

Submission  
No 1002

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

I am a long-term resident of the Parkes Shire, having moved from the city 28 years ago to live in Parkes, with fresh clean air and a sense of community. My husband is a self-employed agriculture harvester mechanic and together we are the parents of two children who were raised in Parkes.

I am writing this submission to express my opposition to the proposed Parkes Waste to Energy (EfW) Facility. The proposed Energy from Waste (ETW) incinerator threatens my family's wellbeing and the health and safety of future generations in the Parkes Community. The long-term health and environmental impacts of this facility raise serious concerns.

### **Risk to Health**

I am extremely concerned about the impact on the health and wellbeing of the people of Parkes and surrounding towns. The emissions such as dioxins, PFA's, and heavy metals pose serious risks to our health now and into the future. No safe level of exposure to these substances has been established, and long-term exposure can increase risk of cancer, respiratory disease and other health issues. Also, the proximity to schools, hospitals and residential areas puts everyone at risk, especially the more vulnerable population such as the young and elderly.

### **Agriculture land and industries**

Parkes is a strong agricultural town and the potential for contamination of soil, crops, livestock and water is of great concern. There would be a negative effect to our food supply chain, local farm businesses and consumer health. Many households rely solely on rainwater tanks for fresh drinking water and for their livestock. Why should our clean air, safe food, be compromised when its deemed unacceptable for Sydney. Parkes and other regional towns deserve the same protections as metropolitan areas.

### **Risks to Business and Property Values**

As a homeowner and parent of a child who has recently purchased a home in Parkes, I am very concerned about the effects the waste incinerator will have on property values. For some, it will not be possible to sell due to declining property values and moving will be difficult due to financial restraints. My son will be left with the choice of either selling his property at a loss or without profit or staying to raise a family in an environment that poses a threat of serious health problems. How is this fair?

Many agricultural businesses will also be affected, resulting in lack of trade and lower employment rates. There are real concerns people will start leaving Parkes due to perceived and real health and environmental effects and it will be difficult to attract new people to the area. The flow on affect to our already understaffed health and educations system would be detrimental.

### **Mental Health and Community Wellbeing**

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the impact of the facility the mental health of our community is already suffering. There is a lot of anxiety and stress in the town which will increase if this facility were to go ahead.

### **Lack of Community Consultation and Impact Studies**

The lack of meaningful consultation with the community, including Wiradjuri elders is also very concerning. The community were not properly informed about the potential risks of the facility. To date there has been no independent environment or health studies conducted. We were only made aware of the project after the proponents' public enouncement.

### **In conclusion**

I strongly oppose the Parkes Waste to Energy Facility and urge you to reject this proposal and to listen to the people that it will affect.

The potential risks of the waste incinerator to our health, water, land and food are far too great. How it is ok to allow this proposed facility to operate in regional NSW, when it has been prohibited in metropolitan areas and the ACT? Why are we being treated as second class citizens? The people of Parkes and the surrounding region deserve to live in a healthy environment. It is not acceptable to pose these risks to our town.

Yours sincerely

Resident of Parkes