

Submission
No 731

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I strongly oppose the construction and operation of any waste incinerator facility in the Parkes region or anywhere near our food-producing, family-oriented regional communities.

Our families, farms, and futures are not Sydney's dumping ground. For years, we've watched the devastating impacts of industrial waste decisions being pushed onto rural Australians who had no say in them. Now, the same story is playing out again — with a plan to burn Sydney and Newcastle's rubbish in the heart of food-producing country.

1. Threat to Health and Safety

Incinerators release dioxins, furans, and other toxic “forever chemicals” known to cause cancer, reproductive harm, and developmental disorders in children. These toxins don't just vanish — they settle into the soil, are absorbed by crops, eaten by livestock, and end up in our food.

We've seen this across the world. Japan and parts of Europe have shut down incinerators after discovering alarming links to health conditions and environmental contamination. Why is Australia repeating these mistakes?

2. Damage to Agriculture and Regional Livelihoods

The Parkes–Narromine–Manildra corridor is a major food production area — grain, beef, and dairy all rely on clean air, clean soil, and clean water.

Introducing a toxic waste-burning facility into this environment is reckless. Once contaminated, our soil and produce could face export restrictions or consumer rejection, destroying decades of agricultural reputation and investment.

3. Economic and Property Impacts

Property values near incinerators plummet. Who will buy a home or invest in a business next to a toxic burner?

Generations of regional families will suffer — not just from potential health problems, but from financial loss and the permanent stain such a facility places on the community.

4. Environmental Catastrophe

Burning waste doesn't make it disappear. Every tonne burned becomes toxic fly ash that must be buried — a new pollution problem created in the name of “solution.”

Even with closed rail transport, the smell and contamination at Tarago are already unbearable; local schools have to keep windows shut when waste trains go past. Is that the future we want for Parkes, Narromine, and surrounding towns?

And let's not forget: waste transport from Brisbane or Sydney risks bringing invasive species like fire ants and cane toads, compounding the environmental disaster.

5. Learn from the Past — Don't Repeat It

Australia has a long, painful history of being told harmful things were “safe.”

Asbestos — “safe” until it killed tens of thousands.

Thalidomide — approved while other countries banned it, devastating families.

Are we really going to let history repeat itself with incineration?

6. Better Solutions Exist

If city waste is a problem, deal with it where it's created. Don't export the risk to rural communities.

Invest in:

Advanced recycling technologies

Waste reduction policies

Reusable and biodegradable packaging

Circular economy initiatives that create jobs without poisoning farmland

We can't burn our way out of a waste crisis.

7. A Final Message to Decision Makers

Stop sacrificing regional Australia for city convenience.

Stop treating clean air, water, and food as negotiable.

Stop pretending that burning rubbish is “green technology.”

We demand our government value every life equally — rural and city alike.

No incinerator at Parkes. No toxic dumping in food-producing regions.

Do better. Find safer solutions.

And if you truly believe this technology is safe — build it in Sydney.