

**Submission
No 581**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mrs Helen Campbell

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

From: Helen Campbell, Resident of Parkes, NSW

25 October 2025

To the Inquiry Committee

I have lived in Parkes for 23 years. My children and grandchildren also live here, along with many members of my extended family. Parkes has always been a wonderful community — safe, friendly, and proud. But since hearing about the proposed Energy from Waste incinerator, I have become deeply worried about what it will mean for our town, our health, and our future.

Health and Safety Concerns

My biggest fear is for the health of our local children — especially those who already struggle with asthma or other long-standing health conditions. The thought of toxic emissions, fine particulates, and “forever chemicals” being released into the air we breathe is terrifying.

Will it even be safe for our children to swim in our backyard pools or at the town pool? How safe will our air conditioners be? We’ve already seen reports from Paris of PFAS (forever chemicals) being found in air conditioner filters in schools — what will stop the same from happening here?

My grandchildren attend a school very close to the proposed incinerator site. How will their health be protected from potential emissions? If their health is affected, who will be held responsible? Who will compensate our families for the lifelong impacts that could result from exposure to pollution?

Environmental and Water Safety

I’m also extremely concerned about our water. How safe will our drinking water be once contaminants start to enter the system? What safeguards will be in place?

I would like to know what filtration systems are planned for the incinerator — and how those filters are maintained, cleaned, and eventually disposed of. What happens to the wastewater from the site? Where does it go, and how is it treated?

We rely on rainwater tanks, bores, and home-grown fruit and vegetables in this shire. If there are contaminants falling from the sky or settling on our soil, will our home-grown produce still be safe to eat?

Social and Economic Impact

This project risks destroying the very fabric of our community — and for what? Less than a dozen permanent jobs? That hardly justifies the potential long-term health, environmental, and economic damage.

If this incinerator goes ahead, we will move. And we won't be the only ones. Many families will leave because no one wants to live next to a waste-burning facility. Real estate values in Parkes will collapse. The homes we have worked hard all our lives to afford will become worthless.

How will the town ever recover from that? How will we attract doctors, nurses, teachers, and tradespeople to a town with a reputation for pollution and health risks?

In Conclusion

This proposal places the future of Parkes in serious jeopardy. We deserve clean air, clean water, and the ability to raise our children and grandchildren in a safe environment — not one overshadowed by the threat of toxic emissions and community decline.

I urge the Parliamentary Inquiry to listen to the voices of those of us who live here. The risks far outweigh any potential benefit. Please do not let this incinerator destroy our town, our health, and our future.

Sincerely,

Helen Campbell

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