

Submission  
No 830

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 13 October 2025

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Partially  
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# Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Facilities

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_ of Bogan Gate  
Date: 13 October 2025

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## Introduction and Background

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I live in the small village of Bogan Gate. I attended the little public school there, then high school in Forbes. I have lived and worked locally ever since. My family all live in the surrounding area, and my father is employed by a local farming operation.

My family, friends, neighbours and I depend clean soil and water, livestock and crops, for our health. We are part of this community, and any industrial development, like EfW, in our region will affect us directly.

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## Concerns

I write this submission because I have serious concerns under several headings, many of which relate directly to the terms of reference of this Inquiry.

### 1. Contamination of water and soil

- How will the facility prevent contamination of water sources (groundwater, surface water)? Rainwater harvesting is common here, and many of us rely on tanks or bores. If there are leaks, runoff, or by-products that seep into one of the many local creeks or into ground, it could taint water used by homes, livestock, and crops.
- What about soil contamination? Many of our friend's farm. If heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), etc., accumulate in soil, that will reduce productivity, or make crops unsafe. Livestock grazing on contaminated soil or drinking from contaminated water could affect meat, wool, animal health.

### 2. Air quality and health impacts

- How will emissions from the EfW facility affect the air quality for people in the region?
- We have community members with asthma and other medical vulnerabilities. Poor air quality could exacerbate those conditions. What particulates, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, dioxins, furans, or other pollutants will be released? At what concentrations, under what weather conditions?

- Is there modelling of pollution spread under various wind, temperature, inversion conditions? What buffer zones will be used?
- 3. Testing and monitoring**
- What monitoring systems are planned for water, soil, air? How often will sampling occur? What standards will be used? Will monitoring be independent and publicly reported?
  - Will there be baseline testing before operations so that comparisons can be made?
  - How wide of an area will be tested?
  - What enforcement measures will exist if pollutant levels exceed safe thresholds?
- 4. Impact on agriculture and livestock**
- As noted, crops and livestock are central to life here. If contamination reduces crop yields, or imposes extra costs (e.g. testing, remediation), that threatens livelihoods.
  - Also, contamination could affect export-certification or marketability of produce if food safety is compromised.
- 5. Tourism**
- The Parkes Elvis Festival is an example. It draws visitors to the area, bringing \$millions revenue, supporting local businesses. If the air becomes polluted, or if the area is perceived as dirty, unhealthy or industrialised, will people still come? How long will such events remain a draw?
  - Even more widely: visitors come for the natural beauty, quiet, clear skies, rural charm. An EfW facility risks harming those qualities.
- 6. Environmental / ecological concerns**
- What will happen to local flora and fauna, especially threatened or endangered species?
  - Will habitats be destroyed or fragmented? What effect on birds, native mammals, reptiles, insects, especially pollinators?
  - How will emissions or effluent affect ecosystems—streams, wetlands, woodlands?
  - Will there be an environmental impact assessment that covers biodiversity, species of special conservation status, and long-term ecological health?
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### **Questions for the Inquiry**

In light of the above, I ask the Committee to consider:

- What precise emission limits will be set for all pollutants (volatile organic compounds, particulates, heavy metals, dioxins, furans, etc.)? And do those limits meet world standards?
  - What modelling has been done of dispersion of air pollutants under local conditions?
  - What buffer zones will be required between the facility and residences, schools, farms, creek lines, native habitat?
  - What water catchments are at risk, and what protections will be put in place?
  - What baseline testing (for water, air, soil) will be done before construction/operation, and at what frequency during operations?
  - Who conducts the testing and monitoring—government, independent bodies, or the operator? Will data be made publicly available in real time or on a schedule?
  - What are the responsibilities and liabilities of the operator if contamination occurs? Who pays for remediation?
  - How will the facility affect agricultural producers in terms of market access, reputation, certification?
  - What risk assessments have been carried out for vulnerable populations (people with asthma, children, the elderly)?
  - How will ecological impact be mitigated: What habitat mapping, species surveys, and ongoing monitoring will there be?
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## **Conclusion**

I urge this Inquiry to give full weight to the voices of local people like me, whose lives depend on clean water, air, healthy soils, and thriving ecosystems. The decision to permit EfW facilities in this region should only be made if there is clear, independently verified evidence that there will be no unacceptable harm to human health, agriculture, environment, or the tourist economy. We must not risk long-term damage for short-term gain.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours sincerely,

Phone:

Email: