

**Submission
No 821**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Miss Hannah Tanswell

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Submission: Parkes Waste Recovery Project

Submitted by: *Hannah Tanswell*

Resident of Parkes, NSW

I was born and raised in Parkes and have always been proud to call it home. I grew up on ten acres just outside of town, where I learned firsthand what it means to live sustainably with a small orchard, a veggie patch, and chickens on our block, all free from chemicals. That upbringing taught me the true value of organic living, community connection, and caring for the land.

My extended family, the Wrights are all generational farmers around Alectown and Peak Hill. Farming is their livelihood, as it was my dad's too. Between us, our families have farmed thousands of acres across the region for generations. Parkes isn't just a place on the map to us it's home, it's our identity, and it's our future.

I attended Parkes Public School and Parkes High School, played for the local hockey clubs, and was involved with the Parkes Musical and Dramatic Society. This community has given me lifelong friendships, a sense of belonging, and pride in where I come from.

That's why I am deeply concerned about the proposed waste incinerator, and the pollution risks it poses to our town and surrounding farming areas. The potential impact on air quality, soil, and water is frightening not only for our health but also for the sustainability of local farming and tourism. Parkes has worked hard to build its reputation as a clean, thriving, and welcoming regional hub. A large waste incinerator in or near our town could destroy that image, discourage visitors, and threaten the livelihoods of countless locals.

What troubles me most is the way this issue has been handled. The Parkes Shire Council has repeatedly told residents that it's a state government matter that their hands are tied. But Council's own guidelines clearly state that they must represent the people of Parkes Shire. Yet this project feels like it was hidden from us, without proper consultation or transparency. We deserve honesty, accountability, and leadership from those elected to represent us.

I worry about what this means for the younger generation for my generation. How do we cope when our township, friendships, and even families become divided over something like this? Many people are already talking about leaving. Farmers will have to down tools and walk off their land or moving away from loved ones who can't afford to go. The mental health toll on this community is already visible, and I fear it will become worse than any drought or flood we've endured.

People in Parkes Shire are tough. We've faced hard times before droughts, floods, fires but we've always stood together, with our community leaders at the front, helping us

find funding, resources, and hope. This time, we feel abandoned. We are alone in this fight.

I am calling for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to be **stopped immediately** until a **full and independent inquiry** into the Parkes Waste Recovery Project is completed. The community deserves to know the truth before any further steps are taken. Proceeding with the EIS now would undermine public trust and ignore the serious environmental, health, and social concerns that have been raised. No project of this scale should move forward without transparency, accountability, and genuine community consent.

I am extremely concerned for my generation and for the future of Parkes if this project goes ahead. I urge decision-makers to truly listen to the people who call this place home. Protect our community, our environment, our farmers, and our children's future.

Sincerely,

Hannah Tanswell

Parkes Resident and Community Member