

Submission  
No 840

**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**

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 proud member of a long-standing farming family with land in the Parkes Shire. Together with my husband and two daughters, we continue a legacy of farming that spans four generations, with my children representing the fifth. We are deeply connected to this land, and we have always worked with the hope of passing it down to future generations in a condition as good or better than we received it.

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

### **Soil and Agricultural Impact**

The potential for **soil contamination** from the incinerator is of major concern. Our farm depends on clean soil for grazing livestock and growing crops. Any contamination puts our operations at risk and reduces confidence in the safety of food produced in the area. Consumers and markets will be reluctant to buy agricultural products from a region known for industrial waste processing. This could devastate local farming and damage the reputation of Parkes as a clean agricultural district.

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

Farming is not just our business it is our heritage. Any degradation of the land, air, or water directly impacts our children's future. Once contamination occurs, it cannot be easily reversed. What kind of legacy are we leaving for the next generation if we knowingly allow a facility that could pollute our region?

### **Health Concerns**

The health risks from air pollution especially airborne particles from incinerated waste cannot be overlooked. There are **real concerns about cancer and respiratory illnesses** linked to this type of project. The incineration of mixed waste can release harmful toxins into the air we breathe, putting residents, including children and the elderly, at risk.

### **Odour and Liveability**

The **odour** from transporting and burning waste is another major concern. Parkes Shire is our home. We do not want to live in an area where the air smells of burning rubbish or decomposing waste. Such conditions will make our community an unappealing place to live and raise families.

## **Decline in Property Values**

This project will likely cause a **drop in property prices**. People do not want to live near waste incinerators. This could result in residents leaving the area and potential new residents choosing to settle elsewhere. Parkes should be a place where people want to live not a dumping ground for Sydney's garbage.

## **Lack of Local Consultation**

There has been **inadequate consultation** with local residents and ratepayers. Projects of this scale and impact should not be forced upon communities without full transparency, community meetings, and the informed consent of those most affected.

## **Why Not Sydney?**

If this project is truly "safe," **why is it not being built closer to the source of the waste in Sydney?** Why is it acceptable to send Sydney's waste hundreds of kilometres away to be burnt in regional NSW? This seems like environmental injustice shifting the burden of waste and pollution from cities to rural communities who have less political power but far more at stake in terms of health and land.

In conclusion, who will compensate my family for our declining health, the loss of income, and lack of employment when we are forced to walk off our land just to protect our lives? I call on the State Government, Parkes Shire Council, and all decision-makers to reject this proposal. The risks far outweigh any potential benefit. This project threatens our health, our farms, our environment, and our way of life. The people of Parkes Shire and surrounding communities deserve clean air, uncontaminated soil, and a future they can be proud of not one overshadowed by pollution and waste brought in from elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Farmer and Resident, Parkes Shire