

Submission
No 542

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Gail Matthews
Date Received: 19 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

My name is Gail Matthews, and my husband and I moved to Parkes two years ago. We already had a daughter and two grandchildren living here, and now our second daughter and her partner have also joined us. Parkes has become our home, and our family is deeply connected to this community. Two of our grandchildren attend _____ and their parents work locally. Our lives, work, and children's schooling are all rooted here.

We are extremely concerned about the proposed Energy from Waste Incinerator (EFWI) and the devastating impact it would have on our family and community. We fear the toxic air, smog, and pollutants lingering over our town, contamination of playgrounds, picnic areas, swimming pools, dams, agricultural land, produce, and livestock. The smell, constant noise, and industrial presence would disrupt everyday life. Property values would plummet, leaving families like ours trapped; we would not be able to move again even if we wanted to.

The impact on our children is particularly distressing. Our 11-year-old granddaughter, _____, wrote a heartfelt letter months ago to Neil Westcott at Parkes Shire Council expressing her fears. She became so anxious that when I suggested she write another letter to this inquiry, her mother asked me not to because Paige was already very upset. The fact that this proposal is already affecting the mental health of our children is alarming and heartbreaking.

Before we moved here, I called the Council around September 2023 to ask about local developments, and at no time were we told about the EFWI. The lack of transparency, combined with the clear risks to health, environment, property, and the wellbeing of our children, is deeply concerning. We urge the Government to protect Parkes, its families, and its future by rejecting this proposal.

Yours Sincerely,

Gail