

Submission
No 632

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 23 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy-from-Waste

Dear Select Committee,

My name is _____ and I'm a farmer from Parkes. My family has been farming here for over 105 years, and I want to thank the Committee for the chance to share my concerns. I am strongly opposed to the proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) incinerator for Parkes.

These facilities have been shown to release toxic pollution, and there is no solid proof that they are safe to operate in a rural area that produces food. The NSW Chief Scientist's report even says that Energy-from-Waste incinerators should not be built near where food is grown, and that food can be one of the ways people are exposed to harmful chemicals. This is exactly why it makes no sense to put one in a major farming region like Parkes. If Sydney has already ruled out building one near its residents because of health risks, then it's simply not fair to dump it on a regional town like ours.

My biggest concern is for our farmland and food. If our crops or soil were contaminated, or even if people only thought they might be, we could lose our market access. Farmers would be unable to sell their produce, which would ruin families, businesses, and the local economy. Once pollution is in the ground or water, there's no way to undo it.

I'm also disappointed by the lack of proper community consultation. Many of us only found out about this project recently, even though it's been in planning for years. We deserve to be properly informed and listened to before such big decisions are made about our town's future.

Transporting Sydney's rubbish all the way to Parkes makes no sense either. It's costly, it increases diesel emissions, and it goes against the government's Net Zero goals. If waste truly needs to be managed, there are better options, like recycling, composting, reducing packaging, and holding manufacturers responsible for what they produce. Burning rubbish should not be seen as the quick fix answer.

Regional communities like Parkes deserve the same respect and protection as people in Sydney. Please don't let our farming region become the dumping ground for the city's waste.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Parkes, NSW