

Submission
No 808

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission

I strongly oppose the proposed waste-to-energy incinerator in Parkes NSW. Our region is an important, clean, thriving agricultural and tourism area that offers the a great Australian lifestyle and the WTE incinerator could ruin it for us all.

1. Health impacts

My family, consisting of myself, my husband and our 3 young children plus numerous extended family members chose to live in this area for many reasons, one being the clean fresh country air. We are particularly worried about the harmful pollutants that the proposed WTE facility is going to produce and the impact on our health both immediately and gradually over long term. I do not want to be exposed to this nor do I want my children and future generations to feel these effects. It is not acceptable to create this project, monitor and then try to "fix a problem" when peoples lives have already been impacted. People's health and lives need to be prioritised over Sydney's waste problem.

2. Agricultural impact

My husband and I both work for local companies and we also operate our own farming business with a top quality cattle breeding program, stock being sold for human consumption. Our farm is located about 40km from the proposed WTE site. We are extremely concerned that the pollutants that this facility will produce will eventually cause our soil, water and livestock to be contaminated and therefore undesired and worthless. We have worked so hard to invest so much of our time and money into this business and for that to be threatened is a massive worry and already having mental health impacts due to the potential financial strain.

3. Community and business impact

Parkes is a well known tourism destination with popular local events, infrastructure, remote country charm and location. Our town and local businesses rely on this to ensure that our local economy stays strong. I feel that if the WTE incinerator was constructed within a few Km from the town centre and the trains carrying tons and tons of rubbish through town we would definitely see the tourism decline. People would choose another place to visit or to just keep driving instead of staying in town.

It has already been advertised how many 'extra' jobs this WTE incinerator will bring to town. We already have low staffing issues across many industries within this area and many current job vacancies waiting to be filled. The construction of this project is only going to further this strain.

4. Location

The selected location for the construction of this WTE Facility is deeply concerning for many reasons. The close proximity to the town centre, schools (particularly the Christian School), my own home will be less than 5km from the site. It is also to be located on the south-western side of town which is where majority of the wind comes from for most of the year. This will increase the travel of pollutants, noise, and smell straight into town.

600, 000 ton (I'm sure it would end up a lot more than this) of rubbish per year getting transported through town and then processed a few Km from the town centre is most definitely going to smell awful and we shouldn't have to deal with this.

This would surely not be cost effective and good for the environment either with the cost of transporting waste all the way from Sydney to Parkes.

5. There are other alternatives

I am fully aware that Australia like most of the world as a waste problem and that Sydney has to prioritise this problem as they have very limited time to come up with a solution as they are very quickly running out of landfill space.

I believe that there should be harsher restrictions placed on the producers of these main landfill items. Companies need to be made to find other alternatives to packaging.

A push on Recycling and education around this. In particular the 'Return and Earn' program is fantastic but needs to be more available and include more containers such as milk bottles and food cans.

Again I would like to express my strong opposition to the Parkes Waste-To-Energy Incinerator. We as the people of Parkes and surrounds should not have to deal with Sydney's waste problem. There is no advantage to us and it will come with so many risks. The solution for the future needs to be Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.