

Submission  
No 985

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

To Whom it May Concern

I am a resident of Parkes and have lived here for 23 years. My husband and I moved to Parkes from Sydney seeking a country community and way of life in which to bring up our young family.

Over the last couple of years, we built our first (and forever) home having saved up enough money to purchase land and then build a house. Something we could not have afforded to do in Sydney. We sacrificed being close to our family and all the conveniences of city life, for wide open spaces, fresh clean pollutant free air and a slower pace of life.

I strongly object to the planned Energy from Waste Incinerator planned for Parkes on the following grounds.

### **Health Concerns & Financial impact**

The long-term environmental and health impacts of such a facility raise serious concerns. Many farms and homes and one school, in particular, are in close proximity to this site, which was previously zoned as agricultural. It is vitally important that the soil, air quality and water supplies are free from toxins so that produce can be sold and food production that our country relies on can continue and that farmers, many that have been providing food on the table for city folk for generations, can continue.

I am concerned that after investing in our own home, planting an enormous number of trees on our bare land, putting in tank water, solar and batteries, we will suffer decreases in property prices due to the incinerator.

In a bid to be environmentally sustainable, our home uses tank water only, including drinking water, collected from our roofs which could become polluted by toxins in the air from this incinerator. We have solar panels installed as do many residents, trying to do our bit for the environment. Then we discover that the state government has planned an incinerator on our doorstep.

### **Lack of Community Consultation**

The vast majority of the Parkes community has only been made aware of this proposal this year. We are now finding out more and more information, that state and local government bodies and the proponents have known about this since at least 2019 and were silent on the matter. This is unacceptable. The community has been blind-sided. The community meetings that occurred earlier this year were just advertising. They were not interested in addressing any objections from the community. There were no independent voices.

### **Misinformation & greenwashing**

We were initially told that the SAP site was earmarked for recycling, amongst other things. Incineration is not recycling. Once the advertising for the incinerator started this year, we were told that the incinerator could power 80,000 homes. Well, maybe it could but it is evident there is no intention to power 80,000 homes, any power generated will be used at the SAP site. There will be no benefit to Parkes. Any employment will short term once it is built and will be inconsequential compared to the damage the incinerator will do to the environment, our health and community well-being.

### **Concerns about effectiveness of testing/breaches**

After reading information about EfW incinerators around the world I am very concerned about the EPA's ability to detect all the pollutants. I am also concerned about environmental breaches. One breach will be too many for the community. Where is the guarantee that there will be 24x7 independent monitoring.

### **Regional areas becoming Sydney's dumping ground**

Parkes and other regional areas are not dumping grounds for Sydney's waste. Thousands of tons of waste being transported 500km from Sydney is a disaster waiting to happen. It is not environmentally friendly to be using fuel to move this waste around constantly. Sydney has banned the use of Incinerators. If it is not safe to do in Sydney, it's not safe to do in Parkes. I note the ACT has banned the use of Incinerators. Why does the NSW state government see fit to treat Parkes and the community as second class citizens, not worthy of protection.

### **Incineration vs Consumption Reduction & Recycling**

Incineration does not fit with the circular economy of recycling. It is one-way. We should be focusing on reducing consumption of plastics etc and recycling, not incineration. From my reading Incinerators need an enormous amount of waste to make a profit. It does not take very much imagination to realise that once this Incinerator is operating, we will be importing waste not just from Sydney, but from all over the country. This is unacceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my strong objection to the planned EfW incinerator in Parkes and call an immediate halt and an **independent** review of the entire project.

Yours sincerely,