

Submission
No 1026

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

After 24 years in the Parkes community and working in the profession of Early Childhood, I have had the honour of watching the youngest of our community grow and thrive.

My concerns regarding the Waste to Energy proposal is simple.

Who can guarantee that the air will stay clean? For our drinking water and the waters that feed our stock and crops and all of the native animals to remain uncontaminated?

That the food that grows will not be poisoned in some way from the toxicity that could come from the plant?

What happens if there is an accident at the plant? Can the community be safe-guarded. With what I have read from other countries, this would appear not to be guaranteed.

Communities need people but many people have already spoken about leaving if the plant was to go ahead. A Community cannot thrive without health professionals, teachers and educators or population.

If the plant is not suitable for Sydney, why is it ok for here amongst our children and the food belt that contributes to the Nation? The actual waste will travel by train through areas who also have clean air and are producers for the Nation - can they be assured that their areas will be safe?

We travelled to Sydney mid-year. The public facility that we attended at Homebush highlighted the lack of thought that goes into recycling at large events. All green waste and plastics were simply lumped together. Interestingly enough, the food vendors had packaged food responsibly but the Arena only had a two bin set-up!

If rubbish cannot be collected responsibly at such places as those then how can we be guaranteed of what will be incinerated in Parkes?

I guess I could cite documents that I have read but one thing is very clear. Burning waste such as plastic does not create a less demand for plastic. People will continue to use it and discard it then buy again. Over a period of time, the plant will emit more toxins. Manufacturers need to play a bigger part in this problem. An Energy to Waste plant does not encourage consumers to be more mindful of the environment - it will have the opposite effect and humans, who this plant will not affect, will become complacent because it is not affecting them. Just as this Plant will not affect those behind it and those who will make money.

We need to re-use and recycle - not just add to the refuse.

If you would not have this in your back yard - why should it be in ours?