

**Submission  
No 967**

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

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# Greenwashing, Policy Contradictions and the Case for Zero Waste Alternatives

## Introduction

My wife and I have lived in Parkes for decades and are proud to call this community home. We live sustainably — relying on solar energy, tank water, and recycled greywater for our garden. I believe that protecting our environment protects our health and ensures a safe future for our children and grandchildren.

The proposed Energy from Waste incinerator threatens that future. It undermines public confidence, contradicts environmental policy goals, and risks locking Australia into outdated and polluting waste systems.

### 1. Lack of Transparent Consultation

I feel that decisions about this project have been made without transparent or respectful consultation. The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health (2024) emphasises that 'early transparent consultation with communities about these facilities is essential.'

Local residents have had to fight simply to be heard. That, in itself, shows how flawed the process has been.

### 2. Greenwashing and Industry Influence

Waste incineration is being marketed as 'clean energy' and a better alternative to landfill. This claim is misleading. It assumes that organic waste will continue going to landfill, even though both federal and state governments already have Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) programs designed to eliminate methane emissions - one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gases.

In reality, plastic waste is the main fuel for waste incinerators, a technology currently being promoted in NSW. Burning plastics does not create clean or renewable energy; it merely transforms plastic pollution into air pollution (Toxics Free Australia, Greenwashing Submission, 2024).

Toxics Free Australia (2024) also found that the corporations and consortiums promoting incineration in Australia are closely linked to the fossil-fuel, petrochemical and plastics industries. Their business models depend on continued plastic dependency, directly contradicting the Federal Government's Net Zero, Nature Positive, and Made in Australia policies (Toxics Free Australia, Media Statement, 2025).

The NSW Government's Energy from Waste Factsheet (2023) even compares emissions from incinerators to those of a leaf blower. This is a gross understatement that minimises the true scale of industrial emissions and public-health risks.

### 3. Global Warnings and Safer Alternatives

Internationally, waste incineration is in decline due to its large carbon footprint and toxic ash legacy. The European Commission now recommends decommissioning old incinerators and halting new developments, instead investing in Zero Waste strategies.

The Sustainability Review: Economic, Environmental, and Sociopolitical Aspects of Waste Incineration (2025) found that 'it is cheaper and more effective to improve waste collection and sorting than to build large-scale incinerators.'

Safer, proven and locally viable alternatives include:

- Aerobic composting
- Anaerobic digestion

- Black soldier fly waste processing

These technologies support a circular economy, protect community health, and align with Australia's environmental and industrial policy goals.

### Conclusion

I strongly urge the Inquiry to reject the Parkes Energy from Waste proposal. Instead, investment should focus on Zero Waste solutions that protect public health, respect community voices, and advance sustainable regional development.

Parkes should not be treated as a dumping ground for metropolitan waste or as a trial site for risky and outdated technologies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert 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.
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