

**Submission  
No 725**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mrs Rebecca Cowie

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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

From: Rebecca Cowie, Parkes Resident

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Energy-from-Waste incinerator in Parkes.

My main concern is the immediate and long-term health of our community. These facilities cannot guarantee safety, and there have been reports from other areas where people living near incinerators have developed serious illnesses, including cancer. With the proposed site being so close to our homes and schools, I worry deeply about the risks for our children and future generations.

The lack of genuine community consultation has also been very concerning. Many residents, including myself, only found out about the proposal once key steps had already been taken. It feels like the project has been pushed forward without transparency, and that makes people question what's being hidden from us.

There's already a feeling in the community that this proposal is driving people away. My family would be one of them if it goes ahead. It's hard to feel safe raising children here when there's such uncertainty about the health impacts. It also makes me worry about the future of Parkes, who will want to move to or invest in Parkes if it becomes known for hosting an incinerator?

I also have serious concerns about the impact this facility could have on our farmers and their ability to produce and market their crops and livestock. Parkes and the surrounding districts are strong agricultural areas, and any risk of contamination or damage to our reputation could have long-lasting economic and environmental effects. I am equally concerned about the impact on bees and other native wildlife, which play a vital role in pollination and maintaining a healthy environment.

If these facilities aren't considered safe for Sydney, then why should regional communities like Parkes have to take them on? It is unfair and short-sighted, much like the decision by Parkes Shire Council to not oppose this proposal, choosing instead to focus on the money rather than the wellbeing of the community they are meant to represent. In their Council meeting on 21 October 2025, they even acknowledged that the majority of the community is against this proposal.

I hope this inquiry listens to the voices of regional residents and recognises the genuine fear and frustration this proposal has caused. Our health, safety, and community deserve far better consideration than we have received so far.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Cowie  
Parkes, NSW