

Submission
No 972

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Cover Letter

28th October 2025

NSW Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

To the select Committee members of the Legislative Council

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

I wish to make a confidential submission strongly opposing the proposed Parkes Energy from Waste (EFW) Incinerator. I wish to share my concerns, addressing some of the Terms of Reference.

The attached submission may be published; however, I wish for my personal details to be kept confidential.

Yours sincerely

Page 1

I wish to make a confidential submission strongly opposing the proposed Parkes Energy from Waste (EFW) Incinerator.

I am a local resident of the Parkes Shire for the past 30+ years. I moved here for employment and have grown to love and appreciate my home and community. I wanted to raise my children in the country, where they could grow in a healthy environment, with clean, fresh air, open spaces and clean water. Parkes has definitely delivered on this and they are now strong men who have both studied Health and working to achieve healthier outcomes for others.

My current employment is working on a grain / livestock farming operation and have been for the past 20+ years. This job has brought great purpose to my life, working hard to supply grain / meat to the food chain and wool for textiles / clothing. The family-owned company is a multi-generational enterprise, priding themselves in their produce and currently training the next generation with succession planning to carry on the legacy of the previous generations.

(d) Impacts on human health including on regional town drinking water, rainwater harvesting and soil contamination.

(e) The impact on agriculture locally and across the wider region

I personally have a rainwater tank for my drinking water, and I am concerned that the toxins and dioxins that would be emitted from an incinerator could have potential to contaminate not only rainwater, but also town water supplies and soil for many kilometres. The 'experts' say there will be monitoring, however who is to say the levels are safe for humans and what about the effects long term. We only get one chance at this – if water and soil are contaminated – that's it – end of story for the food production in this area and beyond.

Page 2

What about the ramifications on human health – its NOT OK to just say sorry after finding out that the ‘safe’ levels weren’t really safe at all!

I quote: (1) “In 2019/2020 a devastating Australian bushfire and desert dust event combined with favorable meteorological conditions transported an unprecedented mass of impurities across the Tasman Sea turning the Southern Alps of Aotearoa New Zealand red.” This shows you the disastrous potential for contamination. Not only limited to Parkes, but Australia-wide and beyond.

I quote: (2) “Thirteen workers, including a 32-year-old, employed on tunnelling projects in Sydney have been diagnosed with Silicosis.” These workers would have been advised that they were working in safe conditions, however, now find their health has been jeopardised and they are facing health battles and potential death. Again, so many families affected.

Where is the equity of the Infrastructure Plan and Regulation that prohibits these projects in NSW due to the health risk, but excludes Parkes, Goulburn, Lithgow and Richmond Valley.

(i) Alternative solutions to reduce and manage residual waste produced by Greater Sydney

I believe residents of Sydney should be responsible for their own garbage. The easy way out would be to send garbage “over the mountains” – out of sight / out of mind! What incentive is there to reduce waste? The government needs to promote ‘reduce / reuse / recycle’.

To conclude, I am a long-standing member of the Parkes shire. I have and continue to support our community by volunteering in several local groups. I have worked hard all my life to care for my family and repay my home. My life is here. I reject the ETW proposal – the risk is too great!

References:

(1) Winton, V. H. L., Charlier, B. L. A., Jolly, B. H., Purdie, H., Anderson, B., Hunt, J. E., et al. (2024). New Zealand Southern Alps blanketed by red Australian dust during 2019/2020 severe bushfire and dust event. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 51, e2024GL112782. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2024GL112782>

(2) Dole, N. (2025, Mar 16). *Thirteen workers on tunnelling projects in Sydney diagnosed with deadly silicosis*. ABC News. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-16/thirteen-workers-sydney-tunnelling-projects-diagnosed-silicosis/105058084>. Accessed on 28/10/25.