

**Submission
No 723**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Charles Attard

Date Received: 31 October 2025

31/10/2025

To the Parliamentary Inquiry

Into Proposed Energy from Waste facilities in

Regional NSW, Waste Energy Incinerator coming to Parkes.

My name is Charles Attard (57 yrs) and I live in Parkes, NSW. I am writing to **oppose the Waste-to-energy facility** that has been proposed for our town, in close proximity (4.7 kms), to nearby schools, industries and residents. I am deeply concerned about the health impacts arising from air pollution- toxins like dioxin and furans pollution, and odour generated from the site.

I work as a registered nurse and I am a long-standing cattle farmer. My house is connected to a water tanks and therefore, I am dependant on what falls from the sky. My cows drink dam water and what flows from the creek that flows through my property. I also irrigate water from the creek to water my crops as part of my livelihood.

These pollutants will affect the community, surrounding agricultural lands, and animal husbandry. Toxic ash or Dioxins have been proven to lead to poor air quality; contaminate the grain, meat produced, and therefore negatively effecting exports overseas. The health and wellbeing of all those within the 150 km radius, will also have profound negative impact. These toxic ashes and dioxins result in an accumulative effect over a long period of time.

All new incinerators should be located away from areas of food production, and food grown near an incinerator should be avoided, as mentioned accumulation of toxic ashes and dioxins can progress into food sources for local and surrounding communities. But despite technological advancements, local and global health impacts from waste incinerators remain a concern for communities where they are to be built. Hence if this incinerator which was considered for Sydney and not considered safe, but rejected, how can it be seen safe for our community?

It raises the question, as to why waste cannot be handled more effectively closer to the source, utilising alterative waste management strategies, where the environmental and logistic impacts would be far less.

The added cost and emissions from transporting this waste across such a vast distance from Central Western NSW, only serves to make this project less sustainable.

I am deeply concerned about the ongoing monitoring (lack of monitoring) and compliance of the facility, should it go ahead, it begs multiple questions to consider. The supply of water to enable the creation of energy from steam, I am reliant on bore water. How will this affect underground water supply in that area? Parkes is a drought prone area. So, how do they propose to maintain sufficient water to run the facility continuously, and not affect our community, farming water supply from over use. What testing measures will be put in place

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to check what was there before the facility started? Once underwater sources dry up, well what then! This will impact the facility operations and deplete the town's water sources! Will there be ongoing monitoring of water tank testing and filtering of contaminated water and replacing it with clean filtered water. Who will be responsible for ensuring the plant operates within safe limits.

What of the harmful odours, gases and pollutants from the incinerator? This plant could potentially discourage new businesses from setting up, driving essential business away from our town. The long term economic impact on local business should be carefully considered. Would mandatory health checks for the community be considered, in case exposure to hazardous by-products on the incinerator process, necessary to create a base line for the community, should they later develop cancers and reproductive dysfunction as a result from this waste incinerator?

I believe it imperative to reassess whether this incinerator will have adverse health outcomes, whether after many years of cumulative exposure of contamination of food and ingestion of pollutants may create a significant pathway for both nearby and distant residents.

I do not support the incinerator option for Parkes as it will cause known community health concerns arising from poor air quality, odour, and as a result accumulative of toxins in soil, water and the food chain, posing a risk to agriculture and human health.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Charles M Attard

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