

Submission
No 717

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy from Waste (EfW) Proposal

Firstly, thank you for this opportunity and allowing our voices to be heard.

I am a 50+ year old mother and grandmother. My family resides within the Parkes Shire and has done for many, many generations. I am writing to fully oppose the proposed EfW facility within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct.

Whilst I recognise the need to reduce landfill, I feel that the EfW facility is not the answer for our region and nor is it in the best interests of our community. There must be other ways.

As you would be fully aware, the EfW proposal was rejected in Greater Sydney primarily based on the following factors: to protect human health, air quality and community opposition.

The government instead then proposed 4 specific regional precincts, Parkes SAP being one of them. This is an absolute insult to our town and our communities.

If Greater Sydney rejected/banned these incinerators in their own backyard due to fear for human health and air quality in Sydney, **then why is there no fear or consideration for our health and air quality?** Our lives and livelihoods matter too.

The lack of consultation and transparency with the wider and general community of the Shire is disappointing. There has also been a total disregard of the Aboriginal community & their cultural heritage. The original plan for the Parkes SAP did not include any proposed EfW project, however in 2020 it was proposed, so why are we, the residents of the Parkes Shire Council only just hearing about this ½ a decade later in 2025?

The Parkes Shire region prides itself on being one of the most productive agricultural regions in NSW. We are large producers of cropping, livestock and horticulture, so why are they proposing to build an EfW incinerator on our land where there is always a chance that this could pollute our environment and impact our fibre and food industry.

The Parkes Shire is also home to the Wiradjuri people who have occupied these areas for 10s of thousands of years. The Aboriginal history and culture is very strong and important in this area and any potential threat to the Aboriginal culture and traditional practices and places of cultural significance must be considered.

Apart from the obvious and very serious general health concerns, toxic emission concerns, environmental risks, hazardous ash and residue concerns, has anyone thought about other factors as to why we need to say no to this absurd proposal? Because I have.

Employment of Professional services - It is hard enough to get health professionals and the like to come to rural and regional towns. I could not see that an EfW facility

would be very a very encouraging factor for them to even consider wanting to reside or work here considering the potential risk factors.

Waste incinerators are expensive – The ongoing cost of operational and maintenance for EfW incinerators needs to be raised. Is the energy efficiency of incineration profitable enough for local councils to sustain and justify the initial investment? Is there a required waste volume that must be pushed through these incinerators? If so, will this impact on other methods of waste management like recycling and composting?

Tourism – If this absurdity goes ahead, will the 1000's of Sydneysiders that flock to Parkes every year for the Elvis Festival still come to Parkes knowing that a project *they rejected* is now polluting Parkes and surrounding areas?

Would anyone or any of the 1000's of tourists that travel through here and/or stay here each and every day even want to come here when there is a health and environment risk stationed here. They'll probably enter on that great newly built by-pass and "by-pass straight on through"

Mental Health – The mental health crisis is severe in rural and regional areas. This proposal alone has generated more anxiety and fear in the majority of the Parkes Shire residents.

We need to look after each other. The residents of Parkes Shire are genuinely concerned, this is putting added pressure on families, businesses, farmers etc as they contemplate on a daily basis the potential effects of the EfW.

As if natural disasters like drought and flood aren't enough pressure on our communities and agriculture, we're now proposing to construct a man made risk factor to add to the stresses of rural life?

We have limited and stretched rural mental health professionals in these areas as it is.

Closing statement - We may be from the country but our health, lifestyle & environment matter too.

This proposal is just an insult and shows a lack of humanity to the residents of the Parkes Shire. We are not inferior to those who live in the city. We are fighting this for ourselves, our own well-being and for our future generations as well because they are our tomorrow.

Quote: "If there is *any* chance of a risk, then that risk is too high"

Concerned Parkes Shire resident