

Submission
No 1037

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

My name is _____, I am 12 years old and I live in beautiful Parkes, NSW. I am writing to tell you that I and many other young people like myself do not want this waste to energy facility! It is something I have been worrying about ever since I heard about it!

The fact that places like Sydney and Narromine have fought against projects like this should make us concerned. If the technology is so great, why aren't these places happy to build it? Is it Parkes' responsibility to take care of Sydney's rubbish? We should help our neighbours, but we need to draw a line somewhere!

Taking a look at all the good points we are being sold. They say the waste-to-energy plant will provide green energy and generate enough power for around 80,000 homes. They also promise it will create jobs and bring more business to our town, which sounds great.... But, we need to consider all the facts. Though the technology may be improving, we don't have much information over many years on the effects new incinerators can have, only "projections", which means scientific guessing.

Parkes is surrounded by farmland and made up of great people who enjoy clean air and rural living. How will this plant affect them and our environment as a whole? Is building a plant that needs to continuously burn rubbish to create energy really helping the planet? Rather than encouraging people to reduce their waste and re-use what we have, we will need to keep creating rubbish to feed this monster. Other places that use waste to energy plants actually have to ship rubbish in from other countries to keep up with the demand!

Also, burning rubbish that releases harmful gases can hurt our environment. Burning rubbish like plastic releases more CO₂ than burning coal. These plants are advertised as "green energy" solutions, but really, they might make pollution worse. When harmful substances are released into the environment, they can affect soil, water, and local ecosystems, particularly in farming regions like ours. How long will these things stay in the soil and water? We don't know! We need to ask ourselves, is this what we want to leave behind for future generations?

We also need to think about health risks. The burning of rubbish at these plants creates harmful things called dioxins, furans, and particulate matter. All of these can be extremely dangerous. These nasties can cause lots of serious illnesses like cancer, breathing problems and learning difficulties. Like I said before, these can end up in our water and soil. They can even end up in the food we eat! Imagine toxic chemicals in the water we drink and the food we grow and eat making us sick! In Europe, there have been studies showing that communities living near waste incinerators have higher rates of respiratory problems and other diseases.

We need to protect our health, our farmland, and our future. So as one small part of the future of our town, I say, let's not follow this dangerous path. Let's choose a safer future for Parkes.

Sincerely,