Submission No 296

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Miss Shalee Hoe

Date Received: 26 October 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am 32 years old, a mental health worker, and a lifelong resident of Parkes. I am also the proud mother of four beautiful children, all of whom suffer from asthma and the granddaughter of an 84-year-old woman whom I help care for and transport to appointments etc.

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in Parkes and to express the deep fear, distress, and heartbreak this proposal is causing my family and our wider community.

For my family, this proposal isn't about politics or planning approvals, it's about survival. My four children live with asthma, and even slight changes in air quality can cause serious breathing problems. We manage medications, hospital visits, and constant vigilance. The thought of living near an industrial incinerator that releases toxic emissions is terrifying. Their young lungs cannot afford any more risk.

I also care for my elderly grandmother, who has heart and respiratory illness. Her health is already fragile. Even a small increase in pollution could seriously affect her quality of life or shorten it altogether.

Our family spans four generations in Parkes. We are deeply rooted here. My grandfather is buried here. My children were born here. We have lived, worked, and served this community for decades. But now, because of this proposal, we face the unimaginable: being separated.

If this facility goes ahead, I may be forced to leave to protect my children's health. But my grandmother cannot relocate. My mother and brother own farming properties, my brothers just kilometres from the proposed site. They can't simply walk away from the land, livestock, and decades of hard work and investment. Their livelihoods are tied to that land — and that land is now under threat.

Who is going to help them survive if the water becomes unsafe, the air becomes polluted, and their stock begin to suffer?
How will my mother, my brother, and his family survive if everything they've built becomes worthless?
Who will take responsibility if their farms can no longer operate?
If they're forced to abandon the properties they've poured their lives into what happens then?

And it doesn't stop at the farm.

My brother's partner owns a retail business in Parkes — a shop that supports their family and contributes to the local economy. Small businesses like hers rely entirely on local customers. But if people begin to leave town, if families relocate because of health fears or falling property values, those customers disappear.
How is she supposed to keep the doors open when the town empties out?
How will they pay their bills, feed their children, or pay off their mortgage if her business starts losing money?
Is someone going to step in and help them when their income is gone and their commercial building becomes unsellable, devalued, or abandoned?

These are real people with real lives. We are not numbers on a report.

As a mental health worker, I can already see the toll this is taking on people's wellbeing, anxiety, fear, anger, helplessness. Our community is proud and resilient, but this proposal is putting us

under intense pressure. People feel unheard and powerless. The long-term psychological effects of being forced to watch everything you've worked for fall apart are devastating.

There has also been a clear failure to properly consult the community, particularly the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Wiradjuri people. Has the Parkes Aboriginal Consultative Committee or Local Aboriginal Land Council been engaged in a meaningful, respectful way? Were their voices included in this process at all?

And most importantly: why here?
This facility would never be approved in the middle of a suburb in Sydney. So why is it suddenly acceptable to place it in Parkes near farms, homes, schools, small businesses, aged residents, and vulnerable children?

Why should our families, our health, our land, and our livelihoods be sacrificed for the convenience of somewhere else?

I am begging you for the sake of my children, my grandmother, my mother, my brother and his partner, and for our entire town — **reject this proposal.**

We deserve to live in safety. We deserve clean air, safe water, and a stable future. We deserve to keep our families together. And we deserve the same respect and protection as any other part of this country.

Sincerely,

Shalee Hoe