

Submission
No 824

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 27 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a submission to the parliamentary enquiry into Waste to Energy facility. I am a farmer whose farm is not far from the proposed Waste to Energy facility so feel like my farm is a sitting duck when it comes to contamination from toxic emissions. The Government's and its own Environmental Protection Agency, (the department that will be supposedly policing the operation of this facility, when asked if it they could guarantee that contamination would not occur and have an ill effect on Parkes and surrounding areas, answered that it could not guarantee this. The NSW minister for the environment has made public statements in the past about the negative effects of these facilities on the populations health and how they should not be built.

I don't believe the Parkes community were informed of the building of this facility in the area until the process for development was well under way. The first the community hearing of the true nature of the facility being this year. Prior to this misinformation was circulated in the community - that it was going to be a recycling plan. This implied that it was not going to be as bigger emitter of toxic dioxins as an incinerator would be. The community were not informed and so therefore could not begin the process of letting our objections be heard before it is nearly too late as the land had already been sold to the state government, the site developed with roads and water piped in readiness for the development to begin.

I don't understand how Waste to Energy facilities are promoted as a sustainable solution to waste management and energy production by governments and operators as when these resources are burnt they will never return to the ecosystem except in the form of toxic ash that then needs to be stored so that it can never enter our ecosystem. It has also been documented that dioxins from these incinerators enter the food chain to become part of our cells causing ongoing negative effects on our immune and reproductive systems as well as dire consequences for our next generations with high birth defects and infant mortality rates in the following generations as dioxins enter us through the food we eat as it becomes polluted with poisonous dioxins that attach to soil and water molecules and are then taken up by the animals that eat and drink them. This puts into doubt or food security and Australia's ability to export clean and green produce. A market worth millions of dollars to the Australian economy.

It has not been explained to my community (Forbes) about where the water is coming from to run the turbine to generate the electricity created by the heat from burning the rubbish. Forbes sits on an aquifer and already Parkes township and North Parkes Mines both have a bore near Forbes to supply millions of litres of water. Local residents of Parkes and Forbes have noticed a decline in their water quality. If another bore is sunk to supply the incinerator it will add to this decline.

There is no requirement for daily or even regular monitoring of the Parkes incinerator by its operators or the government. The EPA has stated they will only step in if a breach of emission guidelines is identified and that this may be months after the initial breach. Would they even inform us of when they are too high. What will be the consequences for the operators if they are above recommended levels.

I have seen and heard about an alternative to plastic packaging that is 100% biodegradable. Why is the government not legislating against the use of plastic for packaging? This would help reduce that amount of plastic being thrown away and reduce the need for additional land fill.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours faithfully,

Farmer

Parkes NSW 2870