

Submission
No 947

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I am a local resident of Parkes and have lived in the Parkes/Forbes area my entire life. I am a mother to two young children and part of living rurally gives them the opportunity to enjoy our local environment. We are an active family enjoying sports, time in the outdoors fishing/camping and spending time on a family farm. I worry about the implications this Waste to Energy plant could have on the local environment and those of us who live here and our lifestyles.

I object the proposal of a Waste to energy facility being built in Parkes or any other regional area. This submission is to share my concerns in what effects would occur within our community.

As a mother of children with health conditions including respiratory issues, as well as suffering from these myself, I am very concerned by the probable pollution and how it will affect my children and inevitably their children too. Will emissions mean my children won't be able to play outside, eat vegetables from their garden and enjoy a childhood without worrying of invisible poisons in the air and water.

Emissions of toxic dioxins and fine particles released into our area will not only harm those who live close to the plant but also those in the path of where this could travel through wind currents. If this plant is not required to ensure no toxins are leaving the filtration system the risk of air contamination is huge. There is a risk of the flow on effect to contaminate our water supplies as well. The Lachlan river located only around 35kms from the site not only supplies water to Forbes and Parkes but many towns and farmers downstream heading west as well. Are these communities all aware of what could be entering the water they drink and grow food for us all with? What happens if this river system is contaminated by this proposed plant – and who is to be held responsible if it does happen?

Until we see long term evidence of such a plant operating and not having a link to air, soil or water contamination how can we justify risking our health, wellbeing as well as the livelihoods of those in the agricultural and industrial sectors? Do we risk the health of our local residents to burn rubbish from Sydney. Why is it not being done closer to Sydney if there is no risk – cutting the freight costs out to transport from Sydney to us out in the regional areas?

In my customer facing role I have heard many similar concerns from our locals. There has been no clear communication regarding the development. The marketing communications from both the industry as well as the government have been misleading. Attendance of a community drop in session left me with more questions about the risks of the technology than any reassurance from the stakeholders regarding health, safety and environmental effects on our town and the predominantly agricultural lands that surround us.

The changes to legislation to ban thermal Waste to Energy plants in NSW excluding only 4 areas, all being regional, seems to make it decided that our health and wellbeing in the town many of us love is less important than those in any other area in NSW. Are we the guinea pigs in an unknown experiment? If something catastrophic occurs within the facility what can be done to protect our community?

Parkes deserves safe and sustainable industries in our community that can generate income and job opportunities and not come at the cost of the people that live here. We deserve all levels of government (local, state and national) to ensure that we are not worse off for having to be a host town to a project we never wanted here to begin with. The proposal of building these Waste to energy plants in regional New South Wales while similar proposals in Sydney have been squashed shows an inequality shown towards regional New South Wales. There needs to be a greater inquiry into alternative waste management practices that don't make the rural communities a dumping ground.

If this facility was to proceed there needs to be 24/7 monitoring for any emissions that is independently monitored. There needs to be procedures put in place for issues arising in both the short and long term as well as setting aside of funds for any compensation claims made by the community due to health issues, financial losses etc due to living with the facility in our town.

Please recommend that the Government ban Waste to Energy incineration to protect the health and future of Regional New South Wales, its communities and our agricultural industries. Help our local communities show their voice in protecting our lives, families and communities.