

**Submission  
No 954**

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

**Name:** Mr Timothy Witherow

**Date Received:** 30 October 2025

---

To Whom It May Concern,

#### Objecting to Waste to Energy Proposal - Parkes, NSW

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed waste-to-energy incinerator that would burn Sydney's rubbish in Parkes, NSW. As someone from a farming background, I am deeply concerned about how such a facility would impact not only the environment and public health, but also the agricultural livelihoods that sustain our region.

Farming relies on clean air, healthy soil, and uncontaminated water, all of which could be jeopardized by an incinerator. Burning waste releases pollutants such as heavy metals, dioxins, and other toxic compounds that can settle on farmland, enter waterways, and accumulate in crops and livestock. Even trace amounts of these pollutants can harm soil health and reduce productivity over time. The risk of contamination could also threaten the reputation of our local produce, which is known for its quality and cleanliness. Once that reputation is damaged, it's almost impossible to regain.

It's also important to remember that Sydney relies heavily on the food and produce that come from our region. If the farmland around Parkes becomes contaminated, the effects will not be limited to our local community, they will reach Sydney tables as well. Contaminated crops, grains, or livestock would undermine food safety and the trust consumers place in Australian-grown produce. Protecting our farming environment protects not just rural livelihoods, but also the health and wellbeing of people across the state.

Beyond the direct environmental risks, transporting Sydney's waste hundreds of kilometres to Parkes would mean more heavy truck traffic on rural roads, increasing wear and tear, noise, and safety hazards for local residents and farmers. It is unfair for regional communities to bear these burdens simply because metropolitan areas have failed to manage their own waste responsibly.

Investing in an incinerator is a step backwards. It discourages recycling and waste reduction, locking us into a system that depends on constant waste production. Instead, we should be focusing on building a circular economy, one that values recycling, composting, and sustainable manufacturing, creating regional jobs without compromising our farmland or our health.

Parkes should not become Sydney's dumping ground. Our land feeds people, it should never be treated as a furnace for city waste.

Sincerely,

Timothy Witherow

Parkes, NSW 2870

30/10/25