

Submission  
No 844

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 22 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am against the proposed energy from waste incinerator. I have lived in the Parkes Shire for 30 years. My husband's family has lived here for generations. We live on our family farm and have raised our children here. I also work at a school in Parkes. This community is our home, our livelihood, and our children's future.

The proposed energy from waste incinerator puts all of that at risk. We rely solely on rainwater, which could be contaminated. Our grain, livestock and land are vulnerable because of emissions from the facility. This would destroy the farming reputation of our region. I feel my family's future has been taken out of our hands. We have had to discuss if we should be selling our family farm now before it loses value if the incinerator comes. These are very heartbreaking and stressful conversations. The future we have worked for, for ourselves and our children is at risk with no fault of our own. It feels like we are living in limbo regarding financial decisions regarding our agricultural business as we don't know where we will be if this goes ahead. If we can't produce uncontaminated grain and meat there is no future in farming in our area. The financial and mental toll this will have on my family is enormous. What future do we have if the incinerator goes ahead?

I am so angry that the government and overseas companies are risking my family's farming future, all over the burning of rubbish. Will we be compensated by the government when our land values drop or our livestock and grain can't be sold because of contamination, or even when our commodities prices drop because of perceived risk due to being in an energy from waste incinerator area?

Even more distressing is the inequity in the regulations surrounding these incinerators. The NSW Government has banned energy from waste incineration in NSW and the ACT but has allowed them in just four regional areas in NSW, including Parkes. Why are country communities like mine considered disposable? In May 2020 chief scientists and engineers report into energy from waste incinerators state that they should not be built in food producing areas. How could Parkes even be considered when we are largely an agriculture area producing food? Why is our health, our environment, and our future less important, this is certainly how this proposal makes me feel.

At the information sessions with the proponent in April 2025 I said to them, I read overseas that cattle had tested positive to contamination from toxins found to be from energy from waste incinerators. They said "yes, but the one in Parkes will be new technology" this is admitting that energy from waste are a problem. It's still an energy from waste incinerator regardless of the technology. It will still release toxic emissions, even the proponent admit it will release a small amount of emissions. With these toxic chemicals, even a small level is unsafe. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year will all add up to detrimental consequences for health, environment and agriculture.

The lack of consultation with the community from council and government has been appalling. What little notification was given seems to be when covid was active and people were focused on that, lock downs and restrictions were in place. This project has been in planning since 2018 but the community only learned of it in 2025. We were kept in the dark for years which leads me to believe they hoped to get the incinerator approved before the community had a chance to object. If the incinerator is so safe why all the deception. The way this has been handle is unacceptable and has made me lose faith in our local council who are elected to represent the community. I would not vote in again the majority of our current council because of the lack of transparency they have given the community in regards to the

incinerator. I would also change who I would vote for at other state and federal elections considering their stance on energy from waste incineration.

This proposal is now at the stage where EPA investigations will take place. How it has gotten this far when overseas are decommissioning energy from waste incinerators and moving away from them is inconceivable to me. Why would Australia even consider this as an option for waste management? I have no faith in the EPA to prevent contamination and their recent handling of lead from mining in Broken Hill proves I am justified in my beliefs.

The plan to transport 600,000 tonnes of Sydney's red-bin waste to Parkes by rail each year is not only environmentally irresponsible, it's offensive. The cost from transport alone will be huge, not to mention the carbon emissions from the diesel trains travelling over 500kms one way to Parkes, all while pretending to "solve" Sydney's waste problem by dumping it on rural NSW. Then there is the toxic ash that needs to be disposed of in special landfills. When I asked the proponent how and where this ash would be disposed of, they thought the likely option would be to truck the toxic ash back to Sydney to where an approved landfill for toxic waste already exists. More expense, carbon emissions and wear on our roads. How is this meeting the current governments stand on net zero emissions?

Even worse is the greenwashing of this project. Energy from waste Incineration is not part of a circular economy. It destroys resources and generates pollution. Calling it "clean" is misleading and dishonest.

The level of stress and impact to my mental health has been enormous due to the proposed incinerator. I have asthma and a medical condition where stress is a large factor in the chronic symptoms I experience. Since March my symptoms have increased and my medication is not always effective in managing my condition. Mental Health is already a major issue amongst farmers. I can imagine the toll this proposal is having on our region which is a major agriculture area.

I worry about the health effects to the community, even the smallest emissions of dioxins and fine particles is too much for people's health. The proposed incinerator is within 10kms of schools and nursing homes. These are our most vulnerable residents who will be exposed to harmful toxins.

Please stop the energy from waste incinerator project, any risk is too high, put the Parkes community's health, environment and our agriculture industry before Sydney's waste problem. **WE DESERVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS SYDNEY RESIDENTS!**

Sincerely,