

**Submission
No 668**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mrs Alisa Carpenter

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into
Proposed Energy-from-Waste Facilities in Regional
NSW (Inquiry No. 3128)

Submitted by: Alisa Carpenter

Location: Parkes Region, NSW

Date: October 2025

Introduction

My name is Alisa Carpenter, and I am an aged care worker, bar attendant, mother, grandmother, mixed operations farmer, and long-time resident of the Parkes Shire. I chose to move here to raise my family, work, and build a life on the land. I am submitting this statement to express my deep concerns about the proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) incinerator near Parkes, NSW.

Health and Environmental Concerns

I am deeply concerned about the health and environmental impacts that this project may have on our community. The potential release of dioxins, mercury, lead, and ultrafine particulates from the proposed incinerator poses serious risks to human health, air quality, soil, and water systems. These pollutants are known to persist in the environment and can accumulate in our food chain, affecting both humans and animals.

As a mother and grandmother, I worry about the impact these toxins could have on children's development, respiratory health, and future wellbeing. No filtration system can completely prevent microscopic pollutants from entering the air we breathe or the water we drink.

Livelihood and Family Impact

Our family operates a mixed farming enterprise and has invested heavily in the land we live and work on. The viability of our produce could be jeopardised by contamination or even by the perception of contamination that such a facility creates. The Parkes region is known for producing clean, safe, and trusted food — this project threatens that reputation.

If this incinerator proceeds, I would seriously consider leaving the area to protect my family's health and livelihood. Doing so would not only affect my household, but would also impact the local community, as I actively support local businesses and participate in community life.

Community Consequences

The loss of even a few families in small towns like ours can have a devastating ripple effect —

schools, daycares, small businesses, and community organisations all rely on local people staying and contributing. If people like me and my family are forced to relocate, it would weaken community resilience and reduce the vibrancy that keeps our towns alive.

Better Alternatives

Instead of investing in waste incineration, government and industry should prioritise policies that reduce waste at its source. I believe in mandating businesses to use recyclable materials and in phasing out single-use plastics. By eliminating these items at the manufacturing level, we would drastically reduce the need for waste dumping or incineration and protect our regional environment.

Conclusion

As someone who has chosen to live and work in the Parkes Shire, I am proud of our region's contribution to agriculture, aged care, and community spirit. The proposed incinerator poses unacceptable risks to our health, environment, livelihoods, and future generations. I urge the Committee to reject the Energy-from-Waste proposal and to support sustainable, community-focused waste solutions instead.

Sincerely,

Alisa Carpenter

Parkes Region, NSW

References – Supporting Research

1. World Health Organization (2019) – Health Effects of Waste Incineration.
2. European Environment Agency (2022) – Air Quality in Europe Report.
3. United Nations Environment Programme (2021) – Dioxins and Furans Toolkit.
4. Australian Department of Health (2020) – Toxicological Review of Dioxins and Human Health.
5. The Lancet Planetary Health (2021) – Air Pollution and Neurodevelopmental Outcomes.
6. ANU National Centre for Epidemiology (2023) – Health Impacts of Waste-to-Energy Facilities in Australia.
7. Public Health England (2014) – Review of Health Effects from Incineration.