

Submission
No 831

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 13 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

RE: Proposed Parkes Energy from Waste Incinerator

As a farmer in the Parkes Shire and who has recently become a resident in the township of Parkes, I am concerned of the impact an EfW Incinerator will have on my, my children and grandchildren's health, our livelihoods and our environment.

I wish to state that I completely oppose the Energy from Waste Incinerator (EfW) from being built in the Parkes Shire or anywhere else in NSW.

My concerns are:

Health

Toxic particles will be emitted from the incinerator, covering our town and farms. It doesn't matter how much of these poisons are spewed into the air, the fact is, it will be emitted day after day, year after year, layer upon layer over our schools, playgrounds & back yards. The emissions include dioxins and furans, heavy metals (such as mercury, lead, and cadmium), particulate matter, acid gases and carbon monoxide. The toxic emissions can cause respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer.

The NSW Government deemed EfW Incinerators were not safe for Greater Sydney, but is safe for Parkes Shire Council. Why? It has been reported that the amount Parkes Council will receive a host levy that host levy works out to be about \$200 per person. Is our health only worth \$200?

Are we expendable, does our health not matter, are we second class citizens?

WHY IS IT NOT SAFE FOR ANYWHERE ELSE IN NSW BUT IT IS SAFE FOR PARKES?

Livelihoods

The Parkes shire Council is primarily an agricultural area. We produce cattle, lambs, wheat, barley, oats, canola and olives to name a few. Our farmland and water need to be protected, not only for we who live here, but for the nation. If contamination should occur, it will not only impact the health of consumers, but our green clean image that, Australian farmers, are reputed for around the world. The Central West Livestock Exchange at Daroobalgie near Forbes, is only 20 ks from the proposed EfW incinerator and is the third largest in NSW. GrainCorp Sub-terminal at Parkes is the largest grain storage facility in central west NSW, if contamination of any of our produce, is detected, the fallout would be catastrophic, not only for the Parkes Shire Council but LGA's all over central NSW and beyond. The total job losses from

agriculture would decimate the area; the flow on effect would also mean the loss of health workers, teachers, police and other government departments.

WHY ARE OUR LIVELIHOODS NOT BEING PROTECTED?

Environment

It has been well documented that toxic emissions from EfW incinerators contaminate the soil and water. When an incinerator burns 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the next 30 years, toxins, such as PFAS and POP'S (forever chemicals) WILL, not might, be spewed into the air then settle on the soil, in waterways, dams and tanks, eventually flowing into the Lachlan River and Murray River. It doesn't matter that the majority of toxins will be captured. The fact is, it's not 100%. Layer upon layer of toxins will poison our environment. How many people, native animals, birds and irrigators rely on the river systems for their drinking and farming water?

We also have to look at transporting garbage 500ks from its source. We know that people do not consistently sort their rubbish correctly, we know that garbage trucks are continually catching fire due to incorrect sorting, what happens if a train load of rubbish catches fire en route? Do we have another catastrophe like 2020 bushfires; will farms, regional towns, National Parks and State forest be put at risk? WHEN a fire breaks out, once again, it will be the environment and the people in regional areas that will suffer. We don't have fulltime/paid fire brigades Greater Sydney has.

Now let's look at what is left over from incineration. There will be recourse recovery, such as heavy metals, but what about the ash left over?.

Apparently the bottom ash will be used as road or building materials, the fly ash will be sent to landfill. This is NOT environmentally friendly. The materials will breakdown over time and leach, contaminating soil and water.

Australia, NSW and the Parkes Shire Council have all signed up to "Net Zero". Isn't spewing CO₂ into the air against the very fibre of Net Zero?

WHY IS THE ENVIROMENT NOT BEING RESPECTED AS IT IS IN GREATER SYDNEY

Conclusion

- NSW Governments have deemed EfW Incinerators unsafe for Greater Sydney.
- If it's unsafe for Sydney, it's unsafe for all of NSW
- Burning landfill is not the answer. It was banned years ago for a reason. Pollution. EfW Incineration is still pollution.
- Greater emphasis must be placed on recycling
 - Education on correct sorting of recyclables must be implemented.

- Local Government must step up and ensure garbage is sorted correctly. Perhaps fines for placing incorrect items in the wrong bin.
- The use of non-renewables, such as soft plastics, must be phased out. Single use plastic were phased out in 2022, yet all industries still use non-renewable plastics every day. From food that's over packaged in plastic at supermarkets, pallets of items wrapped in plastic for transport to electronics packed in polystyrene. There are already better alternatives.
- Many countries are moving away from EfW Incinerators.
 - It's becoming uneconomical.
 - More jobs can be created within the recycling industry
 - Food production, soil and air quality are compromised.
- NSW could become a leader with innovated ideas, instead of taking the easy, but very expensive, way out.

THERE IS A BETTER WAY

Thank you for reading and considering my submission, I would appreciate a written response addressing my concerns.

Yours sincerely

Phone