

Submission
No 857

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

The proposal to construct an incinerator in Parkes presents significant concerns for the health, environment, and agricultural integrity of the region. While such facilities are often promoted as efficient solutions to waste management, the potential consequences for public health and clean farming practices cannot be overlooked.

Incinerators are known to emit a range of harmful pollutants, including dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter. These substances have been scientifically linked to serious health conditions such as respiratory disease, cancer, and developmental disorders. The dispersion of these pollutants through air and water poses a particular threat to communities in close proximity to the site, placing residents at an unacceptable level of risk.

Equally concerning are the potential impacts on local agriculture. The Parkes region has long been associated with clean and sustainable farming, a reputation built on the quality of its produce and the purity of its environment. The introduction of an incinerator jeopardises this standing. Airborne toxins and ash residues can contaminate soil and waterways, undermining both crop production and livestock health. Once contamination occurs, it may take decades to restore the land, if recovery is possible at all.

Rather than investing in incineration, Parkes should prioritise environmentally responsible alternatives such as recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. These strategies not only minimise harm but also support local employment and long-term sustainability.

In conclusion, the establishment of an incinerator in Parkes represents a profound risk to public health and the region's agricultural future. Protecting the community and its natural resources must take precedence over short-term industrial convenience.