

Submission
No 722

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I am a Peak Hill resident who has lived in the Parkes Shire for nearly 25 years. We moved to Peak Hill for a business opportunity when our children were little. Besides from the business opportunity, we chose Peak Hill and the Parkes Shire for many reasons including the country lifestyle, the fresh country air and the community that surrounds us.

When I first heard about the Waste to Energy programme I was very interested as to how it would work and felt that there was potential for this to provide work opportunities and investment opportunities for our shire.

However in the subsequent months I feel that this potential is over stated. There has been little concrete information that gives me confidence that these facilities will do more good than bad.

My first major concern is if this technology is so safe why are these facilities not being built in the Sydney regions? Why should we take Sydney's rubbish? The energy used to truck or train the rubbish 500plus km to Parkes, to me, defeats the purpose. Why have education programmes not been implemented to help reduce the amount of rubbish coming out of Sydney? Why are we not talking to manufacturers, supermarkets, retailers and the like, to come up with better ways to package our goods that are recyclable?

Parkes Shire is one of many food bowls that feeds our state, country and provides exports to other countries. Nothing in the information given makes me feel confident that this facility will not harm our agricultural sector. Even just having my own vegetable garden and chickens makes me nervous. Where is our fresh food going to come from that is safe to eat? There are so many risks involved that could potentially lead to further issues. Unfortunately we won't know about these for many years to come- it will be my children, grandchildren and great children that face potential health problems. I do not want to leave them that legacy.

Will this facility really provide much needed employment in our shire? How many people will not move to our shire and how many will leave? This has long term consequences for our schools, health facilities, council, employers and aged facilities. There are already many smaller towns that are turning into ghost towns- is this Parkes' fate?

I would like to pull out relevant technological terminology and details to put my point of view forward but I do not understand it enough- there just has not been enough information around this issue. Much of the negative information has come from other parts of the world. I would like to see local information.

Over the last few weeks our area has seen tremendous winds. The trackers that have been shown on Facebook pages indicate a plume that reaches an extensive part of our shire and into the Forbes and Cabonne shires. How will these plumes be contained? Will there be testing of our air quality before the facility is built so we have a base line that will indicate how well the facility is containing pollution.

I have not been overly eloquent but I do not see that the Waste to Energy facility is of any great benefit to our shire in the long term. I feel the long term effects of taking Sydney's rubbish will be negative on our natural landscape, the health of our residents, the economy of the shire and future of our children. Let's work together to reduce our waste (the example of the Albury Wodonga council is inspiring) across NSW not by going back to incinerating.