

Submission
No 913

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I am a lifelong resident of Parkes, NSW, and together with my husband we have owned and operated a local business for almost 30 years. We have raised our family here, employed local people – many of them young and beginning their careers – and invested heavily in the future of this town. Parkes is our home, our livelihood, and our community.

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposal for a waste-to-energy incinerator in Parkes.

Our son attends Parkes Christian School, located close to the proposed site. I am deeply concerned about the potential long-term health effects on students, staff, and local families. There is too much uncertainty around the impacts of emissions from such facilities, particularly for children whose developing bodies are more vulnerable to pollutants. I could not in good conscience keep my child at a school so near to this proposed incinerator.

Beyond the health risks, this project would devastate the town's image and the future we have all worked so hard to build. Parkes is known for its open spaces, clean air, and rural lifestyle – qualities that attract families, businesses, and tourism. Introducing an industrial waste-burning facility completely contradicts that identity.

My husband and I both operate local businesses that have provided steady employment for local families and young apprentices for decades. A project like this creates deep uncertainty about our region's future, making it harder for local businesses to attract and retain workers. It also risks devaluing residential and commercial property – including the homes, investments, and retirement security of countless hardworking locals.

This proposal is not about solving a local problem. It is about transporting Sydney's waste to Parkes to burn – making our community a dumping ground for a metropolitan issue. It is not environmentally sustainable to move tonnes of rubbish across the state just to incinerate it elsewhere. The fact that a similar facility was rejected in Sydney due to health concerns, yet is being pushed in a regional town, is deeply unfair.

Our community has a proud agricultural heritage, built by generations of farmers who have battled droughts, floods, and all that nature can throw at them. Now we are being asked to fight for the health of our land, our people, and our children's future. This proposal goes against the values of sustainability, fairness, and respect for regional communities.

I urge the committee to reject the proposed waste-to-energy incinerator for Parkes. The risks to public health, the environment, and the community's long-term prosperity far outweigh any potential benefit.

Parkes deserves better than to become Sydney's solution to its waste problem. We deserve clean air, a safe environment for our children, and a future that continues to build on the strength and integrity of regional NSW.

I sincerely thank the committee for initiating this inquiry and for allowing our community the opportunity to be heard.

Parkes, NSW