

**Submission
No 693**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Miss Karen Sharpe

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Submission: Parkes Waste Recovery Project

Submitted by: *Karen Sharpe*

Proud Wiradjuri Woman

My name is Karen Sharpe. I am a proud Wiradjuri woman and mother of five children, and I have lived in Parkes for most of my life. My mother still lives here, and my father is buried here. This land holds my family's history, our culture, and our ancestors it is home.

I work as an Aboriginal Cultural Worker with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), and I am deeply connected to our Wiradjuri people and Country. I have great concerns for my elders, my sisters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, children, and especially my matriarch mother who still lives here.

The proposed Parkes Waste Recovery Project does **not align with the traditional lores of the Wiradjuri people**, nor does it meet the standards of genuine consultation required under the **Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)**. There has been **no proper consultation** with Traditional Owners. This is a violation of our cultural rights and responsibilities to care for Country.

My family and extended family already suffer from asthma, cancer, allergies, and heart issues all health conditions that could be made worse by increased pollution in our air, land, and water. I worry deeply about what this project will mean for future generations. The pollution from this waste incinerator will not just disappear; it will settle into our soil, our rivers, and our air, poisoning the environment we depend on. Over time, the land, the rivers, the wildlife, and even our community's spirit will slowly die.

This project threatens everything we hold sacred our Country, our culture, and our health. It is unacceptable that such a decision could move forward without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Wiradjuri people, whose land this project will impact.

I demand that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process be stopped immediately until a **full independent inquiry** is held and **proper, respectful consultation** with Wiradjuri Traditional Owners takes place. Our voices must be heard. Our land, air, and water must be protected for our ancestors, our children, and our future generations.

Sincerely,

Karen Sharpe

Proud Wiradjuri Woman

Parkes, NSW