

**Submission
No 879**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Miss Angela Coceancic

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Submission to the Enquiry on the Proposed Parkes Incinerator

I am a 47-year female living in the surrounding Parkes region, being Condobolin 2877 NSW

I have lived in Condobolin my whole life, I have lived and worked on local farms, and for local business, both in the agricultural sectors. Parkes is my neighbouring community and is the next closest major town we go to for supplies, machinery parts, food, entertainment, purchase new vehicles, specialised doctor appointments and health care, and many more other basic needs that cannot be found in our smaller town of Condobolin, located 102km away west of Parkes.

I object to the proposed Parkes Energy Waste facility as a concerned community member. I wish to address several key aspects of the proposal, including environmental impact, public health, economic implications, and community engagement.

The proposed project of a waste-to-energy incinerator in Parkes raises significant concerns about potential environmental consequences, including the release of pollutants such as dioxins, furans, and heavy metals can adversely affect air quality and pose risks to local ecosystems, agriculture, and water resources. Communities living within a 200km radius of these incinerators have expressed concerns globally about possible health effects, including respiratory issues and increased cancer risk associated with long-term exposure to certain pollutants. It is vital that the enquiry carefully consider peer-reviewed health studies and consult with public health experts to assess the risks and necessary mitigation measures.

Health impact assessments should be conducted in consultation with local GPs, hospitals, and public health authorities, ensuring that Parkes residents are fully informed and protected.

Possible negative impacts on tourism, agriculture, and property values if the facility is perceived as a source of pollution. It is important to conduct a transparent cost-benefit analysis, considering both short-term economic gains and long-term community well-being.

Before proceeding with incineration, the enquiry should also consider alternative waste management strategies, that do not impact regional communities that are major food producers with agriculture being the major industry and include the surrounding areas within a 400km radius.

We also have major rivers and waterways within this radius, these being the Lachlan and Bogan River, Goobang, Mandagery and Bullock Creeks, vital to our indigenous and farming community. I myself live on the Lachlan River, I am scared to imagine the impacts this will have on our waterways, the education and studies on the impact of our water systems has been very hard to find, if at all accessible. Has this even been investigated.

Parkes and the surrounding community cannot afford to lose any of its major services, this will impact the smaller surrounding communities and make us even more isolated from major suppliers, giving us travel times of 200km, to our next major service providers. The consensus is that local people will re locate and Parkes will become a ghost town , leaving the smaller

communities more and more isolated. The cities are already full, the reason they need our space for waste? Where do we relocate if there is no more space?

I oppose this proposal and request that alternative waste management solutions are investigated that do not pose a risk to the environment or human health, and do not cause distress to host communities. Other countries are phasing out thermal energy from waste. Australia should be using that experience, not ignoring it.

The community, especially the surrounding communities of Parkes were not consulted on this proposal, this has been unfair to the local community, government bodies have not provided adequate consultation time or media release on this project.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Coceancic