

Submission  
No 905

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 30 October 2025

---

Partially  
Confidential

## **Submission Opposing the Proposed Parkes Energy Recovery Facility (EfW Incinerator)**

### **To Whom It May Concern,**

We write to express our strong opposition to the proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) incinerator project planned for the Parkes Special Activation Precinct in Central West NSW. As concerned citizens and advocates for community health, environmental integrity, and intergenerational wellbeing, we urge decision-makers to reject this proposal on the grounds of significant health risks, environmental injustice, lack of transparency, and the precedent set by similar proposals across Australia.

### **Health Risks and Global Evidence**

Extensive international research and lived experience from communities near incinerators have documented serious health impacts. Older incineration technologies have been linked to increased rates of cancer, respiratory illness, congenital abnormalities, and birth defects. Even modern facilities, despite improved filtration systems, emit persistent pollutants such as dioxins, furans, and heavy metals that accumulate in ecosystems and human bodies over time. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency acknowledges that even the best available technologies release harmful emissions. These effects may not be immediately measurable, but the long-term consequences particularly for children, pregnant women, and vulnerable populations are profound and irreversible.

As leading experts have stated, “minimal risk does not mean no risk.” This is an industrial waste facility. Emissions will be released into the air, soil, and surrounding environment. The rejection of similar proposals in Eastern Creek and Matraville based on health, air quality, and environmental concerns demonstrates that these risks are neither hypothetical nor acceptable. Communities in Lara and Goulburn are also raising similar alarms, underscoring a growing national unease with this technology.

### **Environmental and Social Injustice**

The Parkes proposal would see up to 600,000 tonnes of Sydney’s waste incinerated annually in a regional community. This raises serious ethical concerns about environmental justice. Why should rural communities bear the health and environmental burdens of Sydney’s waste? The NSW Government’s decision to prohibit such facilities in metropolitan areas while permitting them in regional zones reveals a troubling double standard. If this technology is truly “safe and proven”, as the EPA says why is it not being built in Sydney?

The incinerator also threatens the integrity of Parkes’ agricultural economy, culturally significant lands, and the health of future generations. The Parkes Clean Future Alliance

and many local residents have voiced strong opposition, reflecting the deep concern and lack of social licence for this project.

### **Lack of Transparency and Community Engagement**

The process surrounding this proposal has been marked by a disturbing lack of transparency. The Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation failed to meaningfully engage the Parkes community before signing a development agreement with Tribe Infrastructure Group. The project was framed as part of “Australia’s first UNIDO eco-industrial park” and “the nation’s leading circular economy precinct,” yet the inclusion of a billion-dollar waste incinerator importing waste from Sydney was not clearly disclosed. The community deserves honesty and transparency.

### **Conclusion**

The Parkes Energy Recovery Facility is not a solution it is a symptom of a broken waste system that prioritises industrial expediency over community wellbeing. It contradicts the principles of sustainable development, environmental justice and transparent governance. We respectfully urge the NSW Planning Department reject this proposal and instead invest in truly circular, community-led waste solutions that protect health, land, and future generations.

**Sincerely,**

29/10/2025