

# PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES IN REGIONAL NSW

## WHAT IS A PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY?

A Parliamentary Inquiry investigates an issue and then makes recommendations to Government. A committee takes submissions from individuals, businesses and organisations, and then investigates the issues raised through their own investigations, hearings (both public and private) and site visits to impacted areas.

Information from submissions is often included in a committee's report (unless it is confidential) and can inform the committee's recommendations and/or findings. Sharing your views, experience or story is valuable, and can have a powerful impact that can lead to changes in government policies, decisions or laws.

## WHEN ARE SUBMISSIONS DUE?

Submissions close on **Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**. Each submission is a powerful objection to the proposed Parke project. Spread the word to your friends, family and colleagues! **Every single submission counts.**

## HOW DO I LODGE A SUBMISSION?

### Online

To lodge online, go to the Inquiry webpage [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee-details.aspx?pk=337](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee-details.aspx?pk=337) and select the 'Submissions' tab or use this QR code.



This online portal allows you to enter your personal information and your comments in the relevant fields. You can also upload your submission as a Microsoft Word or PDF file. Please contact us if you need assistance.

### Hardcopy

You can bring your hardcopy submission (hand written or typed and printed) to Telescope Tyres, 62 Clarinda Street, Parke. We will scan your submission and help you to upload it to the portal.



## WHAT DO I INCLUDE IN MY SUBMISSION?

Submissions do not need to be elaborate or contain references or supporting information. Your submission may contain facts, opinions, arguments, suggested solutions or tell of your personal experience.

The Inquiry's Terms of Reference (page 3) are a good basis for structuring your submission and your submission should include at least one of them.

Examples of topics you could write a submission on are:

- Any concerns you may have relating to the proposed Parkes Energy from Waste project (EG. risks to the agriculture industry/food supply; risk to water supply/houses on tank water; risks to property prices/tourism/investment; health risks; risks to the environment and culturally significant areas; greenwashing, industry funded studies, misleading advertising and other PR tactics used to promote energy from waste incineration; the ability of the EPA to prevent any/all contamination; lack of consultation/social licence; mental health impacts of living with the risks of the facility; risks to waste reduction, reuse and recycling habits/investment; noise, vermin and smell; implications of long-term waste contracts; transportation distance; feedstock containing hazardous and recyclable materials etc.)
- How the proposed Parkes project has already impacted you or your family (EG. quality of life/mental health; property price; your business; how your children have been impacted; investment plans; change to local/state/federal voting preference etc.)
- Whether the proposed Parkes project will impact you or your family should it be approved (EG. leaving Parkes; impacts to your business; selecting housing, educational facilities, childcare based on distance from the facility; change to local/state/federal voting preference etc.)
- The equity of the Infrastructure Plan and Regulation that prohibits these projects in NSW due to the health risk but excludes Parkes, Goulburn, Lithgow and Richmond Valley.
- Your opinion relating to Regional NSW being burdened with Sydney's red bin waste and the associated environmental, health and economic risks.
- The consultation and any other relevant matters relating to Energy Recovery facilities at the Parkes Special Activation Precinct.
- Alternative solutions to reduce and manage Sydney's waste (EG. waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives; **cold** Energy from Waste technologies etc.)
- Any relevant information you may have regarding the proposed Parkes project.



## FULL TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) the performance of the technologies proposed for the Tarago and Parkes Energy Recovery Facilities as compared to leading thermal technologies employed in "state of the art" facilities internationally, noting such technologies as proposed are not employed anywhere else on the Eastern seaboard
- (b) the spread of the emissions predicted and the quality of emissions to be generated
- (c) health impacts from currently operating older technology waste incinerators as compared to the proposed newer technology
- (d) impacts on human health including on regional town drinking water, rainwater harvesting and soil contamination
- (e) the impact on agriculture locally and across the wider region
- (f) alterations to the Parkes Special Activation Precinct specifically in relation to the proposed Energy Recovery Facility in that region
- (g) impacts of waste-dumping over a number of decades in the Tarago region
- (h) the methodology of emission monitoring employed by leading large scale waste-to-energy facilities in Australia and across the world
- (i) alternative solutions to reduce and manage residual waste produced by Greater Sydney, and
- (j) any other related matter.

## HOW LONG DOES MY SUBMISSION NEED TO BE?

Aim for at least a minimum of 250 words if you can. Submissions under 250 words will still be counted but will be grouped together. Submissions over 250 words are more impactful.



## SUBMISSION TIPS

- Introduce yourself or your organisation. If making a submission on behalf of an organisation, please include your name and your position within the organisation, and a key contact for any follow-up questions. Please make it clear who has authorised the submission.
- State whether you are addressing some or all of the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference includes 'any other related matter' so use this term if your concerns, opinions, evidence etc. is relevant but does not fall under one of the other terms.
- Be relevant, clear and concise in sharing your views.
- Submissions that are not relevant to the committee's inquiry, contain offensive remarks, or are otherwise inappropriate may not be accepted by the committee.
- Outline what the issues are, and include potential solutions or recommendations.
- Refer to any other supporting material if relevant, like legislation, reports or research. Keep in mind that it can be more effective if you summarise or draw out the key points from the material.
- Use clear structure and page numbers.
- Avoid including adverse comments about others.
- Indicate whether or not you would like to give evidence at a hearing.

## CAN I MAKE A CONFIDENTIAL SUBMISSION?

Your submission may be quoted or referred to in the committee's report. Most submissions are made public and published on the committee's webpage. You can request that your name and/or your submission (in whole or in part) is kept confidential.

Clearly identify the parts of the submission you want to remain confidential. If identifiable personal information must be included, include it in a covering letter or appendix and not in the submission itself. This allows for the body of the submission to be published in full.

## AM I PROTECTED BY PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE?

The Parliamentary Papers (Supplementary Provisions) Act 1975 provides that no action of any kind may be taken against a person for making a submission. Parliamentary privilege applies to submissions accepted and authorised by the committee for publication on its webpage.



# WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION OR HELP TO PREPARE OR LODGE A SUBMISSION?

## Parliamentary Inquiry Website

[www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee-details.aspx?pk=337](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/listofcommittees/Pages/committee-details.aspx?pk=337)



## Our Website

We have included links to helpful information relating to Energy from Waste incineration, the Infrastructure Plan and Regulation, the Parkes Special Activation Precinct, the circular economy and PR tactics like greenwashing on our website.



[www.parkescleanfuture.org](http://www.parkescleanfuture.org)

## Local Assistance

Teachers have generously volunteered their time to help anyone who would like assistance with preparing or lodging their submission. Please contact us at [info@parkescleanfuture.org](mailto:info@parkescleanfuture.org)

You can also bring your hardcopy submission (handwritten/typed and printed) to Telescope Tyres, 62 Clarinda Street, Parkes. We will scan your submission and help you to upload it to the portal.

## Online Research

There are many research papers and reports available online. Always seek out the background of the information you are reviewing as some information is industry funded rather than independent and unbiased.

Please be mindful that while chatbots like ChatGTP can be very helpful to assist you to articulate yourself, they cannot research topics and will provide information, arguments, links and references that may appear legitimate but that are either based on false or misleading information or that the chatbot has manufactured.



**Use this guide to help write your submission. Every submission of objection counts. The content can be short and to the point, or more detailed with supporting information.**

## **STEP 1: START WITH WHO YOU ARE**

- I am a parent living in Parkes with young children
- I have lived in the region my whole life
- I am a farmer
- I am a local business owner
- I am a professional working in [field]
- I am an expert in [field]
- I am authorised to speak for an organisation (include your position)
- I have investment properties in Parkes
- I am a local resident of the Parkes Shire
- I live in a neighbouring community
- I am a resident of Regional NSW
- I am a resident of Greater Sydney

**EG: I am a teacher and work with young children every day. I worry about the long-term impact this facility will have on their health and development.**

## **STEP 2: SAY WHAT YOU ARE WRITING ABOUT**

**State your objection if that is your position, whether or not you would like to give evidence at a hearing, and whether you are addressing some or all of the terms of reference (see page 3).**

Examples

I object to the proposed Parkes Energy from waste facility and:

- I am writing to provide evidence relating to...
- this submission is to share my concerns of...
- this submission is to share my solutions to..
- this submission is to share my experience of...

I would like to give evidence at a hearing.



### **STEP 3: DESCRIBE YOUR CONCERNS, FACTS, SUPPORTING INFORMATION, OPINIONS, SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS OR TELL OF YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.**

#### Examples

- I am worried about the long-term health impacts from toxic emissions like dioxins and fine particles...
- I am worried that there is not a requirement for 24/7 monitoring of all emissions such as dioxins...
- Parkes is a major food producer. This project threatens our clean air, water and soil quality. Contamination, as well as any perceived risk, threatens our agricultural sector...
- Transporting waste over 500km and destroying valuable resources is not a sustainable or efficient waste solution, it locks us into waste generation and undermines waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives...
- My business already struggles to retain staff, I'm concerned that people will move away from Parkes and we will struggle to attract new people to our town...
- The community has not been properly consulted, and decisions have been made without full transparency...
- I'm concerned that Parkes is being burdened with Sydney's waste problems. Burning waste from Sydney in Regional NSW unfairly burdens our community with Sydney's waste and the associated environmental, health and economic risks...
- I/My family/My business have/has been impacted already...
- I/My family will move away from Parkes should the project go ahead...
- I am concerned this proposal threatens tourism, property prices and investment in Parkes...
- I am concerned by the greenwashing and misleading advertising being used to promote energy from waste incineration...
- Thermal energy from waste is prohibited in NSW and the ACT due to the health risks and is being phased out overseas...
- The regulation that prohibits thermal Energy from Waste in NSW but excludes four regional areas is not equitable. Everyone deserves the same health protections...
- The proposed location of the facility is surrounded by farms and residents who are reliant on tank water...
- I have evidence of/I know of...



## STEP 4: CLOSING STATEMENT

**Summarise your main point, any solutions or recommendations.**

### Examples

- Please recommend that the Government reject Energy from Waste incineration, to protect the health and future of Regional NSW and our agriculture industries.
- Parkes deserves sustainable, safe industries and investments, that drive economic growth and value add to our agricultural sector and the community.
- Marketing communications from industry and Government that have mislead the community should be investigated.
- The community was not adequately consulted when key decisions were being made. Consultation requirements should not be tokenistic but a collaborative process, equal to the size of the development.
- These projects unfairly burden Regional NSW with Greater Sydney's waste and the associated risks. The Regulation should provide Regional NSW with the same precautionary health protections as Greater Sydney.
- These projects lock us into long term contracts of waste generation when we should be investing in waste avoidance, reuse and recycling.
- Other countries are phasing out thermal energy from waste. Australia should be using that experience, not ignoring it.
- I oppose this proposal and request that alternative waste management solutions are investigated that do not pose a risk to the environment or human health, and do not cause distress to host communities.
- Should the project proceed, the proponents should be required to: provide 24/7 independently monitored emissions data, available on a public portal, of all potential emissions (including dioxins and furans); create a Compensation Trust for any future compensation claims made by the community; provide baseline health and environmental testing by an independent organisation; provide town water supply to residents reliant on tank water; provide funding for mental health support services; relocate nearby schools/childcare facilities...

## STEP 5: SIGN OFF

**Include a reference list if you are providing one. The online submission portal will request your contact information before you input your submission content.**

