

**Submission
No 892**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Geoff Unger

Date Received: 29 October 2025

Submission Against the Proposed Waste Incinerator in Parkes

By Geoffrey Unger

As a long-time resident of Parkes and someone with deep roots in the local farming community, I strongly oppose the proposed waste incinerator project for our region.

This technology is not safe. Overseas experience has shown that despite the promises made by operators, waste incinerators come with significant risks. These facilities have been linked to serious environmental and health consequences — including toxic air emissions and long-term soil contamination. Once the ground is contaminated, it is practically impossible to remediate. Our community should not be exposed to these irreversible dangers.

Parkes is not the place for this. We are a regional centre with a major school located less than 5 kilometres from the proposed site. The health and wellbeing of our children, families, and future generations must be prioritised. If this technology is truly as safe as its proponents claim, then it should be built in Sydney — close to where the majority of the waste is actually produced — rather than transported hundreds of kilometres to our community. This would also eliminate the need for unnecessary freight and the emissions that come with it.

Parkes has worked hard to build a reputation as a clean and green food-producing region. Our farms feed not just our state but contribute to national exports and food security. Introducing a waste incinerator would damage that image — and threaten our farming livelihoods. Once that trust in the safety and cleanliness of our produce is lost, it is almost impossible to get back.

I urge decision-makers to reject this proposal. Parkes is not a dumping ground for Sydney's waste. Our health, environment, and agricultural future are too important to gamble with.

Geoffrey Unger

Parkes resident and member of the farming community