

Submission
No 779

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Waste to Energy Incinerator at Parkes. I am a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Emergency Nursing and have been working at the Parkes Hospital for over ten years. As a health care professional, I have grave concerns for the effects of this toxic proposal on the health and wellbeing of our community. There is simply not enough evidence or data to support it, and the residents of Parkes should not be considered the Guinea Pigs who will wear the results.

My children attend the Parkes Christian School, which is located within a couple of kilometres of the proposed Incinerator. To think that anyone would approve such a facility leaving these vulnerable children within such proximity to a toxic development is simply unbelievable. These healthy country children should not be collateral damage in the disposal of the massive landfill issues stemming from the city populations who are so removed from the realities of agriculture and food production that the best idea they have come up with is to put 600 000 tonnes of stinking, leaking, oozing trash onto a constant stream of trains who will transport it hundreds of kilometres away without any thought for the residents of these areas.

The people of rural Australia deserve better. We are not second-class citizens that just need to accept whatever the large city populations choose to lump in our backyard. For too long we have been treated by the NSW Government as though we don't matter. It is mind boggling to think that this facility could be built in the middle of this prime agricultural land, responsible for producing grain, meat and fibre for our nation. In a world where we are increasingly growing conscious of the chemicals and additives in our food sources this decision would effectively shut down the agricultural sector in our region. The same "environmentally aware" residents of Woollahra and Bondi who want to dump their rubbish in our backyard are not likely to want to buy their fresh sourdough bread knowing that the wheat was grown in Parkes being covered in plumes of toxic ash and dioxins before being processed into flour at Manildra where the water supply will also contain traces of these chemicals.

Although I don't believe that a Waste to Energy Incinerator is an acceptable or intelligent way to deal with the massive overconsumption and resulting waste problems in our cities – the question must be asked why would it be earmarked so close to residential areas, schools and agricultural land? Australia is a vast country and if this kind of facility is decided on as a sensible way to move forward it needs to be put in a far more isolated area, where it will not affect the health and livelihoods of the 14000 people who live in the Parkes Shire, let alone the thousands more in the extended region which includes the beautiful wine growing region around Orange, the very productive Agricultural land around Molong, Manildra, Wellington and Tomingley, Cowra and Canowindra.

I can say with certainty that I will leave Parkes if this facility is built, taking with me my years of Emergency Nursing experience. There is no way that I can take the risk of my children being exposed to this without any long-term data available as to the effects on both their health, but also the health of their future children. These plumes of ash and dioxins will permeate the air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil we grow our food in. I don't know any parent who could take that risk. After having many conversations with colleagues at work – both Nurses and Doctors, many of them feel the same way. The effect on the availability of healthcare to those residents who choose to stay, or can't afford to leave will be marked.

To that end it also must be noted that the financial effects of this proposal are already being felt in our community. I was looking into purchasing a block on land prior to this announcement... but have decided not to proceed as I am unsure how the proposed establishment of this Incinerator will affect the real estate market. In my opinion real estate prices in Parkes have dropped since the announcement and people are nervous and not sure what to do. I am currently tossing up whether to sell my house now, as I don't want to wait till prices really drop as people begin to leave town due to proposal. Why should the house I have worked hard to pay for be de-valued because the government has decided that although this facility is not safe to be built in Sydney due to health concerns, it is acceptable to expose the residents of Parkes to these same concerns?

The level of stress, anxiety and uncertainty that has been levelled on our community due to dodgy deals, secret plans and an absolute lack of community consultation or duty of care to the residents of this town is unfathomable. This proposal cannot be allowed to come to fruition. It sets an incredibly unfair and inequitable precedent for Rural Australia.