

Submission
No 715

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission Opposing the Proposed Parkes EFW Incinerator

From:

Address: Parkes NSW

Date: 29/10/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is _____, and I have been a resident of Parkes for my entire life—75 years. I was born here and have worked the land for more than 60 years as a farmer. My property lies approximately 15 kilometres from the proposed site of the Parkes Energy-from-Waste (EFW) Incinerator, and my new home, which I am currently building to retire in, is located approximately 5 kilometres from the proposed site.

I wish to formally record my strong opposition to this proposal.

1. Threat to Livestock and Market Security

My livelihood has always depended on the health and quality of my sheep and cattle, and the integrity of the Australian agricultural market. Any risk—perceived or real—of contamination from an incinerator poses a serious threat to the market confidence in locally produced meat and wool. Buyers, processors, and export markets are highly sensitive to environmental and contamination concerns. Even the suspicion of pollution from airborne particulates, heavy metals, or dioxins could have lasting consequences for producers in the Parkes district. My two sons and their families want to continue farming and living on the land where I have been my entire life, but this proposal has brought doubt and anxiety to their decision to continue farming, and the health of their children, my grandchildren, will be at risk. It is the children who will suffer from this proposal, not me.

2. Risks to Air Quality and Soil Health

The operation of an incinerator inevitably involves the emission of pollutants, including fine particulates, nitrogen oxides, heavy metals, and potentially dioxins and furans. These pollutants can travel well beyond the immediate site, settling on pastures and crops. Such fallout would not only threaten the productivity of farmland but also the safety and reputation of agricultural produce from this region. Our soils and clean environment are among our most valuable assets, built up over generations of responsible land stewardship.

3. Water Contamination Concerns

The potential for contamination of surface water and groundwater is another serious concern. Our farming operations—and indeed the broader Parkes community—depend on reliable, clean water for livestock and domestic use. Any leakage, run-off, or accidental discharge from the facility could have devastating and long-term effects on local water resources, particularly given the variability of rainfall in this area. What happens when our livestock drink contaminated water? Why should the health of our families, our animals and our land be put at risk, over something that will be quick fix for Sydney's rubbish? Why do we have to sacrifice our health, our livelihoods and our futures, so that Sydney's waste can disappear.

4. Proximity to My Residence

My new home, which I am in the process of building to enjoy retirement, after decades of farming, is situated approximately 5 kilometres from the proposed incinerator site. I have serious concerns about the impact on air quality and odour. This is not what I, or any long-term local resident, should have to endure in our retirement after contributing to this community for a lifetime. My entire family lives in this area, and I would like to be able to have my grandchildren visit me at my new house in my retirement. My children, and grandchildren are considering moving if this proposal goes ahead. Who would have thought that at this stage of my life, that an EFW incinerator would be the cause of my family to disperse. By something that is out of their control. Why should my family have to leave?

5. Incompatibility with the Rural Character of the Area

The Parkes region has a proud agricultural heritage and a growing tourism profile based on its clean, open environment. The construction and operation of an industrial-scale incinerator are fundamentally incompatible with these values. The project would bring increased inland rail traffic, noise, and pollution to an area that has always been rural and community oriented.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the proposed Parkes EFW Incinerator. The risks to our livestock industries, water, air, soil, and overall quality of life are far too great. I urge decision makers to reject this proposal in the interests of the long-term health, prosperity, and sustainability of our community and the generations to come.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Parkes, NSW