

**Submission  
No 579**

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

**Name:** Mr David Allan  
**Date Received:** 25 October 2025

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

**From:** David Allan  
Resident of Trundle  
Parkes Shire NSW

24 October 2025

To the Inquiry Committee.

I have lived in the Parkes Shire for 38 years. I raised three children here — they are now adults starting their own families in Parkes and Dubbo. I am a very proud grandfather to a seven-month-old grandson.

Over the years, I have worked across several local industries — in farming, shearing, and mining — and I continue to be closely connected to the local workforce and community. My eldest daughter is a nurse, my second daughter is a youth counsellor, both based in Dubbo, and my son operates his own diesel-mechanic business here in the Parkes shire. I currently live in Trundle and own a 100-acre farm on the outskirts of Parkes where I plan to build a home in the near future.

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### **Concerns Regarding the Proposed EfW Incinerator**

#### **1. Chemical Emissions and Health Risks**

The chemicals created through burning waste — often referred to as “forever chemicals” — are of deep concern to me. These compounds do not break down easily and can accumulate in water, soil, and living organisms.

I rely on rainwater tanks for my household water and dams for my livestock. I worry that airborne contaminants from the incinerator could settle into these water sources, making them unsafe.

There has been no information provided by Parkes Shire Council (PSC) and the Proponents, about how these emissions will be monitored or mitigated.

**The lack of transparency makes me uneasy. I can't help but ask: “*What are they hiding?*”**

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## **2. Scale and Expansion of the Project**

The proposed incinerator reportedly has the capability to process over **600,000 tonnes of SYDNEY'S waste per year**. This raises major questions about waste importation/transportation and long-term expansion plans.

It appears Parkes could become a regional/state waste hub for other areas, something our community never agreed to.

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## **3. Contradictions in Energy Policy**

It is difficult to understand how the government can justify shutting down established coal power stations — largely due to environmental and health concerns — yet potentially allow the construction of a massive waste-burning facility that will release toxic emissions into the air.

This feels like a contradiction in environmental policy and public health priorities. Whatever happened to the Precautionary Principle?

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## **4. Odour, Air Quality and Environmental Impact**

The potential for ongoing odour from burning waste is another serious worry. Beyond the smell, the contamination of surrounding farmland and water systems could have devastating effects. Local agricultural products — crops, livestock, and dairy — could become unsafe or unsaleable. This would not only harm individual farmers but could destroy the reputation of the entire Parkes shire as well as surrounding shires, of their clean and productive farming reputations.

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## **5. Economic and Social Consequences**

If contamination concerns (real or perceived) take hold, **land values** around Parkes and Trundle and surrounding areas will collapse.

Potential new families may hesitate to move here, fearing for their health and

wellbeing of their children. Businesses could avoid investing in an area associated with pollution or industrial waste.

We are a proud regional community — we should be building a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future, not risking it with a project like this.

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## **6. Transparency and Accountability**

I would like to know more about the **multinational company** behind this proposal.

Who are they really? What is their track record in waste management? What happens when they leave or sell or go bankrupt— and who will be responsible for any long-term environmental and health damage?

Local residents deserve full transparency before decisions of this scale are made. At this point in time, I consider that there has not been anything like seriously adequate community consultation.

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## **Personal Reflection**

I have lived and worked in this shire most of my life.  
I raised my family here and built a life that I am proud of.  
**This is my home — my place.**

All I want is to continue living here and for my grandchildren to visit me in a safe, healthy environment.  
That should not be negotiable.

A healthy place to live is the reason I chose to stay here, and it is why I strongly oppose the construction of an Energy from Waste incinerator near Parkes.

Sincerely,

**David Allen**

Phone:

Email: