

Submission  
No 787

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 27 October 2025

---

Partially  
Confidential

## Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy from Waste

From: \_\_\_\_\_, Parkes

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this important Inquiry. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a resident of the Parkes Shire. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Parkes Energy-from-Waste (EfW) incinerator and to share my concerns for the future of our community, our environment, and the health of generations to come.

My greatest worry is the health of our children and future generations. Energy-from-Waste incinerators release toxic emissions such as dioxins and fine particles that can contaminate our air, soil, and water. This contamination can enter our food sources, including home gardens, chickens, and eggs, the simple, everyday ways families in regional towns provide for themselves. Once our environment is polluted, there is no way to undo it.

I am also very concerned for my extended family, who operate a generational farm that has been in their family since 1876. This proposal threatens not just their ability to make a living, but the future of a proud farming heritage that has been sustained for nearly 150 years. If farmland becomes contaminated, it loses both its productivity and value. The same applies to residential properties, property values across Parkes will drop, and many residents' retirement plans will be crushed as their hard-earned assets devalue through no fault of their own.

From the very beginning, there has been a lack of genuine consultation and transparency from Parkes Shire Council, the project proponents, and government agencies. Many residents feel they have not been given accurate or complete information, and decisions appear to have been made without proper community involvement. This has caused a loss of confidence in local leadership and deep frustration among those trying to have their voices heard.

It is also deeply unjust that Energy-from-Waste incineration is banned in Sydney and the ACT due to known health risks, yet regional areas like Parkes are being considered suitable. How can it be unsafe in Sydney but somehow safe for Parkes? This is clear inequity. We deserve the same health protections as city residents, not to be treated as second-class citizens or a dumping ground for other people's waste.

We need to focus instead on real solutions, better education about reducing and sorting waste, stronger extended producer responsibility, and genuine zero-waste legislation. It also makes no sense to freight thousands of tonnes of waste more than 550 kilometres from Sydney through regional towns. The emissions, road safety risks, and costs associated with that transport make the proposal even more unsustainable.

Finally, this project threatens the fabric of our community. If Parkes becomes associated with a large-scale incinerator, professionals such as teachers, doctors, nurses, and mental health workers, already hard to attract and retain, will be even less likely to move here. This will have a long-term effect on local health services, education, and community wellbeing.

For all these reasons, I strongly oppose the Parkes Energy-from-Waste proposal. I urge the Committee to recognise the significant risks Energy-from-Waste incineration poses to regional communities like Parkes and to make strong recommendations to the NSW Government to instead pursue safe, sustainable waste management solutions that protect both people and the land we depend on.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter of great importance.

Yours sincerely,