

**Submission  
No 560**

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

**Name:** Ms Karryn Schaefer

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# Objection to Proposed Project — Protection of Rivers, Wetlands, and Regional Water Systems

**To: Parkes Shire Council**

I am writing to raise serious concerns about the potential environmental and community impacts of the proposed project affecting waterways in the Central and Western regions of New South Wales.

## **Rivers**

Our rivers are the lifeblood of this region — sustaining wildlife, agriculture, and communities. The interconnected nature of these waterways means any interference in one system can cause significant downstream damage.

- **Goobang Creek** originates near **Parkes** in central New South Wales. It flows generally northwest through areas like **Peak Hill** and **Condobolin**, where it joins the **Bogan River**, an important tributary supporting regional ecosystems.

The **Bogan River** then continues its journey northwest, where it eventually flows into the **Barwon River**, which in turn joins the **Darling River** — forming part of one of Australia's most significant inland river systems.

- The **Darling River** plays a crucial role in sustaining the **Macquarie Marshes**, one of the largest inland semi-permanent wetlands in the country. These marshes are a vital habitat for birdlife and biodiversity.

Any reduction in flow, contamination, or diversion of these waters threatens not only environmental health but also cultural and community heritage.

## **Community and Environmental Impact**

Communities from **Walgett to Bourke** rely heavily on the health of these river systems for stock, irrigation, and domestic use. Reduced water quality, flow disruption, or ecological degradation would have long-term consequences for local economies, wildlife habitats, and traditional custodians of the land.

## **Request**

I strongly urge the Parkes Shire Council and relevant authorities to reconsider or halt any project that poses risks to these rivers and wetlands until comprehensive, independent environmental impact assessments are conducted — with full public transparency and community consultation.

Protecting our rivers is not just an environmental issue — it is a matter of survival, culture, and responsibility to future generations.

Sincerely,

**Aboriginal Community Elder  
Karryn Keed**