the hope of a truly sustainable waste management system, Circular Economy and safe climate future.

Serious questions now need to be asked about how and why this plan has come to exist. Full of misinformation and industry bias, the NSW Government has ignored the input of the most affected communities, independent experts, organisations and the public. Dismissed as mere “concerns”, the evidence presented on the health, environment, climate, food chain contamination and human rights impacts, deserves better recognition and acknowledgement by the NSW Government.

This plan is unjustified and detrimental to NSW citizens, farmers, the environment and our climate. Waste incineration is driving the triple planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss and chemical pollution. Its time for the NSW Government to reset its waste management agenda back to a sustainable and ethical path before it’s too late.

Media release available here – NSW waste and CE infrastructure plan MR

Posted in Blog

I have spoken about this planned project to many local residents, and many say they will pack up their lives and leave Parkes. As farmers, it is not that simple. Who will want to purchase land contaminated with toxic chemicals? Once local livestock and produce becomes contaminated, farm outputs will be rendered unsaleable. Land values will plummet and there will simply be no way out. So, many face the decision of whether to stay and hope this lunacy is abandoned or get out before the death knell sounds.

There are other alternatives to this project, and every option should be examined. Manufacturers have a huge role to play in waste management as we constantly see over packaging of food and shrinking serving sizes, whilst package sizes remain. The goal should be reducing the rubbish we produce.

I personally have wrestled with the decision to make this submission. I honestly don't believe the NSW Government could care one iota about the people in the regions. But I cannot simply sit back and do nothing.

I hope that somehow common sense will prevail and this toxic incinerator will be unanimously rejected.

Yours Faithfully,
A Concerned Citizen