

Submission  
No 791

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 28 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ ; I'm 61 years old and have lived in the Parkes Shire my whole life. My children are and will be fifth generation farmers here in Alectown(30km's from Parkes). My family are fifth generation farmers at Peak Hill(50km's from Parkes). We currently farm approximately 5000 acres with a mix of cropping, merino sheep and fat lambs.

At one point I was a Landcare coordinator for Parkes and District Landcare, I also served as the Chair of the Parkes and District Landcare management committee and was on the steering committee. We worked very hard to promote a sustainable environment with many projects being undertaken.

I spent many years as President of our children's schools P&F and P&C, also chair of the school board and was a member of the Wilcannia Forbes Diocesan School Board. Since my children have left school I chaired the Peak Hill MPS Health Council up until Health Council were no longer used. Our family is also very involved in the Alectown community with the three of us all being members of the RFS. So, as you can see the health and wellbeing of our communities and the environment are very important to me.

I feel that with the information available to us now shows that the instillation of such a facility will make our farms useless. This area for farming is some of the most reliable and productive in the New South Wales. My husband and I have worked very hard for the past thirty-four years on our farm and would like to hand it onto our children and grandchildren that wish to continue in the industry. If this project goes ahead we would need to think very seriously about selling up and moving away as farming will be untenable. We haven't worked our guts out to help feed and clothe people and to care for our land to walk away with nothing. This is what will happen because our land will be worth nothing.

Along with our son we conduct a farm contracting business that covers a large area of the Central West, and we would also have to walk away from that. We currently employ four full time staff and three to five casual staff depending on the season. We have discussed expanding our business and the Parkes activation precinct is somewhere we've been thinking about. If this incinerator is given the go ahead there is no way we would ever contemplate doing this. We support multiple organisations with donations and sponsorship within the Parkes/Forbes/Eugowra Communities. Being part of and supporting the community is something we are very proud.

Over twenty years ago we planted eighteen thousand trees and direct seeded eighty-five kilometres of understory plants on our property. We did this so we could leave our farm in better condition than it was given to us. I find it difficult to also understand how a toxic Incinerator can be placed so close to Goobang National Park which has many threatened and significant species of reptiles, frogs, mammals, birds and many types of Flora. There is one species of acacia growing in and around the park that is only found here and nowhere else.

If this Incinerator is allowed to proceed people's health, livelihoods and the environment will be destroyed. Once these dangerous toxins are released in the air, surface and groundwater there is no coming back. Once these toxins and dioxide get into the water ways it will affect **the whole Murray-Darling Basin**. What's more I was told by the people looking at building this incinerator that it is up to them to report a breach, and it can take up to twelve months before it is even investigated by the EPA. Once a breach occurs it will be too late to do anything about it.

As a Farmer and Farm Contractor business owner along with my husband and son I would like to convey our dismay at the proposed incinerator for Parkes. I feel that both sides of government and Parkes Shire Council have been going behind our backs regarding this facility.

**The stress this proposal is putting on the communities involved is unacceptable. This is something that is now impacting our everyday life and is extremely unfair as it appears at no point do the proponents of this incinerator even care. It's sad when our health, safety and livelihoods and the health and safety of the future generations means so little.**

Back some months ago I wrote to every sitting member of the NSW parliament with only a handful of genuine replies and none of them from the current government. The only replies from them, which was only a couple was to palm me off to someone else.

The questions I'd like answered are:

1. How can the company that has been given the opportunity to tender for the incinerator be the ones to conduct the environmental impact statement, I feel that it will be very one sided.

2. Should there be a breach and our land becomes contaminated, and we are no longer able to farm here who will be liable to compensate us for the loss of our farms and production?
3. Why have the powers of the EPA been changed to allowed for these kinds of industry?
4. As it's shown that rural, remote and regional people have a shorter live span then city people, does this mean that we are less important when it comes to our health.
5. What makes the government think they have the right to make such an important decision with absolutely no regard for what the communities want.
6. Overseas countries are now finding that these incinerators are not safe, so why are they even being contemplated and built in Australia. Shouldn't we be using this information to our advantage not keep pretending it's the solution to the waste problem.
7. More and more farming land is being taken up by renewables, where do you think your food and fibre is going to come from when our land is contaminated.
8. How can this be even contemplated as safe when Parkes is being referred to a "sandbox"? (A place experiments are carried out)
9. Will the former mayor, councillors and general manger that were part of the original decision be questioned in this enquiry?
10. Were there any decisions made to have a SAP in Parkes that has been a benefit to those making the decisions.

I would like to see more resources being put into finding ways to recycle all the things that would be put through these plants. When walking around the supermarkets I've noticed that there is getting more and more plastic packaging on things that don't need to be packaged that way e.g. fruit and vegetables. This is something that needs to be addressed. We need to go back to glass jars that can be recycled, paper bags and less packaging in general.

I would like to thank the committee in advance for taking on our concerns and taking the time to read my submission. I am sure it will be shown that WTE is not the solution.

Please think about the impact that this proposal is having not only on us now, but the possibility of the long-term impacts these incinerators will have on the whole state.

**We are not Sydney's answer to their waste problem.**

Sincerely