

Submission
No 1036

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

My name is _____, and I am a Year 6 student at _____ on the outskirts of Parkes. This submission is to inform you of my perspective of the proposed Waste To Energy incinerator set to be built in Parkes.

What price do you put on people's health? Does \$1.5 billion sound familiar? Because that's the price that is going to wreck the town of Parkes in every way. Imagine this: your beloved home town in ruins, a blanket of smoke covering the sky, blocking out the sun. Streets and shops deserted. Nobody there. Gone. Parkes is history. All because of that incinerator. Do you really want that? Do you seriously want your beloved home town to be suffocated by smoke and fly ash? We need to think about the people of Parkes and what the incinerator will do for them!

According to ABC News, "A similar facility was proposed for Eastern Creek in Sydney in 2018, however, the Independent Planning Commission knocked back the proposal due to health concerns." If Sydney can't handle it, then how can we? Sydney is much bigger and already polluted, and Parkes is the perfect definition of country town beauty. Why wreck it? Leader of Parkes Clean Future Alliance, Ben Stead, had an interview with an ABC reporter and said that "How is it safe here but not everywhere else?" "What they call towns and areas like us is a sacrificial community, the smaller, lower socio-economic communities that they push these things onto." (abc.net.au). And he's right! The incinerator idea was thrown around a whole bunch of other places before coming to Parkes, because all the other towns said no due to health concerns! What about Parkes' health? Whoever thought about Parkes before saying yes to this horrible incinerator? Let me guess - nobody. Sure, you could have done your research and all, but did you really uncover all the secrets? Did you really understand what it would be like for the whole Parkes community? I don't think so. Like Jeromie Fitzpatrick, who also did an interview with ABC News said, "If it is not good enough in Sydney and Eastern Creek because it is too dangerous for the community ... then it is too dangerous here."

What about the cost? Building the incinerator, and making the incinerator function properly, not to mention the workers' rates, and transporting all that disgusting waste from Sydney to Parkes! And get this - the incinerator is going to cost about \$1.5 billion to build. That's right, only to build! That's ridiculous! Parkes only has a Gross Regional Product (GRP) of \$900 million per year. Why not put that money into something that the entire community can benefit from - like more medical and educational facilities?

The Parkes Waste To Energy Incinerator is set to be built near the dog-food factory in Parkes. Here at _____, we would be in a 15km radius, and besides, we can smell the dog food from the factory most days; which means that we will also be able to smell the incinerator smoke. Harmful toxics near kids? Who thought that was a good idea? Definitely not me! Children starting in Kindergarten will be coming into school properly for the first time, and I don't know about you, but smelling smoke and toxins every day? Not a very welcoming experience if you ask me! And what's more is that they will have to go through the next 11 - 13 years smelling that, which will increase the illness (especially lung cancer) level in Parkes. The National Institutes of Health have proved that "Children are more vulnerable to the ingestion of environmental toxins than adults for a variety of reasons,". Some of these reasons include differences in size, behaviour, and diet. And saying that you'll just move the incinerator to a different spot won't help - there are children all over Parkes. That's a sign of a wonderfully thriving community! Do you really want to throw that away for an investment that is more take than give?

Lastly, let's talk about whether or not having the incinerator is actually worth it or not. How about we go over what we already know. The incinerator in Parkes will burn 600,000 tonnes of waste from Sydney per year. It will turn all the waste into energy, producing 60 megawatts of power, which is said to be enough to power 80,000 homes for a year. But how much power is each home really getting? The answer is 0.75 kilowatts; that much energy doesn't even power 4 work computers for a whole day. And the 0.75 kilowatts is for the whole year? There's no way that 0.75

kilowatts could really actually power a home for a whole year! Having the incinerator in Parkes would most certainly not be worth it; they're only trying to confuse us with numbers.

Don't you see why we must NOT have the incinerator? Have you driven through Parkes lately and seen the massive amount of signs everywhere? I was in Dubbo recently, and I even saw "No-incinerator in Parkes!" signs there. What more evidence do you need? It's time to look beyond the council meeting room and listen to what your people have to say. Because if you don't right now, we will never get heard. Even though I live in [redacted] myself, Parkes has always been my second home. I've been going to [redacted] for many years, been in a few productions at the Parkes M&D, shopped at all the stores, and made memories. I couldn't bear to sit back and watch while that all slips through my fingers. That is why I have entered this submission to you, so that I can at least try to make a difference. Because if my extended family, the people of Parkes, didn't, before we know it, it'll be too late. Parkes will not be making history - we will be history. Thank you.