

**Submission
No 965**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Marion Tyndall
Date Received: 31 October 2025

Health, Environmental and Equity Concerns about the Proposed Parkes Energy from Waste Facility

Introduction

My husband and I have lived in Parkes for most of our lives. Our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have all grown up here. We live on a small property where we keep chickens and tend a productive garden. We have rooftop solar, rainwater tanks and a septic system that irrigates our garden with recycled water. We grow our own vegetables and live sustainably because we respect the environment that sustains us.

This proposed Energy from Waste project has deeply shaken our sense of security. For the first time, we are considering moving away from the home and community we have invested in for decades. The thought of leaving behind our neighbours, family and friends is distressing.

1. Health and Environmental Risks

Air pollution: Emissions such as dioxins, particulates and odours pose serious risks to respiratory and general health. Even newer waste incineration technologies produce pollutants. Research has shown that people living near waste incinerators experience higher rates of cancers and reproductive disorders. The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (2024) concluded in Health Impacts of Waste Incineration that 'there is insufficient evidence to conclude that any incinerator is safe.' Why should the people of Parkes be asked to shoulder this risk to solve Sydney's waste problem?

Global evidence: Evidence from Europe shows widespread dioxin contamination near 'Best Practice' incinerators. These pollutants are toxic, persistent and bio-accumulative, concentrating even in polar regions. Waste incineration is also one of the world's top five sources of mercury pollution and hazardous waste (Toxics Free Australia, Greenwashing Submission, 2024).

Water safety: Like many local residents, we rely on rainwater tanks. Any airborne contamination settling on roofs would directly affect our drinking water.

Food and agriculture: Even small-scale food production, such as keeping chickens or growing vegetables, could be compromised if soil and water contamination occur. The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (2024) stated that 'contaminated food and ingestion of pollutants is a significant risk pathway for both nearby and distant residents,' and recommended that 'new incinerators should be located away from areas of food production.'

2. Mental Health, Trust and Oversight

Living under the constant stress of potential pollution or industrial accidents is not a healthy or sustainable way to live.

Our trust in the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has already been damaged by incidents such as the Broken Hill mine contamination, where the agency withheld a report for four years that revealed elevated lead levels in children (The Guardian, 2025).

Incinerators are expensive to maintain and require regular servicing to meet emission standards. We fear that profit pressures could result in cost-cutting and inadequate safety measures, further endangering public health.

3. Equity and Fairness

Energy from Waste facilities are banned in most parts of NSW because of health and environmental risks, yet Parkes has been singled out as an exception. Why should regional communities like ours have fewer protections than city residents?

This is a matter of equity and environmental justice. Regional towns should not be treated as convenient locations for industries rejected elsewhere.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marion Tyndall

References

- Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. (2024). Health Impacts of Waste Incineration.
- Toxics Free Australia. (2024). Greenwashing Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy from Waste in NSW.
- The Guardian. (2025). Environment watchdog buried report on lead in children's blood to placate mining companies, emails show.