

Submission
No 796

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Introduction

My name is . I live and have farmed in the Parkes region for over fifty years, raising my family here and contributing to the local agricultural community. Over that time, I have seen our town grow, adapt, and support one another through droughts, floods, and industry changes. I am proud of this community and deeply concerned about the potential impact of the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility on our health, land, and way of life.

1. Health Concerns

The foremost issue for me is the impact on public health. No matter how safe a company claims its processes are, burning waste inevitably produces emissions and pollutants. These can include carcinogens and fine particles that pose serious long-term risks. For a regional area like Parkes, where access to healthcare is already limited and it is difficult to keep doctors and specialists for more than a short period, this is not a risk we can afford to take. The health of our families and future generations must take priority over industrial experimentation.

2. Impact on Agriculture and Environment

Our livelihoods here depend on the health of our land. Agriculture is the backbone of the Parkes region, from cropping and livestock to small family farms that feed local and interstate communities. Introducing an EfW facility near productive farmland risks contamination of soil, air, and water. Even a small decline in environmental quality can have serious consequences for crops, stock health, and market confidence.

Farmers in this district work tirelessly to maintain sustainable and ethical practices, protecting the land for those who will come after us. It would be devastating to see decades of stewardship undone by decisions made without full regard for environmental safety.

3. Community and Town Identity

Beyond farming, there is also the issue of community identity. Parkes is known for being a strong, friendly, and family-centred town, a place where people feel proud to live and raise children. The proposed facility would change that. The stigma attached to living near a waste incineration site would make it harder to attract new residents, teachers, medical professionals, and families.

This in turn affects school enrolments, local businesses, and the overall morale of the community. Once a town's reputation begins to decline, it is difficult to rebuild. Parkes

deserves to be known for its people, its innovation, and its clean, rural lifestyle — not for housing other regions' waste.

4. Economic and Social Flow-on Effects

A facility of this nature could also impact property values, tourism, and small business confidence. Regional communities thrive when people want to live, work, and invest locally. If families begin to move away or hesitate to relocate here, the broader social and economic flow-on effects will be significant.

If this project is genuinely about addressing Sydney's waste management issues, then it should be built near the source of that waste, where infrastructure, population density, and healthcare access are greater. Parkes should not be used as a testing ground for industrial waste processing simply because it is a regional town.

Conclusion

After more than fifty years living and farming in the Parkes area, I can say with certainty that this proposal is not in the best interests of our community. The potential risks to health, agriculture, and the social fabric of our town far outweigh any perceived benefits. I strongly oppose the establishment of an Energy from Waste facility in our region and urge decision-makers to prioritise the safety, sustainability, and wellbeing of rural communities.