

Submission
No 961

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission: Parkes Waste Recovery Project

Submitted by: Resident of Parkes, NSW (currently living away for university)

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is _____, I'm 20 years old and I grew up in Parkes. It's always been home to me—where I went to school, made lifelong friends, and where my family still lives. I'm currently studying at university, but I've always imagined coming back one day to build a life in Parkes and a career in health supporting our town. This proposed Waste Recovery Project, though, makes me seriously question if that's even possible anymore.

The idea of an incinerator near Parkes is really unsettling. I'm worried about what it means for the air we breathe, the food we grow, and the health of the people who live there—especially children. Even if the technology is “safe,” there's still a risk of pollution and long-term damage. It will be too late when we all start to get sick. That's not something I'm willing to gamble with when it comes to my future or my family's wellbeing.

I'm also really disappointed by how little the community seems to have been involved in this decision. Parkes is full of smart, passionate people who care deeply about the town. Why weren't we properly consulted? It feels like something this big should've been talked about openly, not quietly pushed through. What is our local council hiding from us, if this was a positive thing for our community the council would be yelling from the rooftops.

And then there's the impact on Parkes' reputation. We have great employment opportunities in our local communities, beautiful farming land, while also being a great place to raise a family. An industrial incinerator doesn't exactly fit that image. I worry it'll drive people away—especially young people like me who want to come back and invest in the community. What professional person will move their family to Parkes it will not be worth the risk. We already struggle to attract medical staff as it is.

Here are a few things I think we need clear answers to:

Health Risks: What independent research has been done on the long-term health effects of living near an incinerator, especially for children?

Food Safety: How will emissions affect local farms, crops, and livestock—and what protections are in place to prevent contamination?

Property Values: What impact will this project have on housing prices and rental demand in Parkes, and how will that be addressed?

Air and Water Quality: How will pollution be monitored, and will the results be publicly available and independently verified?

Community Trust: Why was there so little consultation with residents, and how will transparency be improved moving forward?

Parkes means a lot to me. I want to come back, buy a home, and be part of its future. But if this project goes ahead, I would never come home to raise a family if this incinerator goes ahead. It's not just about me—it's about what kind of town we're building for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Resident of Parkes, NSW