

**Submission
No 936**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Ian Cowle
Date Received: 30 October 2025

Submission Against the Proposed Parkes Waste Incinerator

My name is Ian Cowle

I was born and raised in Parkes and have spent the majority of my life living and working in the local area employed as an Electrician. I have worked in many sectors of this field and have spent the last 33 years working in the Mining industry.

I have invested in land in the area to prepare for my retirement and I am concerned that the proposed facility will have long term ramifications for the future of Parkes, Parkes Residents, Parkes surrounding district farmers and of course my own future in retirement.

I am writing to register my strong opposition to the proposed energy from waste Incinerator facility being constructed in Parkes

I am concerned that there will health impacts caused by emissions that will invariably be generated by this type of facility in both operation of the facility and also the delivery and storage of the proposed fuel being Sydney waste.

I am concerned that once Sydney residents are aware that their waste will be sent to another area, all types of unsafe substances will be added to the bins, substances such as asbestos sheeting, batteries, poisonous chemicals and their containers.

I am concerned that there will be no assurances or checking of the waste as it is delivered, where and how it is the waste to be stored to prevent further toxic contamination and the introduction of vermin, odours from the waste and the potential impacts on local wildlife, farmers livestock and farming land.

As a tradesperson working in heavy Industry, I am well aware of the ability for a Control Systems Specialist to be able to bypass critical control equipment to allow the plant to continue to operate, in doing so there is a very real potential for the Incinerator to operate while producing untold amounts of emissions for extended periods of time.

I also question the amount of energy that can be produced, and I can advise you that the quoted 60 Megawatts of energy will not run a facility like a mine site for any significant amount of time.

I am concerned that Sydney residents have the right to reject this in their backyard due to the public reaction towards this type of facility, why are Parkes residents not able to have the same right to oppose and prevent this from being built in our backyard?

I am concerned that if this Waste to Energy Incinerator facility is built there will be no other industries that could actually benefit our community in a positive way being attracted to relocate to this area and benefit from the rail and road networks that pass through the area.

Transporting waste material by rail cannot be a green solution due to the diesel emissions and subsequent long-term reliance on fossil fuels to power the rail freight which in itself adds to extra pollution.

I am also concerned that water quality for country residents relying on rainwater will have the potential to be affected locally as well as downstream of the Lachlan river due to the interconnection of local waterways, it would appear that there will be no baseline data collected to gauge any impacts and, in my opinion, this will be gross negligence of a duty of care for all that may be impacted.

Please consider the Parkes and wider communities that can be potentially affected and reject this proposal.

I propose that alternative waste management solutions are investigated and implemented at the source of the problem not in an area renowned for primary producers, fresh air and water and a quality of life that will be severely impacted by the introduction of a Waste to Energy facility.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I respectfully request a written response addressing my concerns.

Ian Cowle

Phone -

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