**Submission No 403**

# INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

**Name:** Miss Jodie Hando

**Date Received:** 29 October 2025

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Partially Confidential

**Submission: Objection to the Proposed Parkes Energy Recovery (EfW) Facility**
**From:** Jodie Hando, Resident of Peak Hill, NSW

My name is **Jodie Hando**, and I am a lifelong resident of **Peak Hill**. I have lived here all my life, raised my family here, and am proud to be part of a strong and caring community. I volunteer on the **local football committee as the canteen manager** and also **run the canteen at the local swimming pool**. I believe in giving back to my community and doing my part to make Peak Hill a good place for everyone.

I was brought up to be **respectful of others, to care for our land, and to speak up when something isn't right**. I am writing this submission because I am **extremely angry and disappointed** that our local Parkes Shire Council has not properly consulted with the people of Peak Hill or Parkes Shire about this proposed **Parkes Energy Recovery (EfW) Facility**. Decisions like this should never be made without honest communication and real community involvement.

We live on **Bogan River country**, and this river flows into the **Lachlan River** waterways that are vital to our land, our wildlife, and our people. Any pollution, contamination, or changes caused by this waste facility could have **serious and lasting impacts** on these river systems and on the Wiradjuri country we belong to.

Peak Hill is also home to an **Aboriginal Mission**, where **culture and traditions are still shared and taught**. Our community includes many proud Wiradjuri families, and I am one of them. I have **two children and nine grandchildren**, all of **Aboriginal descent**, and all **Wiradjuri**. Some of them attend , and others go to . They learn **Wiradjuri language** in school and are taught the **lore and culture from our Elders in community**.

Our children deserve to grow up in a safe, clean environment where they can swim, play, and learn without fear of pollution or illness. This proposed incinerator project goes against everything we teach them about **respect for Country, water, and air**. It also threatens our **cultural sites, native wildlife, and community health**.

I am very concerned that the Parkes EfW proposal has not properly acknowledged the **cultural significance of this land** or consulted with **local Aboriginal families and Elders**. True consultation means listening not just sending out paperwork after decisions have already been made.

**My Concerns**

1. **Lack of community consultation:** Peak Hill residents have not been properly informed or invited to have a real say.
2. **Threats to waterways:** The Bogan and Lachlan Rivers must be protected from any risk of pollution or contamination.

3. **Impact on Wiradjuri Country and culture:** This project disrespects the spiritual and cultural connection we have to our land and water.
4. **Health and wellbeing:** Emissions, odours, and waste residue could harm children, Elders, and families living nearby.
5. **Environmental risks:** The air, soil, and water around Peak Hill are all connected damage in one area will affect us all.

**Recommendations**

- **Stop the Parkes EfW project immediately** until proper consultation is done with all local communities, including Peak Hill and Wiradjuri representatives.
- **Conduct full independent environmental and cultural heritage assessments** that include input from Aboriginal Elders and knowledge holders.
- **Ensure the protection of waterways**, including the Bogan and Lachlan Rivers, through transparent water quality monitoring and public reporting.
- **Provide genuine community engagement sessions** in Peak Hill not just in Parkes so that everyone affected can be heard.
- **Respect Wiradjuri Country and culture** by recognising that this land and water hold deep meaning for many families and generations.

I love my community, my family, and this Country. Peak Hill is small, but our voices matter. We have cared for this place for generations and want it to remain safe and healthy for the generations to come.

This project does not respect the people, land, or culture of this area. I **strongly oppose** the Parkes Energy Recovery Facility and ask that it be stopped until genuine consultation and full independent studies are completed.

**Sincerely,**
**Jodie Hando**
Resident of Peak Hill, NSW