

Submission
No 1016

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Hi,

I have been a personal member of the Parkes community since my family moved onto a property in the Western side of Parkes in 2004. We bought this ~1000 acre property from my grandparents, who had farmed the land for another 20+ years before us. There is a lot of history on our property and my extended family share a special connection with the land, and the frightening prospect of having to give up the property has been playing on all of our minds since we first heard of this notion late 2024.

I attended the No-Energy-From-Waste information night earlier this year with my family, and have since become well aware of the long-term impacts the waste incinerator can have not only upon my family's property, but the long term future of the entire Parkes community.

I am 25 years old and have recently completed a dual degree of Civil Engineering and Finance at UNSW. I currently work at an infrastructure advisory firm, where we work in the pre-contracts phase of large infrastructure projects, and I have seen the variability in how community consultation is managed in large projects.

Steve Masters, the CEO of the ACERREZ Consortium put it well in a forum last week, 'when building an impactful piece of infrastructure in a community, you are essentially marrying that community for the length of time the infrastructure will operate.' The prospect of having the township of Parkes and surrounding agricultural properties married to a waste incinerator is terrifying, and it would be naive to think that this feeling is not shared. Central West NSW has already seen its fair share of towns crumble under the growth of the suburban cities of Orange and Bathurst, I can't see how the NSW government can afford to build a waste incinerator in one of the few remaining towns that is staying strong. This waste incinerator will almost certainly wipe out the life that still remains within the Parkes community, and I know this because I understand the feeling that is gripping the town during this time.

Large projects in recent times have started to use the phrase 'social license', as if there is some sort of arbitrary threshold or checkbox that once acquired, allows the project to steamroll ahead and push the community to the side. This concept has clearly been invented by an inner-city financier who has never been a part of a local community, and does not understand the mental health issues that arise once a feeling of helplessness takes over a community, as their voice is disregarded by large companies look to exploit them for their own gain.

The community consultation to date from the Energy-from-Waste group has genuinely been one of the most appalling displays I have witnessed, especially considering the enormous impacts such a project will have to the livelihoods of the entire community, in particular the large agricultural community who have their entire way of life at stake. It is obvious that the extremely minimal consultation conducted by this group is a reflection of the negative backlash and they know would occur if they were to be upfront about the toxic chemicals that they intend to send into the air and pastures of the township of Parkes.

I personally look have a career in developing large infrastructure projects with the government in future, and would be extremely appalled if this is the manner in which the government intends to treat the Australian people when considering impactful pieces of infrastructure. We cannot set this standard, following through with such a disjointed, fragmented and incorrect method of community consultation will have a lasting impact on how infrastructure sector, and create a rift between the government and the Australian people. The people who are at the frontline of this waste incinerator project must acknowledge that due process has been completely overlooked, and this project in no circumstances should proceed. This government must overturn this incinerator if they do not wish to promote the notion that they promote convenience over the mental health of the Australian people. There is enough intelligent engineers and strategists in this country to find the right solution to this issue, but this is not it.

Regards,