

Submission  
No 839

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 22 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

## **Submission: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Waste-to-Energy Project in Parkes Shire**

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Farmer and Long-Term Resident of Parkes Shire**

I am writing to express my strong opposition and deep concern regarding the proposed waste-to-energy incinerator project in Parkes Shire.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a long-time farmer with deep roots in the Parkes Shire. Along with my wife and our two daughters, I continue a proud family farming tradition that spans four generations, with my children now representing the fifth. We are connected to this land in every way emotionally, physically, and economically. Our hope has always been to pass it on in good condition, if not better, to future generations.

This proposed project poses serious and unacceptable risks to our environment, our health, our livelihoods, and our community's future.

### **Soil and Agricultural Impact**

As a farmer, I rely on clean soil and water to raise livestock and grow crops. The potential for soil contamination from this incinerator is a major concern. Even the perception of contamination can harm our ability to sell produce and livestock. If the area becomes associated with industrial waste, it will damage Parkes' reputation as a clean agricultural district, potentially cutting off markets and customers. This could devastate local farming families.

### **Long-Term Effects on Future Generations**

Farming is not just our livelihood it's our legacy. If this land becomes degraded, either through air, water, or soil contamination, we are not just risking our income we are risking our children's future. Once damage is done, it cannot be undone. Is this the legacy we want to leave?

### **Health Concerns**

I am also very concerned about the health impacts. We already have community members with respiratory conditions and cancer. The emissions from incinerated waste include harmful toxins and fine particles known to affect human health, particularly the elderly, children, and anyone with existing medical conditions. Why would we knowingly expose our community to that?

### **Odour and Liveability**

The smell of rotting waste and burning rubbish is not something anyone wants to live near. Parkes is our home we are proud of our fresh air and open space. The arrival of constant truckloads of waste and the stench from an incinerator will reduce the quality of life for everyone here.

### **Decline in Property Values**

No one wants to live near a waste facility. If this project goes ahead, property values across the region will likely fall. People will leave, and new families won't come. It will undo years of hard work trying to grow and sustain this community. Parkes should be a place people want to move to not a dumping ground for Sydney's garbage.

### **Lack of Local Consultation**

This project has not been presented to the community with transparency. Many residents, including myself, were unaware of the proposal until it was well underway. That's not good enough. The people who live here should have been consulted properly, not left in the dark about something with such serious implications.

### **Why Not Build It in Sydney?**

If this project is truly safe and beneficial, why is it not being built in or near Sydney, where the waste is produced? Why is it acceptable to ship that problem hundreds of kilometres away to be dealt with in rural NSW? This feels like a case of environmental injustice putting the burden on a community that has the least say and the most to lose.

### **In Conclusion**

Who will compensate us if our health deteriorates? Who will buy our produce if the land is seen as contaminated? Who will employ us if we're forced to leave the farm to protect our families?

I urge the State Government, the Parkes Shire Council, and all decision-makers to reject this proposal. The risks far outweigh any benefit. This project threatens our land, our health, our environment, and our way of life.

We chose to buy land in the Parkes region because of its clean air, fertile soil, and strong community not to become the end point of Sydney's waste chain. Please listen to the voices of the people who live here. We deserve better.

Sincerely,

Farmer and Rate payer, Parkes Region