

Submission  
No 800

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

I am a lifelong resident of Parkes, a parent who has raised their family here. A daughter who is a current high school student and another who moved away to complete Dip nursing returned home and is working at local hospital. I have lived in region my whole life, up until age of thirty we had four generations. My grandparents owned and farmed land in Parkes, and my uncle now farms the land which we enjoy. My maternal grandparent ran a local retail shop for many years, and my parents owned and operated a manufacturing business for 40 years. I am a professional working in public service role and have done so for over 20 years. We have an investment property in Parkes in addition to the architecturally designed family home we built as owner builders intending retire here.

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed Energy from Waste facility in Parkes. Our community deserves sustainable industries that enhance our region, not an unproven, potentially hazardous facility that threatens to put our future at risk. Regional NSW should not be treated as a dumping ground for Sydney's waste, and we deserve the same health protections as all other areas of the state. The anxiety and distress that comes with not knowing the longer-term impacts, combined with the apparent lack of concern for the lives of the citizens of these communities by our governing bodies, has very much reduced trust in government and its processes. It has left our community feeling very much like the second-rate citizens, where only metropolitan areas are afforded any concern and care for their way of living.

While responsible waste management is important, I do not support moving Sydney's waste burden into regional NSW — especially when the technology is not proven to be safe and poses risks to community health, air quality, our environment, and vital waterways like the Lachlan River and Goobang Creek.

This project could also harm our local tourism, discourage skilled professionals from relocating, and add strain to already under-resourced health services across our region.

I believe our region deserves clean, fair, and sustainable waste solutions that protect our people, our Country, and our future generations.

The proposed facility claims to use newer technology, there is insufficient evidence to guarantee its safety, and I object my community to be the guinea pigs in testing this 'theory' over the next 20-30 years. International research shows that even advanced incinerator technologies emit harmful substances such as dioxins and fine particulate matter, which are linked to respiratory illness, cancer, and developmental issues. Without proven performance in similar regional settings for an extensive period, the risks to our community are unacceptable. Supporting research includes:

Waterman Australia outlines how incinerators, even modern ones, still release pollutants that can cause asthma, stroke, and reproductive harm.

<https://watermanaustralia.com/health-effects-of-waste-incinerator-systems/>

BMC Public Health via ANU links incinerator emissions to adverse birth outcomes and respiratory disease:

<https://researchportalplus.anu.edu.au/en/publications/the-health-impacts-of-waste-incineration-a-systematic-review>

Parkes residents rely heavily on rainwater for harvesting and tank water for everyday use. The proposed site is surrounded by homes that depend on clean air and uncontaminated water. Any airborne pollutants or accidental leaks could compromise our drinking water and soil, directly affecting our health and wellbeing. The remaining ash that is a result of the incineration process also must be managed and is a highly toxic byproduct that can further contaminate its surroundings. The mental toll of living under this threat of uncertainty is already being experienced by so many members of our community, including myself and my family. Relevant sources include:

GNA Environmental warns that incineration can release heavy metals and dioxins that contaminate soil and groundwater:

<https://gna.it.com/burning-waste-environmental-impact>

The Australian Government – Department of Agriculture’s report on contaminated soil waste outlines the risks of hazardous waste byproducts entering the environment:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/contaminated-soil-wastes-australia.pdf>

The National Toxics Network briefing paper explains how incineration contaminates ecosystems as well as undermining climate goals:

<https://ntn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Eunomia-report-briefing-paper-final-1.pdf>

Parkes is a major agricultural hub. Our clean soil, air and water are essential to the integrity of our produce and livestock. Introducing a waste incinerator threatens both our physical environment and the reputation of our agricultural sector. Just the perception of potential contamination could damage market confidence, reduce land values and discourage investment in our beautiful area. This proposal undermines decades of hard work off the back of generational farmers and producers, not to mention those who have come to live and work in our area in more recent times.

The project proposes to transport approximately 600,000 tonnes of waste annually from metropolitan Sydney to Parkes, a round trip of over 1,000 kilometres.

This adds unnecessary transport emissions and undermines NSW’s net-zero and circular economy targets.

If the waste is safe to process, it should be managed near its source; if it is unsafe for Sydney, it is not appropriate for Parkes.

Residents were not consulted prior to Parkes’ designation as an Energy-from-Waste precinct.

Community members became aware of the project only after the proponent’s public announcement.

This absence of genuine engagement erodes trust and fails to meet the standards of informed consent required for major developments under NSW planning policy.

A project of this magnitude requires transparent communication, independent risk assessment, and local agreement, none of which have been adequately demonstrated.

Recommendations:

I strongly urge the Inquiry to reject this proposal and protect the health, environment and economy of Parkes. I hope this Inquiry stands to serve the health of our people, the sustainability of our land, and a clean environment for all Australians to live in.

Please:

- Reject the Parkes Energy from Waste proposal
- Investigate alternative waste management solutions that do not pose risks to human health or agriculture
- Ensure equitable health protections for all NSW residents
- Commit to transparent and inclusive community consultation

This is what needs to happen, or our only alternative will be to consider leaving Parkes should this project go ahead. That is something I have never thought of doing until now.

Yours sincerely