

## Parke Shire Council – Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Opposition - Draft Action Plan

Parke Shire Council has prepared this Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Objection Action Plan in response to the proposed development of an EfW facility within the Parke Special Activation Precinct (SAP).

No.	Action	Steps to Implement the Action (& Comments)
<b>1.0</b>	<b><i>As formally resolved 17-2-2026</i></b>	
1.1	Formally rejects and objects in the strongest possible terms to the proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) displaying our clear opposition to any Energy-from-Waste (EfW) within the Parke Shire.	Publish a Council resolution and public statement; Write to NSW Government and the proponent; Update Council communication channels. Advise Chairperson of Parliamentary Inquiry. All correspondence in relation to EfW to include Council objection.
1.2	Lobby the NSW Government in the strongest possible way to prevent the Energy from Waste facility progressing in the Shire.	Seek meetings with Ministers; Prepare briefing papers; Provide written submissions; Present to the Parliamentary Inquiry.
1.3	Reiterates its request to the Minister for Planning, that the proposal be urgently called-in as a State Significant Development (SSD) and be referred to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) at the earliest possible stage.	A number of requests were made to the Premier and Minister requesting the matter be called in as a State Significant Development and have the IPC as the approval body, to ensure independence in the approval process. The Minister has since formally actioned the matter as above, this action is therefore considered complete.
1.4	Pursue all lawful and reasonable avenues available to it within its statutory powers to oppose the proposal, including, but not limited to, the seeking of independent legal advice and the exploration of	Obtain legal advice; Monitor procedural steps; Identify challenge opportunities; Report legal implications/opportunities and potential costs to Council.

judicial or administrative review mechanisms available under State legislation, ensuring that any costs incurred are proportionate and do not place an unreasonable financial burden on Parkes Shire ratepayers.

- 1.5 Call upon the NSW Government to immediately impose a moratorium on the approval of new thermal Energy-from-Waste facilities across New South Wales pending the completion of an independent, statewide cumulative environmental and public health impact assessment, and to review the permissibility of such infrastructure within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct.

Write to/meet the Premier and Ministers to advocate accordingly

## **2.0 Other Initiatives to oppose the Development**

- 2.1 Establish an Energy-from-Waste Community Working Party

Working Party Members to include:

- a. The Mayor.
- b. Interested Councillors.
- c. Traditional Owners including, but not limited to, Parkes and Peak Hill representatives, as nominated by the respective Aboriginal communities.
- d. Representatives of directly affected neighbouring landholders.
- e. Representatives of local business and industry.
- f. Representatives of agricultural stakeholders, including NSW Farmers and other relevant bodies.
- g. Representatives of recognised community groups.

The Working Party will:

- a. Provide a structured forum for information exchange and community concerns.
- b. Consider independent expert advice commissioned by Council.
- c. Identify environmental, health, infrastructure and emergency preparedness considerations.
- d. Provide recommendations to Council for formal consideration.

The Working Party will operate under a clearly defined and publicly available Terms of Reference adopted by Council and will function in an advisory capacity only, without replacing or duplicating statutory planning processes.

2.2 Lobby for the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation to establish a Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Lobby the relevant Minister for the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation (RGDC) to establish a Community Consultative Committee.

The CCC would;

Facilitate formal consultation with the various stakeholders, including Parkes Shire Council and the local community regarding the strategic direction of the Parkes Special Activation Precinct, and a review of permissible land uses within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct to better reflect the economic, agricultural and community priorities of the region, with particular emphasis on value-adding agricultural processing, advanced manufacturing and complementary regional industries.

2.3 Baseline Monitoring

As a matter of priority, install baseline air monitoring equipment strategically to ensure independent measurements establish pre/post development air-quality.

**3.0 Council emphasises that the inclusion of the following clauses does not constitute support for the proposed Energy-from-Waste project. These measures are provided solely to safeguard the community should the NSW Government proceed despite Council's stated opposition**

3.1 Prior to any progression of the current proposal or future proposals Council seeks legally binding conditions and agreements requiring the proponent and/or the State Government to fund and implement:

Council's response to DA to identify these matters if not fully and satisfactorily addressed. Many have been identified in the SEAR's. The main reference in the SEAR's is set out below...

- a. Independent baseline and ongoing ambient air quality monitoring, with publicly accessible real-time reporting. SEAR's - #5
- b. Independent soil, water and agricultural impact monitoring with publicly accessible real-time reporting. SEAR's - #7, #6
- c. Independent public health baseline and longitudinal health impact studies with publicly accessible reporting. SEAR's - #14
- d. Road, transport and heavy vehicle impact on existing infrastructure with assurance for upgrades and maintenance protections. SEAR's - #10
- e. Water security protections and enforceable limits on water usage at Council's discretion. SEAR's - #14
- f. Transparent publicly accessible emissions reporting on all monitoring exceeding minimum statutory requirements. SEAR's - #4 – dot point 4

g. An independent assessment, be provided to Council within one (1) month of the completion of any report, of regional emergency response capacity, including

- Fire and Rescue,
- Rural Fire Service,
- ambulance services,
- hospital capacity and
- hazardous materials response capability,

detailing any required upgrades, specialised equipment, training and contingency arrangements for ongoing funding necessary to manage industrial, fire, toxic release or transport-related emergencies associated with the EfW facility to be fully funded by the proponent and the State Government.

h. Assurance from NSW Government for all monitoring, safeguards, infrastructure protections, and emergency preparedness measures to be fully funded by the proponent and the NSW State Government.

i. The establishment of a Community Consultative Committee, with an independent Chairperson, similar to that required by most Mining approvals.

SEAR's - #11 dot point 4, #16

SEAR's - #4

3.2 If the current proposed project is approved by the NSW Government, contrary to Council's formal and clear opposition, Council requires the establishment of a mandatory, legislated community-hosting levy payable by the NSW Government directly to the Parkes Community, in line with the waste hierarchy and the

Council strongly advocates for a hosting-levy equivalent to 50% of the Sydney landfill levy.

The proposed hosting levy reflects the principles of the waste hierarchy, which prioritises waste management strategies from

NSW landfill waste levy, indexed annually and imposed at the point of waste generation, with all revenue directed to the Parkes Community.

most to least preferred: avoidance, reuse, recycling, energy recovery, and landfill.

Ideally this levy will be:

- a. Enshrined in legislation rather than subject to discretionary agreement.
- b. Structured to reflect the long-term environmental, health, infrastructure and reputational impacts associated with thermal Energy-from-Waste infrastructure.
- c. Fully directed, transparently, to the Community for environmental monitoring, infrastructure resilience, agricultural protection, health safeguards, and community wellbeing initiatives.
- d. Be fully allocated to the Community at no cost to the Community.

3.3 Critical review of Development application when lodged to ensure it is comprehensive, that it fully addresses all the matters raised in the SEAR's, and if there are grounds to challenge the application.

Budget \$50,000 for consultant's expert in the field to review DA

Under the NSW planning system, the proper and lawful mechanism for considering and, if warranted, opposing a proposed development such as the EfW facility is through the statutory development assessment and approval process, including any formal rights of review or legal challenge that arise from that process. This is, in effect, the only legally sustainable pathway available to Council to seek to prevent or modify the proposal. However, any challenge must be based on clear, substantive planning or legal grounds. If the development application is assessed as technically sound, compliant with the

applicable planning framework, and supported by adequate environmental and technical studies, the prospects of a successful challenge are reduced.

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