

**Submission
No 629**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Nathan Townsend

Date Received: 26 October 2025

To the parliamentary inquiry

My name is Nathan Townsend, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Waste to Energy incinerator in Parkes.

As a fifth-generation sheep and mixed cropping farmer, my family has lived and farmed in this district for over a century. We have worked hard to care for the land, growing quality food that helps feed the nation. This area is part of the food bowl of Australia, and our livelihoods depend on clean air, fertile soil, and uncontaminated water. Any project that threatens these foundations threatens not only local farmers but also national food security.

I also have young children attending a nearby school, and I am deeply concerned about their health and safety. The harmful toxins and fine particles released from burning waste pose serious risks to air quality and public health. If this type of facility has been considered too unsafe for Sydney due to health concerns, then it is certainly not suitable for a rural community surrounded by farms, families, and schools.

Our region should not be seen as a convenient location for Sydney's unwanted waste. The risks of pollution, odour, and toxic emissions are simply too high. Once the environment is contaminated, the impacts will be long-term and irreversible.

Farming families like mine want to see this district continue to thrive for generations to come. We have a responsibility to protect the clean environment that allows us to produce safe, sustainable food for all Australians.

For the sake of our children, our health, our environment, and our agricultural future, I urge you to reject this proposal and protect the Parkes region from becoming an industrial waste zone.

Sincerely,
Nathan Townsend
Fifth-Generation Farmer