

Submission  
No 896

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 29 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

I was born and raised in Parkes, where my family still lives today. Although I've since moved away, my connection to Parkes remains strong, and I care deeply about the people, the animals, and the land.

I am writing to **strongly oppose** the proposed waste incinerator in Parkes.

The process of burning waste – regardless of technology or filtration systems – produces harmful emissions including dioxins, particulate matter, and heavy metals. These are not theoretical risks; they are well-documented public health hazards known to cause respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, neurological damage, developmental disorders, and cancer.

Exposure risks extend beyond direct inhalation. Pollutants from incineration settle on soil, vegetation, and water sources, entering the food chain through crops and livestock. Despite this, no comprehensive, independent, and region-specific health and environmental impact assessments have been undertaken. Without these studies, any claim that this project can be operated safely or without long-term consequences is unfounded.

Once soil, water, or vegetation become contaminated, these pollutants cause significant and irreversible harm. Remediation is rarely successful and often prohibitively expensive. In a regional agricultural hub like Parkes, such contamination would permanently degrade soil quality, reduce land productivity, and lower property values. Even the perception of contamination would destroy consumer confidence in local produce and inflict lasting economic damage on the community.

The claim that this project represents a form of “green energy” is misleading. While it may generate electricity, it does so by burning waste and releasing greenhouse gases and toxins. The output is negligible compared to the scale of its environmental impact. Presenting this as sustainable energy undermines genuine renewable energy efforts and misrepresents the environmental cost of incineration.

It is ethically indefensible to shift Sydney's waste burden onto a regional community that had no part in creating it. These facilities are prohibited across almost all of New South Wales, including Greater Sydney, except for four selected zones – one of which is Parkes. If the process were genuinely safe, Sydney would manage its own waste rather than transporting it hundreds of kilometres across the state. Doing so does not eliminate the risks; it only creates further emissions and redirects the risks to a population perceived to be of lesser value.

There has been no genuine community consultation regarding this proposal. A development of this scale, with such far-reaching health and environmental consequences, should never proceed without transparent consultation and the informed consent of those who would be most affected.

The long-term health risks, mental burden placed on residents, and environmental impact of this proposal must not be understated. Parkes deserves clean air, safe water, unpolluted land, and a healthy environment – and the right to determine its own future.

I urge the Committee to **reject this proposal** in its entirety and to uphold the right of every regional community to a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment.