

**Submission  
No 314**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mr Brenton Hartin

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

---

# **Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Energy from Waste Facilities in Regional NSW**

From: Concerned Resident of Parkes, NSW

Date: 31 October 2025

Subject: Strong Opposition to the Proposed Energy from Waste Facility in Parkes

To the Committee,

I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator facility in the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. This submission reflects deep concerns shared by many residents, farmers, business owners, and community leaders in our region.

## **1. Health and Environmental Risks**

Despite claims of modern filtration and containment, EfW incinerators are known to emit ultrafine particles, dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other toxic byproducts. These pollutants pose serious risks to human health, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with respiratory conditions. The long-term environmental consequences—soil contamination, water pollution, and biodiversity loss—are unacceptable in a region renowned for its clean agricultural output. How can this be justified in Parkes, when the same facility was rejected in Western Sydney due to many health concerns?

## **2. Agricultural and Economic Threats**

Parkes is a proud agricultural hub. The perception of pollution—even if scientifically debated—could irreparably damage our reputation for clean produce, affecting domestic and export markets. The facility's proximity to farmland and water sources raises legitimate fears about contamination and reduced land value. Local producers are already reconsidering future investments due to uncertainty and anxiety.

## **3. Cultural and Community Impact**

This project is proposed on Wiradjuri country, and traditional custodians have voiced concerns about the impact on sacred sites and cultural heritage. The lack of meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities is deeply troubling and inconsistent with NSW's commitment to reconciliation and cultural respect.

## **4. Locational Injustice**

The NSW Government has banned EfW facilities in metropolitan areas like Sydney, yet Parkes is one of only four permitted locations. This raises serious questions of equity and fairness. Why should regional communities bear the environmental and health burdens of

Sydney's waste? This is a textbook case of sacrificial siting, targeting less politically powerful areas for high-risk infrastructure.

## **5. Lack of Transparency and Community Engagement**

The rollout of this proposal has been marked by poor communication, limited consultation, and suppression of dissenting voices. Thousands of residents have signed petitions, attended town meetings, and formed advocacy groups like the Parkes Clean Future Alliance, yet their concerns remain inadequately addressed. The community deserves clarity, respect, and a genuine seat at the table.

## **6. Alternative Solutions Exist**

There are safer, more sustainable waste management options available, including anaerobic digestion, composting, and advanced recycling technologies. These alternatives do not carry the same health and environmental risks and align better with circular economy principles.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed EfW facility in Parkes is not safe, not fair, and not wanted. It threatens our health, environment, economy, and cultural heritage. I urge the Committee to reject this proposal and recommend that the NSW Government:

- Prohibit the development of EfW incinerators in Parkes and other regional communities.
- Invest in safer, community-supported waste management technologies.
- Ensure full transparency and inclusive consultation in all future infrastructure planning.

Thank you for considering this submission. Our community's future depends on your leadership and commitment to justice.

Sincerely,

Brenton Hartin