

Submission
No 886

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission Against the Parkes Energy Recovery (EfW) Incinerator Project

By:

Occupation: Local Surveyor

Resident of Parkes, NSW

Introduction

My name is _____, and I am a local surveyor living in Parkes, NSW. My partner and I are long-term residents who have lived here for most of our lives. We recently moved back because we love the country lifestyle, the open space, and the strong sense of community. My parents and cousins also live locally, and we all take great pride in being part of this region.

I currently work for a private surveying company that services the Central West region. My work gives me a strong understanding of local land use, soil stability, and environmental management all of which would be directly affected by a project like the proposed **Parkes Energy Recovery (EfW) Incinerator**.

Main Concerns

This proposal presents itself as a modern, efficient waste solution, but in reality, it is a **short-term fix to a long-term problem**. It carries serious risks for our environment, public health, and the future liveability of Parkes and its surrounding farming communities.

1. **Health Impacts** – There is no conclusive evidence that incinerators of this kind are safe for small regional populations over decades. Emissions such as fine particulates, heavy metals, and “forever chemicals” (PFAS) could contribute to chronic illnesses, respiratory issues, and other long-term health effects.
2. **Environmental Damage** – Based on my experience as a surveyor, I am deeply concerned about the potential for **airborne pollutants** and **contaminated runoff** to impact local **soils, crops, and groundwater**. Our region depends on clean land and water for farming and grazing this project could threaten that foundation.
3. **Economic and Social Consequences** – Over time, this facility could devalue properties, drive residents away, and weaken our local economy. If families, farmers, and essential workers begin to leave Parkes, the town’s identity and economic sustainability will decline.
4. **Community Health and Future Generations** – My partner and I want to raise children here, but the risk of pollution exposure and long-term environmental harm makes us question that future. We should not have to choose between living in the community we love and protecting our health.

Questions for the Proponent and Authorities

1. What **independent, long-term studies** have been undertaken to assess health impacts from similar facilities in rural communities?
2. How often will **air, soil, and groundwater testing** occur, and will the data be **independently verified and made public**?
3. What safeguards are in place to prevent toxic emissions or leachate from contaminating agricultural land and water sources?
4. What is the **planned lifespan** of the facility, and what will happen to the site after closure including decommissioning, soil testing, and land rehabilitation?
5. Who will be **legally and financially responsible** if future contamination or health impacts are detected?
6. Has there been any modelling on how this facility could affect **property values, business confidence, and population trends** in Parkes?
7. How will residents' concerns be addressed if monitoring data shows higher-than-expected pollution levels?
8. Why has there not been greater focus on **alternative waste management methods**, such as large-scale recycling, composting, and regional resource recovery programs?

Recommendations

- **Pause the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** process until independent, peer-reviewed **health and environmental assessments** are completed for the Parkes region.
- Conduct a **baseline environmental survey** (air, soil, and groundwater quality) prior to any approval, carried out by **independent experts** and reported publicly.
- Establish a **community oversight and monitoring group**, including local professionals (surveyors, scientists, healthcare workers, and residents) to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Require the proponent to **demonstrate compliance with strict emissions and safety standards**, verified by independent bodies rather than internal reporting.
- Encourage the NSW Government to **invest in long-term, sustainable waste solutions** such as advanced recycling technologies, composting, and regional waste reduction programs that support jobs without threatening public health.
- Provide **economic impact modelling** to show how the incinerator could affect local property values, tourism, and the broader Central West economy.

Conclusion

The proposed Parkes Energy Recovery (EfW) Incinerator may appear to offer an easy waste solution, but it comes with **unacceptable long-term risks** for our community's health, environment, and economy.

As a **local surveyor and lifelong resident**, I am committed to the wellbeing of Parkes and its people. This project threatens the clean, rural lifestyle that draws so many of us here.

I urge the decision-makers to **reject or pause this proposal** until all environmental and health risks are independently verified and the community's concerns are fully addressed.

Sincerely,

Local Surveyor
Resident of Parkes, NSW