

**Submission  
No 927**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mr Paul Azize  
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Hello

I'm writing to you today to express my views, and opposition to the proposed Parkes Energy Recovery Facilities. I'd like to address some of the Terms of Reference for this proposed facility, but first, let me introduce myself. My name is Paul Azize and I moved to Parkes in February 2024 and currently work as a warehouse manager for a leading business in Parkes. After spending 52 years living in Parramatta and Western Sydney, I knew I needed a change. I drove to Parkes on the 12th October 2023 and spent the weekend enjoying the towns cafes, hospitality and scenery. I returned home and immediately started researching the town of Parkes and what it's future may hold. I saw that the Inland Rail was well under construction, the road from Lithgow to Orange was being upgraded, jobs were on offer, events such as the Elvis and Abba Festival provided vibrancy and housing was affordable. In all, Parkes was the place for me and I was moving here.

Since moving to Parkes I have endeavoured to ingrain myself into this wonderful community, I volunteer with Parkes Rotary, Central West Lachlan Landcare, the Holy Family Parish of Parkes and other social groups.

Unfortunately I didn't know that a waste incinerator was on the cards for Parkes, if I had, I would have definitely stayed away and went elsewhere. I spent my first 27 years of life living on one of the busiest streets in NSW, 3 lanes each way leading directly between Parramatta and Sydney city. The traffic on Victoria Rd went from 5am to 10pm, the noise and pollution was relentless, occasionally we had visitors stay overnight at our house, but they never stayed a second night, they would rather pay for motel accommodation than have the affects of noise and pollution for another night. They couldn't understand how we did it, they didn't realised that we were trapped and selling up would mean moving to a place with fewer resources, and being further from major cities. This is the exact same feeling I get now when people talk about the Parkes Energy Recovery Facility. The knowing feeling that if this goes ahead, I'll have to try and live with the constant pollution, long term environmental damage, damage to my physical and mental health and a town offering little in the way of a bright future.

I'd like to refer to some of the Terms of Reference and state reasons why I see them as bad for our community, and any community in the world.

The spread of emissions from the proposed incinerator is such an unknown and once it is out in the environment it can never be put back. "air pollution doesn't respect geographical boundaries; pollutants can travel long distances, affecting regions far from their sources (Liang et al., 2019)."

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0147651324006080#bib77>

These emissions will cause damage to people's health, especially those collecting rainwater for use in the house or farm, the soil plants and food are grown in will be contaminated. The World Health Organisation stated

"specific disease outcomes most strongly linked with exposure to air pollution include stroke, ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, pneumonia, and cataract"

<https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/air->

quality-energy-and-health/health-impacts

I know the NSW EPA are going to be monitoring the pollution emitted from the Energy Recovery Facility but unfortunately they have proven time and again to be on the side of corporations. On the 5th September 2025, The Guardian magazine published an article showing that NSW EPA had held on to a report for 4 years, "linking elevated levels of lead in children's blood to current mining" It's a disgrace that NSW EPA and the mining company can go unpunished for their roles in this.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/sep/05/environment-watchdog-buried-report-on-lead-in-childrens-blood-to-placate-mining-companies-emails-show>

I don't understand how a community that is so dependent on clean air and water for their agriculture industry and livelihood, could ever entertain the idea of burning 600,000 tonnes of waste a year. It's not just the burning of the waste, but also the transportation, storing and removal of ash, to and from the central west. It would only take 1 incident a year to completely ruin many farmers lives. Their income for that year would be zero dollars, as they wouldn't be able to sell contaminated stock. (mostly likely a negative amount as they won't be able to recoup on their agricultural investment for that year) I imagine buyers would then look to other regions and suppliers that don't have an Energy Recovery Facility. Parkes would lose it all, and it's not a case of "if" these incidents occurred but when, as the NSW EPA states there's no such thing as a 100% safety guarantee. People would need to sell up and leave, tourists wouldn't come and events like the Elvis festival would also be in serious jeopardy as the threat of highly pollutant air would deter people from visiting. It would be a ghost town as residents will leave to find work and live in a clean environment.

I understand that Parkes needs/wants to grow and secure their future but an Energy Recovery Facility is not the answer.

The answers to reducing waste and diverting it from landfill is education and an easy way to recycle. By educating households in what exactly can and can't go in each bin is a start. For commercial industries they need a policy implemented that makes them accountable for the waste they produce each year. Commercial industries are the biggest creators of waste and they'll need to be held responsible if they aren't reducing the waste they create, use in packaging or recycle correctly. Incentives of lower utilities prices, reduced cost on certain household maintenance costs would also be a great way of getting people to do the right thing.

I strongly oppose the Parkes Energy Recovery Facility and hope that you too realise that this facility is not the way forward and reject the proposed project. If this Energy from Waste project is built, I will be leaving Parkes, there's no question about that, I'll go to a town that values clean air and it's people over the corporate dollar.

Thank you for your time in reading this submission. I hope my passion and ideas were not lost along the way. If you could please provide a written response acknowledging your receipt of this letter as well as addressing my concerns I would greatly appreciate it.

Yours sincerely  
Paul Azize