

**Submission  
No 928**

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

**Name:** Ms Gina Richardson

**Date Received:** 30 October 2025

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I am writing to voice objection to the Proposed Energy from Waste Facility in Parkes NSW. I work as a Registered Mental Health Nurse, out of Parkes Hospital. I transferred to Parkes for work and have been enjoying living in the area.

I strongly recommend the Government reject this proposal, my concerns relate to health and wellbeing issues for the people of Parkes, if such a proposal goes ahead.

Relocating out west has opened my eyes to how reliant the local and also national communities are on the west for our day to day living. Farming relies on soil quality, water quality and hard work. Our soil nutrients are essential to keeping that going, as is our water quality. There is no substantial evidence to completely guarantee that our soils, water and general air quality will not be negatively affected. I strongly believe that they will.

It seems we are unable to see enough evidence that there will be minimal negative effects. If this proposal was rejected in the cities, why do you feel we are less significant out west, in Parkes, where most of our country's food needs are farmed and distributed. How could we consider this a reasonable option, unless there is evidence to indicate it is completely safe.....and there is not.

I oppose this proposal on the basis of its potential negative impact on so many sections of our community. The potential emissions, dioxins, furans etc have not been adequately researched to ensure our air, water and soil quality will not be badly impacted. This will resonate far beyond Parkes, as our farming and agriculture needs are essential, fulfilling the needs of many communities. Our air quality will definitely be impacted as the winds from the proposed site will be propelled on a direct path to our town. How they missed that specific detail, is evident in the choice of location monitored, with little regard for the specific location and assessed in precinct of the current airport??? No comparison, as the western winds continue and the proposed site will blow them right in. And do we know how the air quality will be affected? No, not at all, not from anything I have read so far.

Working in Health, reminds me of how desperately our health system struggles to keep up with demand, particularly out west at times. Yes, we try our best, but our system is stretched. I can only see that need increasing as our environment is impacted by the burning of waste, transported out here to avoid inconvenience to the city and its waste issues.

This seems another environmental onslaught, which potentially has widespread ramifications for us and the generations to come. Once the damage is done, there will be no way back, so in all fairness we deserve more strategies to manage waste avoidance, recycling and reuse where possible. We do owe this to ourselves and our future generations to come. The increase in potential disease from illnesses related to toxic environmental admissions, has already increased within society. We have a duty not to add to that, rather try to create an environment which enables less reliance on healthcare support. I strongly object to unproven ventures aimed at facilitating the waste needs of those in cities at the expense of the needs and health of our population in Parkes.

If this proposal goes ahead, my consideration to moving to Parkes permanently, will be impacted, as it seems Sydney's waste issues are placed above sustainability and ongoing progress, therefore negating our health and environmental needs in Parkes. This would be more than disappointing, in fact, catastrophic.