

**Submission
No 900**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

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Mel & David Kiel

29/10/2025

Submission **Against** the Proposed Parkes Energy-to-Waste Incinerator

I am making this submission in response to the proposal energy-to-waste incinerator for the township of Parkes, NSW 2870.

As a concerned member of the community, both having family living in the community and investment properties, I am deeply concerned about the significant environmental, health, economic, and social concerns regarding the construction and operation of the proposed facility. I urge the relevant authorities to reconsider the approval of this project for the Health & Happiness of the immediate & outlying townships and farming lands.

There are many reasons and deep concerns I am against this incinerator here are just a few I've highlighted:

The air we breathe:

- **Air Pollution:** Waste incinerators emit a range of pollutants, including dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter. These substances can have far-reaching impacts on air quality and can travel significant distances, potentially affecting communities well beyond Parkes.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Incineration of waste contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, undermining efforts to address climate change. While energy recovery may offset some fossil fuel use, studies show that recycling and composting waste is far more effective at reducing overall carbon emissions.
- **Impact on Local Ecosystems:** The facility's emissions and potential for accidental releases could harm local flora and fauna. Additionally, the ash produced must be disposed of, which can lead to soil and water contamination if not managed properly.

Our People:

- **Exposure to Toxic Substances:** The incineration process releases toxic chemicals, including dioxins and heavy metals, known to cause cancer, respiratory illnesses, and developmental issues. Vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions are particularly at risk.
- **Odor and Noise Pollution:** Residents living near similar facilities often report persistent odors and increased noise, negatively impacting quality of life.

Our economy:

- **Impact on Property Values:** Proximity to waste incinerators has been linked to a decline in property values, which could affect the financial well-being of local residents.
- **Opportunity Cost:** Investment in incineration technology diverts resources from more sustainable waste management solutions such as recycling, composting, and waste reduction initiatives, which create more jobs and have lower environmental impacts.
- **Long-Term Costs:** The costs of monitoring, managing emissions, and dealing with hazardous ash are often underestimated. There is also the risk of future liabilities if pollution leads to health or environmental damage.

Social Justice:

- **Community Opposition:** Many communities across the world have opposed waste incinerators due to the risks and negative perceptions associated with such facilities. Approval of the Parkes incinerator could erode trust in local government and lead to ongoing social conflict.
- **Environmental Justice:** Waste incinerators are frequently cited in communities with less political power or fewer resources to oppose them, raising concerns about fairness and equity.

The proposed Parkes energy-to-waste incinerator poses **significant risks** to environment, public health, local economy, and social cohesion.

There are safer, more sustainable, and more community-friendly alternatives available, that need to be explored & due diligence given to their construction & long-term benefits & NOT the to the detriment of the township's community & farming lands' overall **Health & Happiness!**