

Submission
No 777

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Energy-From-Waste Facilities in Regional New South Wales.

SUBMITTED BY: – Farmers in Parkes and Lachlan Shires.

TYPE: Individual Submission – Primary Producers and Shire Residents.

BACKGROUND:

We and our 3 sons are full time farmers in the Parkes and Lachlan shires of New South Wales, producing cereals; oilseeds; legumes; hay; wool; meat sheep and beef cattle.

Three of our five properties have been owned by our immediate and extended family in excess of 100 years each, with the remaining two properties having been in the family for 30+ years each.

The commitment and dedication to, producing clean and sustainable products and to care and improve the land we own, has been a goal that has been handed down through many generations of farmers in our family.

Family members are heavily involved as volunteers for several local organisations, including School P&C; Rural Fire Service; Church; Agricultural organisation; sporting club and District Community Hall, this is our family's contribution to keep our communities safe and thriving.

Our grandchildren are privileged to be growing up on our farms and are contributing to the success of our family farming business. It would be devastating for them and other young people in our communities to have their farming futures destroyed by the inclusion of a potentially toxic industry in the centre of one of New South Wales's major agricultural regions.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED PARKES ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY:

- Regardless of the arguments around potential toxicity, pollutants and economic viability – WHY DOES SYDNEY WASTES NEED TO BE TRANSPORTED NEARLY HALF WAY ACROSS NSW TO BE PROCESSED INTO ENERGY? Regulation states that the facility can't be built in the Greater Sydney Region because of potential health concerns – why are the residents of Parkes and communities surrounding Parkes considered less important than Greater Sydney residents, with the proposal of a facility on the very edge (3kms) of the town. The Kwinana (WA) plant, which is situated 40kms from Perth, successfully processes waste from Perth and provides energy from this waste to the Perth area and surrounding communities. This scenario makes more sense both financially and equitably than shipping waste hundreds of kilometres away from the source to be processed. Sydney's waste is Sydney's problem and should be dealt with in the Sydney region.
- Health Issues – The United Nations has issued health warnings that are related to risks linked to incineration of waste and France, who has operated Waste to Energy facilities for over 100 years, has issued warnings to residents to avoid eating garden produce from gardens near Waste to Energy plants. If there is even the slightest risk or perception of risk of contamination to food crops and livestock within the Parkes region, the incomes and reputation of all primary producers in the area, would be severely affected. Also, these facilities are banned in all but 4 sites in New South Wales because of the possibility of harm to human health, so Parkes and

surrounding communities should be encompassed in this regulation, or is there companies/organisations/individuals or groups with immoral or financial benefits that are influencing the ban that protects the rest of New South Wales.

- **Decreased Land Values** – As a relatively new and controversial project in Australia, the building of a Waste to Energy facility at Parkes will surely have an immediate and possibly long-term effect on land prices in the surrounding district, particularly on farming land, which will suffer significantly due to the controversy and possible environmental rules and regulations associated with potential contamination of crops, pasture and livestock. Decreased land values would affect primary producer's ability to borrow for extension and expansion of their businesses. Housing values in the town itself could be detrimentally affected, which has the distinct possibility of making the council, residents and wider Parkes communities a poorer and subsequently, more disadvantage society.

CONCLUSION: Our family are committed to continue farming in the Parkes area and to keep supporting our communities, but we need assurance that the land we work and the communities we support will remain clean and safe for many generations into the future and will not be subjected to decisions which will degrade both human and environmental existence in this region.

If, Waste to Energy is a 'No Other Option' process, then the government should make plans for these facilities to be built in the middle of Australia, in an area where the possibility of contamination to human, plant and animal life is at its minimum, not in highly productive, populated regions of any state of this special country.

We respectfully implore that the Parliamentary Committee take heed of our concerns and those of the Parkes communities, and reject the proposed Energy from Waste facility planned for this area,