

Submission
No 996

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I am submitting this on behalf of my son who is almost 5 years old. He is aware of the incinerator proposal as we had to explain to him why we are preparing to sell our property and move.

We made the decision to move as we cannot endure the mental health impacts we have experienced over the last year since learning of the proposal. We also made the decision to move before the proposal is approved, so that he does not have to start kindergarten in Parkes and then have to move schools if the proposal is approved. By moving now, we can avoid that potential distress for him. We felt he was old enough to understand why we had made the decision to move away from Parkes and his grandparents.

As we are living in a state of constant distress, we also felt it necessary to explain the situation as our demeanor at home has changed significantly as a result.

We explained in basic terms what an incinerator is, what emissions are and their impact on health and the environment, what waste would be used and where the waste would come from. We explained why we would not live in any town with a facility that poses a risk to his health. He already had a good understanding of recycling and waste reduction and how our actions matter to future generations (thank you Disney Wall-E). We also explained that Mummy and Daddy were not coping and moving away would help.

On the way home from shopping, he picked up a saucepan I had purchased which had plastic packaging. He said "why can't the shops just not use plastic and then there is no need for an incinerator, then we can stay here and not have to leave my friends'. I explained the Parliamentary Inquiry was a way that people in Parkes could tell the people who made the decision to place the incinerator here how they feel and share their ideas on preventing waste. I asked if he wished to make a submission.

I feel his thoughts on the issue are as relevant as anyone else's. These facilities have long operational lives that lock us into long term waste generation that will delay action to invest in sustainable solutions that will directly impact the world in which he will live. The potential environmental contamination and long-term health impacts should not place our children or future generations at any risk. Impact on future generations should be at the forefront of all decision making.

I have the audio recording of his submission which I cannot upload via this portal. Below is the transcription.

4.5 YEAR OLD: Please don't make an incinerator, it would come and hurt us [and] we would need to move. We can't see [the emissions], it would get into our bodies and make us sick.

ME: How does it make you feel if we have to move?

4.5 YEAR OLD: Not good, I want my friends, if they don't come [with us] I am never going to meet a friend again at that other town.

ME: And what was your idea about the plastic that shops could do?

4.5 YEAR OLD: Get rid of the plastic, unwrap it and get rid of it.

ME: And you said that if the shops didn't use plastic, we wouldn't need an incinerator?

4.5 YEAR OLD: Yeah

ME: Do you want me to send in what you think into the people?

4.5 YEAR OLD: Yeah