

**Submission
No 907**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Michael McCrae

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I am making this submission on behalf of myself, Michael McCrae, and my partner, Cath Barton, concerned residents of the Parkes region. I run my own on -farm mechanical business and we also breed cattle on our property.

We oppose the proposed Energy-From-Waste facility for a lot of reasons.

1. Firstly, we live less than 3km from the proposed site and there was no communication with us from the council or any other body, involved in this. A complete lack of transparency. From the material finally presented at the information night, it is evident that we are literally in the 'firing line' of the toxic ash and dioxins that will be emitted from the site. The findings from IPEN report (2023) "Waste Incineration Drives the Triple Planetary Crisis", found that incineration greatly contributes to toxic pollution. There are many other studies that confirm this.
2. This will impact us immensely as we rely on rainwater for drinking, showering, stock, gardens – every facet of our life. No amount of toxic waste is safe in this instance. There will also be the odour associated with burning waste, that will affect our quality of air/breathing.
3. Not only will it impact us, but our children and grandchildren and elderly parent/s. For some reason, the 'powers to be' think it will be beneficial to expose not only the elderly, who quite often have chronic illness already and this 'waste' will exacerbate their health issues, but also the very young, whose lungs are still developing. Can the regional NSW Health Service cope with increased illness due to the plume of smoke and associated health risks? We think not.
4. Parkes is a rich agricultural region and the waste from this site will greatly impact the waterways, soil, pasture and crops. Which in turn of course, will affect the stock – sheep, cattle etc. How can the NSW government and other bodies think it is a positive to negatively impact so many people's livelihoods? It is exceptionally unfair that they propose to make Parkes a dumping ground for Sydney's waste. If it is so safe, why was the incinerator proposal for the outskirts of Sydney, shut down? It seems the city people's health/jobs/lifestyle is more important than the country folk.
5. Jobs will be lost in the agricultural sector, and I know my Ag Mechanic business will also suffer. For the 150km radius from the site (how far the smoke plume can travel), there is an incredible amount of farming/agriculture. All of this will be impacted, as will the families who run them. The flow on effect to small communities who rely on money being spent by farmers/workers, will inevitably happen.

As aforementioned, we strongly oppose this proposal and recommend the government find alternative means to navigate the waste problem in Sydney. This should be their first port of call – a discussion with the people of Sydney and how they can reduce their waste. We are not their dumping ground!