

Submission
No 702

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 13 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the 2025 Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy from Waste

From:

Resident of Parkes NSW

12 October 2025

Introduction

I appreciate the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry into Energy from Waste (EfW) projects. I am writing as a concerned resident of Parkes. Parkes is where we raised our children, I taught at TAFE and my husband a Police Officer for many years until he retired. An EfW project has been proposed for Parkes. I wish to express my deep disappointment and frustration with how this process has been handled by our local council, the NSW Govt, the EPA, the Proponents of the project and to outline my serious concerns about the social, environmental, and health impacts this development may bring to our community.

Lack of Transparency and Consultation

From the outset, it feels as though our community has been *hung out to dry* by our local council and NSW Govt — seemingly for financial gain and to cover poor investment decisions made in the past. We were not provided with transparent, factual information at an early stage, and genuine community consultation simply did not occur.

It appears that the project was intended to be pushed through as a **fait accompli** — with minimal scrutiny, limited public awareness, and a clear hope that nobody would object until it was too late. That approach is deeply insulting to those of us who live here and care about our future.

Disrespect Toward Our Community

I am *furious* at the way our community has been treated — as if we are unintelligent, second-class citizens whose opinions do not matter.

It feels like Parkes has been chosen as a **sacrificial lamb** for the city's inability or unwillingness to manage its own waste responsibly. It's as if the thinking has been, "*Just throw it out in the boonies — they don't matter.*" This is an appalling attitude, and it fundamentally undermines the fairness and equity that should underpin regional policy-making.

Health and Wellbeing Concerns

As a person living with a **progressive autoimmune disability**, I am especially concerned about the potential health impacts of this project — both for myself and for others in the region.

An increase in **dioxins and furans**, which are known by-products of EfW processes, poses a serious risk to public health. These pollutants are linked to increased rates of cancers, birth defects, and chronic health conditions.

www.autoimmuneinstitute.org/research_updates/toxic-exposure-and-autoimmune-disease-superfund-sites/

For those of us already managing health challenges, any deterioration in air quality or access to medical services could be devastating. I am also deeply worried that local health infrastructure will be further strained, and that a downturn in our local economy will lead to fewer doctors, fewer services, and declining community wellbeing.

Economic and Social Impacts

Building prosperity in a rural community like Parkes relies on sustainable industry growth and attracting new residents and businesses. The introduction of an EfW plant threatens to undermine that.

I fear it will lead to:

- **Falling property values**, as people avoid living near an industrial incinerator.
- **Population decline**, as families move away and potential new residents look elsewhere.
- **Loss of business confidence**, as Parkes' reputation as a clean, agricultural and logistics hub is compromised.

Rather than supporting rural growth, this project risks deepening regional inequality and eroding the social fabric of our town.

Environmental and Agricultural Risks

Parkes and the surrounding district are proud of our role in producing clean, high-quality food for both Australian and international markets. The purity of our **air, water, and soil** is central to that reputation.

I am **very afraid** that this project will compromise the integrity of our food and water supply. The risk of contamination — whether through airborne particulates, ash residues, or runoff — could have catastrophic consequences not just locally, but for Australia's global reputation as a producer of safe, premium agricultural goods.

Our **primary producers** work tirelessly to maintain quality and compliance standards, and they should not have to bear the burden of environmental degradation caused by poor planning and short-term decision-making.

Conclusion

In summary, I believe that the proposed EfW project represents a serious failure in governance, consultation, and environmental stewardship. It appears to prioritise political expediency and financial gain over the health, safety, and long-term prosperity of rural Australians.

I urge the Committee to:

1. Require genuine, transparent community engagement processes in all future EfW proposals;
2. Consider the disproportionate burden these projects place on rural and regional communities;
3. Ensure that health, environmental, and agricultural impacts are independently assessed — not just by proponents with a financial interest in the outcome; and
4. Hold local councils, NSW Govt and proponents accountable for misleading, incomplete, or late-stage community consultation.

Our community deserves better. We deserve honesty, respect, and the opportunity to shape our own future — not to be treated as expendable in the name of convenience.

Sincerely,

Phone:

Email: