

Submission
No 788

**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 provide a submission to this important Inquiry. My name is _____, and I was born and raised in Parkes, where I still live today. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Parkes Energy-from-Waste (EfW) incinerator and my deep concern for the health, environment, and future of our region.

Having lived here my entire life, I care deeply about the well-being of our community and the land that supports it. I am especially worried about the health impacts on future generations. The toxic emissions produced by incinerators, including dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particulates, are known to accumulate in the environment and cause long-term harm. Families in Parkes value clean air, good food, and a safe environment, this proposal puts all of that at risk.

My brother and his family run our generational farm, the farm, which I grew up on and which has been in our family since 1876. The idea that this land, which has sustained 5 generations and supported the local economy for nearly 150 years, could be placed at risk from toxic fallout or contamination is deeply distressing. Farmers depend on clean soil and water to make a living, and if those are compromised, so too are their livelihoods. Once land becomes contaminated, its value plummets, and with that, retirement plans, inheritance hopes, and family security are destroyed.

The lack of open communication and consultation from Parkes Shire Council and the project proponents has been very disappointing. From the beginning, there has been a failure to provide clear information or seek genuine community input. This has left many residents feeling excluded, misled, and without confidence in local leadership. When decisions of this scale are made behind closed doors, it damages trust and divides the community.

It also defies logic and fairness that Energy-from-Waste facilities are banned in Sydney and the ACT because of the health risks, yet Parkes is considered acceptable. If it's unsafe in Sydney, it's unsafe in Parkes. This kind of decision sends a message that regional communities are less deserving of protection, treated as second-class citizens expected to deal with someone else's waste.

We need to move toward real waste reform, not incineration. That means better education about waste reduction, improved sorting systems, and stronger extended producer responsibility so that companies, not communities, bear the cost of managing waste. Freightng waste more than 550 kilometres from Sydney is environmentally and economically senseless, increasing emissions, road traffic, and the overall carbon footprint of the process.

Finally, this proposal would have lasting social consequences for Parkes. It will make it even harder to attract essential workers who are already scarce in regional NSW. People want to live in safe, healthy towns, not in the shadow of an incinerator.

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 protect our health, farmland, and environment. Regional residents deserve the same level of care and consideration as those living in Sydney or the ACT.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,