

**Submission
No 959**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

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Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the proposed Energy -from- Waste Facilities in Regional New South Wales.

Submitted by – Graham Everest – Retired Electrician.

Background

My name is Graham Everest

I have lived and worked in Forbes my whole life.

I have worked amongst the Rural Agriculture Community of Forbes and surrounding areas as an Electrician for my working life.

I have had first- hand experience of seeing the multiple hardships faced by the farming residents due to Drought, Floods and keeping themselves functioning due to the many other insults upon them.

I would like to think my wife and the farmers of the Forbes District could continue to experience our current lifestyle without the proposed Parkes Energy-from-Waste Facility sitting on our doorstep in Parkes (30Kms from Forbes).

The following explains why I OPPOSE the proposed Parkes Energy-from-Waste Facility.

1. Lack of Consultation.

I would not have known about this proposal if it had not been for concerned Parkes Community Members calling a Public Meeting in Parkes on the 26th July 2025.

It was obvious at this Meeting that people attended to learn of what this PROPOSAL meant.

The gathering highlighted the LACK OF CONSULTATION with the constituents of the area regarding the proposed Energy-from-Waste Facility in Parkes.

As a result of the lack of Consultation residents of Parkes have needed to research the function of the proposed facility themselves.

Thanks to those who organised this Public Meeting attendees were presented with an overview of the proposal which raised many concerns of a lack of ANY benefits, especially the production of ENERGY from such a FACILITY.

The concerns people left with were around the facility's effect included:

*CHANGED AIR QUALITY, health, and birth abnormalities during the lifetime of the Facility burning 24hr/day, 365 days/year, for DECADES.

*Negative impacts on the practice of Agriculture i.e land, animals, cropping, water and eventually financial.

*How are the pollutants of the Air from this burning going to affect Agriculture in Parkes and the Central West Area?

*The LONGTERM effects on OUR children and their children. The long-term effects MUST be known by people living in Parkes and surrounding areas that are going to be affected by the PLUME from the proposed WFE facility.

*The impact of the amount of Sydney RUBBISH that is going to be stored in the proposed Facility Precinct – what adverse effects is Storage likely to present to the near-by residents Take for example, ODOUR prior to the burning process, any treatment processes that need to be followed to enable storage of RUBBISH to prevent Vermon, extra NOISE produced through the Train transportation and unloading of RUBBISH.

2. Location of the proposed Energy-from- Waste Facility.

How does Infrastructure, Planning and Regulation STOP the building of an Energy-from-Waste Facility in SYDNEY, BUT ALLOW it to be proposed in Parkes, Goulburn, Lithgow and Richmond Valley?

If such a site is "SAFE", for these named areas, why is SYDNEY not having the same Facility forced upon them?

If such a Facility is SAFE, take the sensible route and save MANY DOLLARS in transport by burning Sydney Rubbish where it is created.

Would NOT it be healthier and more beneficial for the NSW Government to re-think Energy-from-Waste Facilities (INCINERATORS) and invest in processes that could RECYCLE the gathered waste?

Is 'BURNING the RUBBISH the CHEAPER way out for the NSW Government?

Initially perhaps, but I question the long-term COST on the rural communities of the Central West of NSW, and as a flow-on effect, costs for the NSW Government to remedy likely issues from the incinerator.

I strongly urge the NSW Government to RE-THINK “how to use RUBBISH” produced by our fellow city residents in a much SAFER and USEBLE WAY!

3. Consultation.

How did the NSW Government get to this POINT?

As a resident of Forbes, 30Kms from Parkes I ask who has been part of the planning process of this proposal?

To get to this point without the Community being aware of such a Proposal, a lack of DISCUSSION, CONSULTATION of constituents of the Parkes and surrounding Communities is a MAJOR CONCERN.

Before any further planning continues, I ask the NSW Government to be transparent and honest re-the inception of the project, explain why this process of removing RUBBISH from Sydney is NECESSARY and what alternative USE of the RUBBISH has been researched.

Surely this problem can be solved by Australia without needing to involve transnational conglomerates. Are transnational conglomerates involved because funds to be made are of GREATER IMPORTANCE than the HEALTH and WELL-BEING of the residents who produce food for the nation and economic growth from exports?

Conclusion.

In conclusion I must press the point that I am totally opposed to this Proposal of an Energy-from-Waste Facility going ahead, not just here but anywhere where there is even the possibility of contamination to the environment and residents of affected areas from this proposed incinerator. Please consider the livestock, farmland, waterways etc, but more especially the chance of ill-effects on us, our children, and even our children’s children.

I feel we in rural communities are are being treated as 2nd class citizens in this whole DEBACLE for what, I suspect is a vote grabbing, or vote protecting exercise for the city people responsible for the mess in the first place.

This is PATHETIC!

Rethink THE WHOLE EXERCISE.

Imagine your kids, families, friends, and livelihoods being put at RISK for the sake of POLITICS.