### **About Us**

The Parkes Clean Future Alliance is a community group of local professionals, farmers, and business owners, united by a commitment to safeguard the future of our region.

Our stance is not anti-Council or anti-development, rather it is pro community health and safety, and protective of the environment, and the strong food and agriculture industries that operate in our region.

Parkes Clean Future Alliance Inc. info@parkescleanfuture.org ALLIANCE

#### #italladdsup

www.parkescleanfuture.org

## Did you know

There are plans to burn 600,000 tonnes of Sydney's waste each year at an Energy-from-Waste incinerator in Parkes

# So, why should we be concerned?

#### Banned in Sydney but not in Parkes

The NSW EPA ban on Energy-from-Waste in NSW uses the "precautionary principle" of prohibiting Energy-from-Waste "where there is a greater risk of harm to human health due to proximity to high population areas (now and in the future)".

Placing such a project in Regional NSW, does not eliminate the risk, it just redirects the risk to a population perceived to be of lesser value, visibility and political power.

#### Transporting waste over 500km by rail is not efficient waste management

The NSW EPA seeks to "maximise efficiencies in infrastructure, waste management, innovation and energy recovery". Yet, Energy-from-Waste is banned in Sydney and designated appropriate in Parkes, over 500km by rail (via Cootamundra) from the intended fuel source (Sydney's landfill waste).

Waste contracts can also change in the future. Overseas, Energy-from-Waste facilities have been forced to import waste from other countries to remain operational.

### Burning waste isn't clean or green

Thermal EfW production is not an efficient or renewable method of electricity production when using finite resources as fuel (like plastic which is made from coal, natural gas and crude oil). EfW can produce MORE carbon emissions than coal fired power plants, which contradict the goal of achieving net-zero emissions.

#### Locks us into waste, not out of it

EfW production requires waste to be generated so that it can be used as a fuel source, using a linear, 'take, make, dispose' economic model. This destroys valuable resources and their embodied energy, and undermines efforts to move to a circular 'reduce, reuse and recycle' economy.

Countries like Wales have phased out large scale Energy-from-Waste facilities in their transition to a circular economy, as they will not generate enough waste to keep them operational as they reach waste reduction and recycling targets.

Energy-from-Waste incinerators have long contracts of 30-40 years. This commitment to waste production for fuel undermines the Australian Government's, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 'Australia's Circular Economy Framework' goals.

### Toxic byproducts & pollutants

EfW production generates toxic byproducts, including both air and ash emissions of toxic gases, heavy metals, and persistent organic pollutants (POP's) like dioxins and furans. Some forever chemicals (PFAS) are resistant to high temperatures and are also emitted. EfW pollutants are a risk to human health, agriculture and the environment.

### Best practice testing does not identify all emissions

World's best practice emissions testing does not require continuous monitoring of toxic heavy metals, PFAS, and persistent organic pollutants (POP's) like dioxins and furans. Studies have shown EfW emissions travel long distances, contaminating the surrounding environment, including agriculture, water sources, and human populations.

#### Precautionary workforce departure

54 farmers, 42 healthcare workers, and 32 educators have stated they will take the precautionary step of moving away from Parkes if the proposed Energyfrom-Waste incinerator is approved.

Workforce confirmed as leaving per preliminary survey, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.