

**Submission
No 642**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mrs Kim Hoe
Date Received: 23 October 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to strongly express my opposition and deep concern regarding the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in the Parkes region of New South Wales.

I have been a resident of Parkes for over 60 years born and raised here. I've spent my life in this town, raising three children (two of whom still live locally), and I'm now the proud grandparent of six grandchildren. I also live with and care for my 84-year-old widowed mother. Our family spans four generations in this community. This is our home our life and we care deeply about its future.

My father is buried in the Parkes cemetery. Why should we be forced to leave him behind? When my family is scattered and facing the need to relocate, how do you expect me to choose which child I follow? We should not be placed in this impossible situation why are we?

In addition to my home in town, I own a rural property on the North Forbes Road near Condobolin, where I breed beef cattle. My son owns the neighbouring property, which operates on irrigation that cost a significant amount to establish due to regulatory requirements. He also runs sheep, cattle, and crops only a few kilometres from the proposed facility.

For us, farming isn't just a job it's a way of life. It's love, purpose, and legacy. We pour our hearts into the land. We depend on clean air, fresh water, and healthy soil to raise our animals, feed our families, and protect our future.

The proposed EfW development puts all of this at risk. The pollution from emissions, ash, and potential leaks threatens the underground water supply, creeks where our stock drink, and the irrigation we rely on. We drink from rainwater tanks and use this water to grow food and sustain life not just for ourselves, but for the birds, bees, and wildlife that make up our fragile ecosystem. Who is accountable for destroying these animals? Because as farmers there's law we have to follow when protecting our livestock example shooting crows or wedgetail eagle, but the incinerator company don't seem to have this same government laws pressed on them. Why is this?

I have worked hard for years to reduce my environmental footprint minimising plastic use, living sustainably, and protecting this land. This incinerator goes against everything we've tried to preserve. It goes against organisation such as Landcare.

This is Wiradjuri land. Were the traditional custodians consulted? Was the Parkes Shire Aboriginal Consulting Group or the Local Aboriginal Land Council or Working Party engaged in a meaningful way? The lack of transparency and community consultation is deeply troubling.

My children and grandchildren suffer from asthma. My elderly mother has serious heart, respiratory, and mobility issues. Even small increases in toxic emissions like dioxins and fine particulates could seriously impact their health and shorten her life. These aren't just statistics. These are real people. Their lives matter.

Mental health in the Central West is already in crisis. Access to care is limited. Imagine how much worse it will be when people are forced to watch everything they love and have worked for destroyed. People will break. Who will care for my mother when we are forced to leave? There is already a critical shortage of acceptable, affordable aged care in this region. I am calling for baseline medical testing to be undertaken before any approval is considered at their cost.

Why is my family's life worth less than the lives of people in Sydney? Why is it acceptable to put this facility in our backyard near our homes, farms, and schools when it would never be approved in a metropolitan area? Who do we contact in the future for compensation our local council, the incinerator company or State Government?

I also own a commercial property in Parkes, which is currently leased. I am deeply concerned about the impact this facility will have on local businesses and property values. If tenants leave, the property could become unsellable. That's not just my livelihood at risk it's the future economic stability of our town.

People will struggle. They will lose their land, their stock, their health, and the love they've invested in farming and rural life. Farming feeds our families and the world. It cannot be replaced.

Parkes is a close-knit, proud rural community. We should not be forced to carry the environmental burden for Sydney or anywhere else. We deserve the same protection and respect as any other region in NSW. Why isn't our local council and State Government doing this?

I respectfully and urgently ask that this proposal be rejected. There are safer, cleaner, and more sustainable options ones that don't sacrifice the land, health, and lives of people who have been here for generations and who want to stay for generations more.

Sincerely,

Kim Hoe