



# Parkes Clean Future Alliance

# NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the first newsletter from the Parkes Clean Future Alliance. This newsletter has been created to keep our community informed, connected, and up to date on matters relating to the proposed Parkes Energy Recovery facility. Our aim is to share clear, accessible information, provide updates on key developments, and highlight ways the community can stay informed and involved.

## Stay Informed: Get Official Project Updates

The Parkes Energy Recovery Proposal is now live on the NSW Planning Portal. You can stay informed by subscribing to receive official updates and notifications as the project progresses.

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/parkes-energy-recovery-facility>

### How to sign up

1. Go to the link above
2. Scroll to the project page
3. Click the "Notify Me" button
4. Enter your email address
5. Confirm your subscription

### Why this matters

By signing up, you will:

- Receive updates on project progress and key decisions
- Be notified of public exhibition periods
- Stay informed about opportunities to make submissions

**Community input is an important part of the planning process, and all submissions are considered during assessment.**

## Parliamentary Inquiry into proposed Energy from Waste Facilities

### Parkes Hearing, Parkes Leagues Club

On 14 April, Parkes hosted a sitting of the NSW Parliamentary inquiry into waste-to-energy projects, bringing the discussion directly into our community. The hearing provided an important opportunity for local voices to be heard alongside industry representatives, experts, and government stakeholders. The Parliamentary Committee members in attendance included Nichole Overall (Chair), Rod Roberts, Peter Primrose, and Mark Banasiak. Amanda Cohn (Deputy Chair) was unable to attend due to illness.

We acknowledge and thank the Parliamentary Committee for holding this session in Parkes, recognising the significance of regional communities in decisions of this scale.

Representing the Parkes Clean Future Alliance, Jeromie Fitzpatrick (Vice President) and Jacob Unger (Committee Member) spoke on behalf of the group and broader community concerns. Together, they raised a number of key issues relevant to Parkes and the surrounding region. A strong focus was placed on the potential impacts on air quality and long-term community health, particularly within a regional setting where environmental and health monitoring can present unique challenges. They also highlighted concerns around the scale of the proposed facility, including questions about the source and volume of waste, and what this could mean for Parkes over time. The importance of robust regulation, ongoing monitoring, and transparency was emphasised, with a clear message that communities need access to reliable and independent information.

Importantly, they also spoke to the significance of agriculture in the Parkes region. As a community with strong agricultural foundations, concerns were raised about how a project of this nature could potentially impact land, air quality, and the reputation of local produce and livestock. The long-term sustainability of agriculture and the need to protect the region's productivity and identity were key considerations shared during the hearing.

Throughout their contribution, the importance of community voice and inclusion remained central, reinforcing that local perspectives should continue to play a role as the project progresses.

We also want to give thanks to the many community members who attended to listen and speak during the inquiry hearing. Sharing personal perspectives and asking questions in a public setting is not always easy, and your contributions are a vital part of this process.



Images: Courtesy of Nichole Overall Facebook page



### ! Missed the hearing?

For those who were unable to attend, the transcript is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/5fpu7493>

Please note: This transcript is labelled "uncorrected," meaning it is a draft version and may contain minor errors or omissions.

The recording of the hearing can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/LgWSnX6v3Vo?si=2mV77EjwNLtPeTd>

## Committee News

The committee of the Parkes Clean Future Alliance continues to work behind the scenes, advocating for our community and staying informed as the project progresses.

This includes ongoing engagement such as:

- Reviewing available information and reports
- Keeping up to date with the inquiry process
- Touching base with local and state representatives

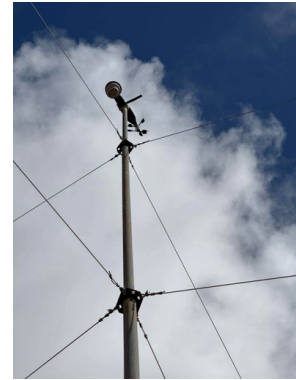
Our focus remains on ensuring that the community has access to clear, accurate information and that local perspectives continue to be represented.

### Weather Station Installed

Our Community funded weather station within the Special Activation Precinct (SAP) continues to gather data on weather conditions. This was an important step, that is allowing us to:

- Collect independent, local data
- Establish a baseline of environmental conditions
- Compare our data with information provided by the project proponents

Having access to our own data helps support transparency and informed discussion moving forward.



### Where to Next?

As part of our next steps, we are working towards undertaking soil baseline testing within the area. This will help to:

- Further build a picture of current environmental conditions
- Provide additional independent data for future reference

We are currently exploring options and working towards making this possible.

## How can you provide support?



All of this work is funded by the community. We appreciate and thank everyone who has contributed so far, your support allows us to continue initiatives such as environmental monitoring, independent research, and community advocacy.

If you would like to support ongoing efforts, you can contribute here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/parkescleanfuture>

Every contribution, big or small, helps us continue advocating for our community and future.

## Get involved!

We are always looking for ways to strengthen our community efforts and are currently seeking volunteers who can assist with:

- IT and Graphic Designs
- Website updates and management
- Social media and communications

If you have skills in any of these areas, or simply a willingness to help, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at: [info@parkescleanfuture.org](mailto:info@parkescleanfuture.org)

## Fact checker

### PR FACT CHECKER

“ The facility will generate enough energy to power 80,000 homes! ”



**MISLEADING**

The facility is not powering any homes. The energy produced will be used to power other 'hard to place' industry in the industrial estate (the Parkes Special Activation Precinct, 4.5 times the size of Parkes).

### PR FACT CHECKER

“ Energy-from-Waste is closed loop circular economy technology. ”



**FALSE**

Circular economy values material recovery, not energy recovery. A circular economy keeps materials in use at their highest value for as long as possible by reducing waste by designing out excess and avoiding overproduction, reusing products and components multiple times and recycling materials into new products.

Energy-from-Waste (EfW) skips these steps by destroying high value materials to extract low-value energy, breaking the circular flow. EfW follows a linear model: extract → produce → consume → burn. Once material is burned, it cannot be recovered, reused, or recycled. It exits the economy permanently. It is not part of a regenerative circular loop.

Energy-from-Waste undermines circular principles by permanently destroying resources, competing with recycling systems and locking in waste generation.

### PR FACT CHECKER

“ Only non-hazardous waste will be processed at the Energy-from-Waste facility. ”



**MISLEADING**

While non-hazardous waste may go into Energy-from-Waste facilities (if every item is sorted to remove any hazardous waste), toxic by-products are formed as part of the Energy-from-Waste process.