

Submission
No 566

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mr Robert Cheney

Date Received: 23 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Energy from Waste (EFW) Facilities in Regional NSW

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to you as very concerned ratepayers and lifelong constituents of the Parkes Shire Council. We feel that the Parkes Shire Council has let us down by seemingly not being open or proactive opposing the proposed EFW on our behalf. We have attended an information night held at the Parkes Leagues Club on 26th July 2025 and other sessions held in Cooke Park. The EFW project if it goes ahead in the Special Activation Precinct (SAP) poses considerable and totally unacceptable risks to the health of all residents and to the environment as well. We strongly urge that the decision be made to reject the proposed EFW.

We have lived in Parkes all our lives and have raised our seven children here. Five of our children and their partners still live in Parkes along with thirteen of our grandchildren. We live on a 8ha (20 acres) block of land on [redacted] and our [redacted] is also the boundary fence of the SAP which is where the EFW is proposed to be built.

We have listed several of our major concerns below although we have plenty of others –

1. Health Risks to Parkes Shire Residents-

We are concerned with health impacts that the proposed EFW will have on all the residents of Parkes Shire and beyond. Waste incinerators emit pollutants such as Dioxins, DFATs and many other destructive particles. These will cause severe health and neurological damage to residents.

2. Irreversible Ecosystem and Environment Damage-

The spread of pollutants in the air will severely impact on our water and agricultural land, waterways and land for stock. Agriculture and stock will be polluted by these far reaching minute particles and this in turn will affect anyone who purchases products from these polluted areas. We are a very small landholder but we sell any excess stock we produce through the central west livestock exchange (saleyards) in Daroogalbie. These sheep sold could be purchased and processed anywhere on the Eastern seaboard. We have to adhere to strict National Vendor Declaration rules and processes stating what we have treated our land or produce with so that if problems arise because of our stock we will be traced and prosecuted. We will not be able to control the contamination of our stock from pollutants getting in their wool or digested from eating them off the grasses. The proposed EFW isn't a clean or green solution to waste and it certainly does not support a circular economy.

3. Rural Struggles-

At present rural NSW struggles to attract any type of Doctors or Health Professionals and the Doctor shortage in Parkes is severe. It is not uncommon if that you are sick today and try and get a Doctor's appointment you will not get one till next week if you are lucky. If the EFW proposal goes ahead we are sure that Parkes will definitely not be their destination in the future. We struggle in the bush for any type of infrastructure except the ones that no-one else wants.

4. Better Recycling First-

Concerning information that we were given at the meeting at the Leagues Club on 26th July was that at least 50% of waste that is going to landfill in the Greater Sydney area could be and should be recycled. Surely a concerted educated recycling push would be a better option than to just send it to Parkes to be burnt. Transport of these huge amounts of toxic waste to Parkes by rail creates health

issues and could cause a catastrophic disaster at any time in the future. Toxic waste sent to Parkes will only increase in the future and that will mean more pollutants for us to breathe eat and drink.

In conclusion we strongly urge that the decision is made to reject the proposed EFW in the Parkes SAP. Property values in Parkes and district and especially ours here beside the SAP will fall and we know that if the EFW goes ahead we will definitely leave here as will our children and grandchildren.

We are happy for Parkes to be known as "THE HOME OF THE DISH " but not as

"THE HOME OF THE INCINERATOR"

Sincerely

Robert and Louise Cheney