

Submission  
No 614

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 23 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

To the Members of Parliament,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm 16 years old. I live in Forbes, not far from Parkes, where the proposed Waste to Energy incinerator is planned to be built. I am writing because I care deeply about my future, the health of my community, and the environment that we are supposed to protect not destroy!

As someone who has grown up in the Central West, I've always loved how our towns are surrounded by clean air, open spaces, and farmland. This is our home, and it's where I hope to raise my own family one day. But the thought of a massive waste burning incinerator being built so close to where we live makes me really worried about what kind of place we'll be left with.

I've learned that incinerators release dangerous chemicals and fine particles into the air, things that can cause asthma, cancer, and other serious health problems. Even if the companies say it's safe, accidents happen, filters fail, and pollution doesn't just disappear. It travels through the air and into our soil and waterways. Our community relies on farming, and pollution could hurt our food, animals, and water supplies.

It also feels unfair that decisions like this are being made without really listening to young people. We're the ones who will have to live with the long-term consequences of projects like this. I might not be old enough to vote yet, but I still have a voice, and I want that voice to count.

As a young Wiradjuri woman I also believe this goes against our cultural values of caring for Country. We are taught to look after the land, not harm it. Burning waste on Country doesn't show respect, it damages what we're meant to protect.

Instead of spending money on an incinerator, why not invest in recycling programs, education, and new technologies that actually reduce waste? We could be leading the way in sustainability, not turning regional NSW into a dumping ground for other people's rubbish.

Please, don't let this project go ahead. Listen to the people who live here, especially the young people. We want to grow up in a healthy, safe environment where our air and water are clean and our communities are respected.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Sincerely,

Age 16

Forbes, NSW