

**Submission  
No 611**

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mrs Karen White

**Date Received:** 30 October 2025

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## Submission Opposing the Proposed Energy to Waste Incinerator in Parkes NSW.

### Introduction

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Energy-to-Waste (EfW) incinerator project for Parkes, NSW. I live and work on the land that would be directly affected by this development. I was born and raised in Parkes and have deep ties to this region, both personally and professionally.

Our area is prime agricultural land that supports grazing, cropping, and food production — the very backbone of our local and national food supply. Any threat to the quality of our land, air, and water directly threatens not only our livelihoods but also the broader agricultural integrity of the region.

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### Environmental and Agricultural Impacts

The proposed incinerator poses a serious risk of contamination to the surrounding environment. Airborne pollutants and fine particulate matter, including dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and microplastics, are well-documented byproducts of waste incineration.

Such pollutants can settle on pastures, crops, and water sources, leading to contamination of:

- Fodder for livestock, which in turn affects the safety of meat, milk, and other animal products.
- Surface and groundwater supplies, including rainwater tanks, which many rural properties rely upon for drinking and domestic use.
- Soils and crops, reducing productivity and potentially rendering agricultural products unsafe.

Our community cannot afford to risk the long-term contamination of farmland that has sustained generations and contributes significantly to regional food security. It is something that would determine if we would leave the town along with others I have spoken with.

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### Health and Safety Concerns

Other countries have scaled back or banned waste incinerators due to increasing evidence of toxic micro-pollutants and cancer-causing emissions. Studies have shown correlations between incinerator proximity and elevated rates of respiratory illness, cancers, and developmental issues in nearby populations.

Parkes residents deserve the same right to clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment as anyone else. Locating a polluting industry in a prime agricultural and residential area is short-sighted and contrary to public health objectives.

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### Sustainability and Alternatives

The proposed project also undermines NSW's and Australia's commitments to sustainable waste management. True circular economy principles prioritise waste reduction, recycling, composting, and resource recovery, not burning waste.

Investment should instead be directed towards modern recycling infrastructure, composting facilities, and policies that reduce waste generation in the first place. Burning waste may provide short-term energy, but it creates long-term environmental liabilities.

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### Conclusion

As a lifelong resident and landholder in Parkes, I urge the decision-makers to reject this proposal outright. The risks to our environment, our agricultural productivity, and our community's health far outweigh any potential benefit claimed by the project proponents.

Parkes is not an industrial dumping ground. It is a vital agricultural hub that feeds the nation and deserves protection from pollution and environmental degradation.

I respectfully request that the proposed Energy-to-Waste incinerator for Parkes, NSW, not be approved.

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Yours sincerely,

Karen White