

**Submission
No 691**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Stanley Townsend

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Submission Opposing the Proposed Energy from Waste Incinerator in Parkes

My name is Stanley Townsend. As a fifth-generation farmer in the Parkes district, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator. My family has farmed here for generations, and now with children and grandchildren growing up on this land, I am deeply concerned about the potential risks this facility poses to our health, livelihoods, and environment.

Our region is one of Australia's most productive agricultural areas, and farming families like mine rely on clean air, healthy soil, and secure biosecurity to produce safe, quality food. Bringing in waste from outside regions—potentially containing contaminants, weeds, pests, or diseases—creates an unacceptable biosecurity threat. The risk of new pests or pathogens spreading into our farmland could have devastating and long-term impacts on local agriculture.

My greatest concern is for the health of my children and grandchildren. The release of toxins and fine particles from waste incineration, even at low levels, can pose serious respiratory and long-term health risks. If this facility was deemed unsafe to build closer to Sydney due to population health risks, it should not be placed here either—our regional communities deserve the same level of protection.

Water is our most precious resource. The plant's demand for water raises questions about how this will impact the already limited local supply, both for farming and the community. Many of us rely solely on rainwater tanks for drinking and household use. Any contamination, even minor, could have severe consequences for our families' health and safety.

The smell of rubbish and emissions from waste processing would destroy the clean, country air our families and visitors value so much. It would change the character of our community and impact both the quality of life and property values in the area.

For all these reasons—threats to biosecurity, public health, water security, and community wellbeing—I strongly oppose the development of the proposed Energy from Waste incinerator in Parkes. Our future generations deserve a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable path forward.

Sincerely,

Stanley Townsend

Fifth-Generation Farmer