

Submission
No 551

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 22 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy from Waste (EfW)

From: _____, Parkes, NSW

12 October 2025

I have lived, farmed, and now retired in the Parkes Shire for the past 65 years. My late husband, Barry, and I raised our three sons on our family farm near Parkes. Our family has farmed this land for generations — my sons are the fifth generation to be raised on the property, and my grandchildren are now the sixth.

Our family has always taken great pride in producing quality food and fibre — raising stock, producing wool for both national and international markets, and growing high-quality grain that is regularly sold for bread and beer making. Farming has been our livelihood and our legacy, and it is something we have always hoped could continue for generations to come.

However, I now find myself deeply worried for the future of our family farm and for the ongoing health and wellbeing of our local community. My oldest son and his family continue to farm the property, but they are fearful for their future — for their ability to raise stock, grow clean and marketable wool and grain, and eventually sell the property for a fair price that will allow them to retire, as we did.

I am **strongly opposed to the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility for Parkes**. The risk of contamination to our soil, air, and water is far too great. Such risks threaten not only the immediate farming community but the entire town of Parkes and surrounding districts.

My home in Parkes is less than 1.5 kilometres from the proposed EfW facility site. The prevailing winds in our area blow from the west, directly over the proposed site, across my home, and over the town of Parkes. Because of this, I have grave concerns for my health and the health of all Parkes residents. As I age, I wish to remain in my home for as long as possible. I am fortunate to be fit and well for a woman in her eighties, and I hope to stay that way — but the potential for air pollution and other emissions from this facility puts that at serious risk.

Beyond the personal health risks, I am also deeply concerned about the long-term environmental impacts this project could bring — particularly in relation to farmland productivity, local waterways, and the reputation of our produce. Once contamination occurs, it cannot easily be reversed. Our region's farming future — generations in the making — could be jeopardised by one industrial decision.

My questions to the Inquiry are:

- How can the community of Parkes be assured that our air, soil, and water will remain uncontaminated and safe in the long term?
- What measures are in place to independently monitor emissions and hold operators accountable?
- Why was the Parkes region — a clean, agricultural area with a strong farming heritage — considered an appropriate site for such a facility in the first place?
- Has the health impact on older residents, such as myself, been fully assessed?

In closing, I urge the Committee to consider the human side of this issue. This is not just about waste or energy — it is about people, families, and the future of communities like Parkes. We deserve clean air, safe water, and a secure farming future for the generations to come.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,