

Submission
No 938

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit a formal objection against the proposed Energy from Waste Incinerator planned for construction at the Parkes Special Activation Precinct.

I live in the NSW Council Shire of Parkes, along with my husband and children. We run a 4th generation farming business and I am a healthcare worker.

I am very concerned about the proposal for an incinerator in Parkes (or NSW for that matter) for the following reasons:

1. Risks to human health – The Parkes township falls within the 10km “hot-zone” radius of the proposed incinerator, and includes the local hospital, aged care facilities, multiple schools and childcare centres (our most vulnerable). The more I research about the potential long-term implications to human health over many years of exposure such as respiratory illnesses, cancer, neurological damage and other diseases, the more concerned I become. Over many years, even low-levels of exposure can result in measurable damage due to the accumulative nature of the toxins produced.

Additionally, our children attend the Parkes Christian School, which is located only approximately 5kms from the proposed site for the incinerator. Our son suffers from asthma, and has already had numerous ambulance rides due to asthmatic episodes. I am worried by the potential increase to airborne pollutants that he will be exposed to on a daily basis.

How is it that plans for these incinerators in metropolitan areas have been cancelled due to substantial concerns regarding the associated health risks, yet it is ok to expose those of us in rural areas to those same risks? We are not second-class citizens and should not be treated as such.

2. Risks to agriculture and safe food production – Parkes is surrounded by prime agricultural land and prides itself on being a significant contributor to food production for our nation. Potential risk of contamination of our soils and water sources with forever chemicals is not a risk worth taking! Consideration needs to be given to incidences where this has happened in Europe (eg. Switzerland and Spain) and has had devastating effects on the agricultural communities and food production.

2. Environmental risks – the incineration process required to burn the waste produces dioxins, heavy metals, PFAS and ultrafine particles which pose a risk not only to air quality but also our soils and water. Additionally, freighting rubbish multiple hundreds of kilometres to the proposed incinerator requires substantial energy and in turn produces additional emissions. I am also extremely concerned about the lack of plan to dispose of the waste / biproduct leftover at the end of the incineration process, given the unstable toxic nature of the product and risk for leeching into the surrounding environment.

We should be addressing the root cause of the production of waste, rather than jumping to a reactive solution for getting rid of it – these incinerators are at the end of the line. Instead we should be investing in compostable plastics, FOGO expansion and other such sustainable solutions.

Consultation with the general public in our area has been minimal and only in recent times. General public sentiment appears to be opposed to construction of an incinerator in our area, to the point that many people are stating they will relocate should it proceed.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposal for the energy from waste incinerator being built in the Parkes area and greatly appreciate your consideration of this matter, for not only our benefit now, but also for generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

A concerned Parkes Local.