

**Submission
No 592**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Ms Anne Mulligan

Date Received: 28 October 2025

To:

NSW Parliamentary Inquiry on Energy from Waste facilities in Regional NSW

Submission in relation to:

Individual submission Against the proposed Parkes Energy Recovery Pty Ltd Energy-from-Waste Facility (within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct), Parkes, NSW and Regional NSW.

Objection to the proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into proposed energy-from-waste (EfW) facilities in regional New South Wales.

My name is **Anne Mulligan**, and I write as a **parent, grandparent, retired nurse, and retired fourth-generation farmer**, proudly born and raised in **Parkes, New South Wales**. My family has lived and worked on this land for generations, contributing to the wellbeing of our community and the prosperity of regional NSW.

I am writing to express my **strong objection** to the proposed **Parkes Energy Recovery Pty Ltd Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Facility**, currently under assessment as part of the Environmental Impact Statement for **SSD-10459** and any Energy from Waste facilities in Regional NSW

1. Public Health and Air Quality Concerns

As a **retired nurse**, I have dedicated my life to protecting and improving people's health. The science is clear — waste incineration releases **harmful pollutants**, including fine particulates (PM2.5 and PM10), **dioxins, furans, and heavy metals** such as mercury and lead. These substances are known to cause **serious long-term health effects**, particularly affecting **children, pregnant women, and the elderly**. I am worried that there is not a requirement for 24/7 monitoring of all emissions.

Our regional community already experiences challenges with **air quality and respiratory health** due to dust, drought, and agricultural activity. Introducing an industrial-scale waste incinerator would add unnecessary and avoidable risks to the health of local residents. Once air quality is compromised, it cannot easily be restored.

2. Waste Belongs Where It Is Produced

It is unacceptable that **waste from Sydney and other urban centres** should be transported hundreds of kilometres to regional NSW for disposal or burning. Our region should **not become the dumping ground** for metropolitan waste.

This proposal contradicts the principles of **environmental responsibility and circular economy practice** — waste should be **managed at its source**, with urban areas encouraged to **reduce, recycle, and reuse** materials locally.

Transporting waste such long distances would also **increase greenhouse gas emissions, fuel consumption**, and **traffic risks** along regional transport routes, further undermining any environmental claims associated with the project.

Transporting waste over 500km and destroying valuable resources is not a sustainable or efficient waste solution, it locks us into waste generation and under mines waste reduction, reuse, and recycling initiatives.

3. Environmental and Agricultural Risks

As a **fourth-generation farmer**, I understand the vital importance of protecting our **soil, water, and air**. Any fallout from waste incineration — whether through **stack emissions, contaminated ash, or accidental release** — poses a direct and ongoing threat to **farmland and waterways**.

Our rural environment sustains both local agriculture and the broader NSW food system. Once contamination occurs, the effects can persist for **decades**, harming livestock, crops, and ultimately the health of consumers.

Parkes' agricultural landscape is our **lifeblood** and must be **safeguarded**, not sacrificed, for the convenience of distant urban centres.

4. Inconsistency with Regional Development Goals

The **Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP)** was established to attract **clean, sustainable, and innovative industries** to the Central West. An energy-from-waste incinerator that burns imported urban waste does **not align** with that vision.

Instead, it risks **tarnishing Parkes' reputation** as a progressive and environmentally responsible regional hub. We should be investing in **true circular economy solutions** — such as recycling, composting, and renewable energy generation — that **create sustainable jobs** without compromising the environment or public health.

5. A Community's Legacy

As someone who has spent a lifetime caring for both **people and land**, I cannot stand by while Parkes is transformed into a site for **Sydney's waste incineration**.

My grandchildren deserve to inherit a **healthy, thriving community** — not polluted air, degraded soil, and a legacy of industrial waste. This project represents a short-term industrial convenience at the expense of **long-term environmental and community wellbeing**.

6. Community Consultation and Trust

As a long-term resident, I value transparency, respect, and genuine participation. Many in my neighbourhood feel that consultation around this project has been limited or technical, far removed from the everyday lives of local families. Such major developments demand meaningful engagement—not just information sessions, but real opportunities for local voices to influence outcomes. Our trust in the process depends on it.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I **strongly urge the NSW Government and all Members of Parliament to reject the proposed Parkes Energy Recovery Pty Ltd Energy-from-Waste Facility (SSD-10459) and any facility in regional NSW.**

Instead, I call on the Government to:

- Uphold policies that ensure **waste is managed where it is produced,**
- **Protect the health** of regional communities, and
- Promote **genuine sustainability and innovation** in line with the goals of the Parkes Special Activation Precinct.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Mulligan

Parent, Grandparent, Retired Nurse, and Fifth-Generation Farmer
Born and Raised in Parkes, NSW

Date: 28 October 2025

Email:

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