

Submission  
No 991

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I am writing to you today as a 5<sup>th</sup> generation young farmer from Aleetown, in the Parkes NSW shire, and I am seriously concerned about the planned 'energy to waste incinerator'. The Parkes Shire has been home for generations of my family, and my entire life as well. I have recently finished schooling, the entirety of which was done in Parkes, and I am looking forward to a career in continuing the management of the family farm.

Our farm produces wheat, barely, canola, lupins, faba beans and chickpeas, as well as a large portion of the land dedicated to pasture that produces fine merino wool and fat lambs. Our management practices include both traditional regenerative agriculture through the use of pulses, rotational cropping, no till and grazing, as well as modern farming techniques. Our focus is on productivity, efficiency and sustainability, as we are here for the long run and the land's health is vital to farm management.

The proposed incinerator is a deep concern of mine for my future. Farming in Australia as a whole, is a very delicate, marginal endeavour, and Australian farmers are world renowned for their efficiency of water, money, labour and soil quality. I believe the incinerator would seriously disrupt the Parkes agricultural sector. There is no guarantee of safety, and the institutions tasked with understanding and presenting the safety concerns have been largely dismissive and opaque with the Parkes community.

After 75 years of mass production, we are only beginning to understand the effects of plastics in the environment, there is now almost no part and no person who does not have some form of plastic in their body, and I can only imagine the effects of burning this plastic into minute, airborne particles that have unlimited reach. There will be no paddock, river, dam or street that won't have some sort of pollution. This will have serious repercussions: all crops, meat and wool produced in this area will be tarnished with the Parkes name, due to the incinerator.

All agriculture and health concerns aside, it is wrong for Parkes to be a sacrificial town for Sydney's rubbish. Every Aleetown resident must personally load up their own bins with the rubbish they produce, take it to the tip, and physically see the waste created by our community. And there wouldn't be many Parkes residents who have never been to the Parkes tip themselves. This allows us to understand the waste we create has a real effect, and we can make more conscious decisions about our waste. By carting away other big city's rubbish and combusting it into the atmosphere, we are enabling the continuation of poor, unsustainable waste-related decisions.

Finally, the advertised upsides to the incinerator are largely empty promises that have no guarantees or accountability. The new jobs created will be far outweighed by the current residents leaving, and future residents deciding not to come to Parkes, due to the incinerator. If it was ever deemed safe (which it never will) even just the existence of it will create negative connotations in people's minds. Reduced electricity costs for Parkes residents also reads as an empty promise, I can't see anyone willing to guarantee a certain

drop in prices. And even so, is a 10% reduction in the power bill for 12 months worth the potential for unknown pollutants to taint our home forever?

As people and stewards of the land, almost all the decisions we make have some sort of effect on our environment. In this case, the benefits for the people of Parkes is almost zero, and the negative risks and uncertainties are huge. I believe the people most affected, the Parkes shire, should get to make that decision.