

**Submission
No 943**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

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I, Zac Thornton, am writing to the people of this Parliamentary enquiry, to show our community's concern and outrage at this proposed Energy from Waste Facility in Regional NSW.

I hope that throughout this long process you will be able to see and voice our concerns, to help stop these monstrosities going ahead, and compile the data and evidence needed.

I will do my best to keep it short and sweet, I'm not the best with words so forgive me if its not the clearest submission to read.

1- Introduction

We are a family of 5, I'm a father of 3 little ferals with one on the way. They are our life! And the main reason I am sitting down and writing this submission. I've lived in Parkes now for 30+ years, and grown to love the people and the community. I run my own small building business with plans to expand and improve. I have a lot of friends and family that live on the land and help feed Australia.

When I initially heard about this project, I thought it was a great idea and good for the town, not thinking at all about the process actually involved. It wasn't till later on I started seeing that perhaps this wasn't the best idea for Parkes

This Project has kept me up for countless hours thinking about my families future and what we will do if this EFW goes ahead. The only option that is viable and safe is to move from Parkes and find somewhere far from this project and any others. This doesn't sit with me well, and hurts to think that I may have to do this.

This is why I must write this submission against the proposed EFW incinerator

2- Concerns

Now this is a list that could go on for a long time but ill keep it to the basics

- water consumption(being a regional area prone to drought and the need for water for agriculture, where's the water coming from? And how much will it use?)
- Food Production (why have a possible contaminator on prime agricultural land that provides grain and meat for Australia and the world, when it could destroy or taint the quality and name of the region)
- health impacts (if the data coming in from overseas is correct and the land and water is being contaminated by dioxins and other fine particles, then what happens to our health?)
- why is there only four regional areas where these incinerators can go (if they are banned or prohibited in other areas due to concerns, then why should we have to run the risk?? And if there is no concerns , then let Sydney deal with is own waste)
- fire!! (is a fire breaks out at the facility or on a truck or train how can the pollution or fire be contained?? all it would take is one of these battery fires that we have seen so much of)

- monitoring (there isn't currently any base line testing happening that im aware of, to set a standard and be monitored. Nor is 24/7 monitoring a requirement especially when dealing with such dangerous emissions)

- Location (why have a high risk emitter like this located so close to housing and prime agricultural land? Let alone the large distance the rubbish has to be transported)

3- Recommendations

The main reason for the Incinerator as we know is to manage Sydney's waste. Instead forcing waste facilities like this onto unsuspecting towns and regions, shouldn't Sydney try and deal with its own waste problems first.

There are many ways that this could be done, firstly and the most important one is education. Let the Sydney area know about the issue! And how big it is!. Then show them how to help just by minimizing waste by putting rubbish into the right bins etc. If they don't know then how can it change? It will only get worse even if they start bringing it out west.

Recycle and reuse, as a society now we are a throw away one at best. If something is broken or damaged its cheaper to throw it out and buy a new one. Thus, change needs to occur to allow or repairs and longevity of products. This would need to be implemented by government to put pressure on company's to put waste management before profit.

And waste reduction is a simple one. Just look at your supermarket and the excessive amounts of plastic packaging being used. Small changes to many industries could make a massive difference in the amount of waste heading to landfills

There are many technologies that could be looked into and used, that are a lot less harmful and could be managed better. Maybe forms of Cold energy from waste that don't emit dioxins etc

And just a random thought, what about letting scavenging back at landfills. The amount of products and materials that get thrown away that are still in good condition and usable is crazy. Someone who is tight on money could use them.

4- Summary

I strongly urge the committee to recommend that the Government rejects Energy from waste incineration in any part of Australia, as the health concerns and possible impacts to the environment is far too great to gamble with.

I believe that the Parkes Shire council is on board with this project as it will bring them money per tonne and are only seeing the dollar signs and not listening adequately to the community and its concerns. And trying to brush it off. This in its self is troublesome. And in this I believe the community was not consulted appropriately about the decision to bring the project here. And I doubt there ability to manage and regulate it, as I believe that is part of taking on the project

Anyone in government that is sitting by and disregarding this issue will not have my vote nor the greater communities.

With the headquarters of Tribe, the projects main contractor being in Abu Dhabi, why would they care or have any concerns with this project? I say they would only be putting profit first.

And if all this goes ahead and 10 years down the track cancer rates , health problems occur, the regional area is contaminated. Who holds liability for compensation?? The People will be coming for government, not the owners of the project.

The Waste Association Of Australia even questions the ability of these incinerators to operate safely, and draws attention to numerous other points.

They State that this project will be able to power 80,000 homes yet Parkes and surrounds with not benefit nor get 1kw from it.

Why now that the rest of the world is moving away from these projects is Australia looking towards them. If they worked so great why would they be shutting down.

5- Conclusion

I strongly oppose the Proposed Energy From Waste Facilities in Regional NSW. Simply we should not have to manage Sydney's waste nor have to deal with the possible hazards and concerns associated EFW incinerator.

We are just trying to live our lives and stay healthy and happy. We do not deserve to have this project forced upon us.