

Submission  
No 749

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 18 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

## **Submission Against the Proposed Waste Incinerator in Parkes**

By \_\_\_\_\_ *– Long-Term Resident, Local Teacher, and Grandfather*

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed waste incinerator in Parkes.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I have lived in the Parkes Shire for over 40 years, moving here from Western Sydney for the very reason so many others have done: the clean air, quiet lifestyle, and safe environment to raise a family. I've taught in this town for many years and am proud to say that four generations of my family have lived in Parkes. I now have six grandchildren living here — and I am deeply concerned about what their future will look like if this project goes ahead.

There has been a great deal of misinformation — or worse, a complete lack of clear information — about what this incinerator will actually produce in terms of emissions and toxic outputs. Overseas examples have shown that these facilities release hazardous pollutants into the air, which can cause long-term health issues, especially for children and the elderly. Once those toxins settle into the ground or water table, the damage is done — and irreversible.

The idea that this facility will produce clean energy is misleading. It is widely known that incinerators are an extremely inefficient energy source. Framing them as "waste-to-energy" is just a front — an attempt to rebrand pollution as something positive. In reality, this is about getting rid of Sydney's rubbish — at the expense of regional health and wellbeing.

There is also the social cost. If this goes ahead, some families will feel they have no choice but to leave town — yet not everyone can afford to move together. It creates family separation, emotional distress, and potential population decline. I know this first-hand, because members of my own family have raised concerns about whether they could remain in Parkes if the incinerator is built.

I also want to express disappointment in the process. The way this project has crept into existence — with limited transparency and what appears to be behind-the-scenes deals between stakeholders, council and the state government — has left the community feeling deceived and powerless.

Council has previously said that even a few protest signs about the incinerator have impacted traveller traffic. If that's the case, how do they think an operating incinerator — pumping tonnes of smoke 24 hours a day, 365 days a year — will affect tourism, population growth, or new families moving to town? People do not want to live next door to a smoke-belching facility that threatens health and wellbeing. The long-term effect on real estate values will be devastating.

Parkes has spent decades building its reputation as a clean, safe, family-friendly rural town. This incinerator directly undermines that identity and puts our health, land, and future at risk.

I urge you to listen to the voices of locals — not distant stakeholders with no ties to our community — and reject this toxic proposal.

Teacher, Parkes resident

Four generations in the Parkes Shire

Concerned grandfather of six