

Submission  
No 986

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

---

Partially  
Confidential

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Proposed Waste to Energy Facility - Parliamentary Inquiry

I am writing this letter as a formal objection to the Waste to Energy Incinerator that is being proposed for Parkes. I will be addressing some of the terms of reference in this letter. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am a Parkes local, a wife, mother, teacher and concerned citizen. I believe the proposed incinerator will have a devastating effect on agriculture (one of the main industries in this area), on homes, schools and workplaces due to serious health concerns and that it will contribute to the decline in the population of Parkes while adversely impacting local businesses.

I am a teacher at Parkes Christian School (PCS) and work with young children every day. I worry about the long-term impact this facility will have on their health and development. Parkes Christian School is within the critical 5km radius of the proposed site so more likely to be impacted than any other schools in Parkes. Though perhaps not too much more as we have this natural phenomenon called wind...that will easily spread the toxins across the entire town and adjoining farmland.

Over the last twenty or so years PCS has tripled in size and children are on waiting lists hoping to attend. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to build infrastructure to support the next generation of learners. Where will these learners come from if parents in our community are aware of the heightened risk of illness and disease and the general unpleasantness of schooling near such a facility?

Students are scared. I have had a number of young primary school students specifically mention separately that if the facility (aka 'that yucky waste place' [their words]) comes to Parkes, mum and dad said we will have to move towns. Other students around them were well aware of what they were talking about and had looks of fear and concern on their faces too. These students are of course repeating the concerns their parents have regarding the proposed Waste to Energy Facility.

I do not believe the necessary studies have been undertaken to ascertain the impacts of pollutants on both soil and air quality, not to mention the possible contamination of water supplies, impacting crops, livestock and of course people.

According to the Arctic Council, "Dioxins are a by-product of many industrial processes. Large- and small-scale combustion, particularly of waste, is one potential major source of dioxin emissions into the atmosphere." Dioxins are amongst the hazardous emissions expelled from waste incinerators, which will certainly impact our community. While it is difficult to ascertain the short and long term impacts of the particular dioxins on our

community, dioxins in general can have devastating effects on people. The WHO says that these impacts include reproductive and developmental problems, birth deformities, damage to immune systems, heightened risk of cancer and interference with the proper functioning of hormones. No humans should be exposed to these impacts.

Why Parkes????

It seems that a responsible Government would surely want to keep costs low as they wisely use taxpayer dollars. It would make much more sense to keep the facility close to the waste source. Think of the money saved on transportation of the waste itself. And yet the proposed facilities are far away from available land near the city...

So why have Parkes and just three other regional areas across NSW and the ACT been deemed appropriate for the construction of these facilities, when they have been banned across the rest of the state? Well established rail lines perhaps...

It really is a numbers game isn't it? Those wishing to establish the Waste Facilities need to show minimal human population impact. The population density will always be lower in country areas as opposed to city areas. It would look much better on a proposal to show less people are affected by toxins causing reproductive and developmental problems, birth deformities, damage to immune systems, heightened risk of cancer and interference with the proper functioning of hormones... however...

Should **any** person be put in such a risky environment???

While the idea of a Waste to Energy incinerator is being touted as clean and green, it is far from both. Did you know that even the Australian Greens are not in favour of the idea?

In a recent fact sheet; Waste to Energy: Greenwash at its best

<https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2019-09/Waste%20Incinerators%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf> compiled by the Australian Greens, among the concerns they listed in regard to waste incinerators were the following:

- “Even new plants generate tens of thousands of tonnes of hazardous waste every year, which risks the health of workers and local communities”
- Incinerators are more polluting than coal and gas-fired power stations for energy output and they are very expensive”

I do not believe that the people of Parkes have been fully informed of the facts in relation to the risks to people, animals, air, water and land. I feel that one of the reasons for this lack of transparency is that the full short and long term impacts of harmful chemicals released from such facilities is not yet known. According to the NSW Government Website, studies must be done to assess the “impacts associated with air quality, human health, odour, traffic, noise, social and visual amenity”. If these assessments have been undertaken, as a resident of Parkes, I would like to see the results.

It would be far better to more fully research other ways in which to approach the issue of residual waste. Teaching children more explicitly about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling, sorting rubbish more thoroughly and finding more efficient ways to dispose of toxic waste, could all be considered as possible solutions to this issue.

I would like to ask you to consider these questions:

- Would you feel confident living in a town with the proposed Waste to Energy Incinerator?
- Would you want your children or grandchildren attending a school and growing up in an area that has such a facility.
- Are you absolutely confident that the food grown in such an area with the proposed Waste to Energy Incinerator would be safe to consume...think about it, you may not live in Parkes but the food we grow is sent out right across the state and coming to a plate near you!?!?

These questions are on the minds of local residents and their children. It is horrible to think that the place you have chosen as home, as safe to raise a family, a place of work and secure income, is now very much in danger of becoming unsafe and unfit for human occupation.

I do not want to live in a town with a Waste to Energy Incinerator. I ask that you seriously consider the submissions received on this matter before making a final and **life-altering** decision in regard to the proposed facility.

Yours Faithfully

Parent, Teacher and local resident of Parkes