

**Submission  
No 588**

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

**Name:** Mr Anthony Magill

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My name is Mr Anthony Magill, and I am a fourth-generation farmer and primary producer in the Parkes Shire, where my family and I own and run a mixed farming operation. For generations, we have proudly farmed this land, through plagues, flooding and droughts; always committed to nurturing the land, providing high-quality produce to consumers, and continuing the legacy of our farm. Our son, a proud fifth-generation farmer, has returned home post-university studies to carry on our family legacy. However, he is now filled with fear and doubt about his future and the certainty of our farm.

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Parkes Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator. The proposed incinerator poses significant risks to agriculture, food security and the local and national community. The Central West is a critical region to food production. Agriculture sustains our families – it provides safe, high quality food for Australian and international consumers, and drives the economy. Jeopardising such a large industry to burn Sydney's waste is an insult to rural communities as they consistently aim to provide for all Australians through enormous challenges. This does not stand for rural communities and their businesses.

**Term of Reference: (d) impacts on human health including on regional town drinking water, rainwater harvesting and soil contamination**

**Term of Reference: (e) the impact on agriculture locally and across the wider region**

Emissions from EfW including dioxins, furans and heavy metals not only produce airborne pollutants, but pose significant risks impacting farming, waterways and soil contamination. Contamination will heavily impact crops and pose food-safety risks for consumers, compromising the integrity of Australian foods and damaging national food security. Sustainable agricultural systems depend on clean and healthy soil. Contamination to both water and soil will limit profitability and sustainability of food production, not only impacting our immediate community but Australian and international consumers. The incinerator would severely damage the market access, as producers are unable to provide clean, traceable and accessible produce, limiting the amount of food produced for the nation and international markets.

The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) is committed to biosecurity and food safety through traceability of livestock. Any threat of contamination would severely damage producer reputation, affecting access to trading and exportation of produce. Australia heavily relies on exporting clean and safe food, however, how can we be held accountable for the contamination of our food when someone else is damaging our produce. This would cost primary producers millions, damaging the Australian economy and our clean, green image. Furthermore, this would be a devastating and destructive decision not only to the economy, but the lives of families.

I strongly oppose the EfW Incinerator and urge the committee to preserve our region, agricultural sector and community.

Regards,  
Anthony Magill,  
4<sup>th</sup> Generation Farmer