

Submission  
No 838

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 22 October 2025

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Partially  
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# Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy-from-Waste (EfW) Facilities (2025)

## Submitted by:

Resident of Trundle 2875

Date: 12 October 2025

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## Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facilities under the 2025 Terms of Reference.

I am a long-time resident of Trundle, in the Parkes shire. I married and raised my children here, and they all live and work within a 2-hour radius of Trundle. We have a farm and a local business.

I am deeply concerned about the potential environmental and health impacts associated with EfW incineration projects proposed or operating in Australia. While the concept of waste-to-energy is often promoted as a sustainable solution, there are significant and unresolved risks that must be carefully considered before further approvals or expansions are granted.

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## 1. Potential Harm to Human Health

EfW incinerators emit a range of toxic substances, including **dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter (PM2.5)**. These pollutants are known to have serious health implications, including respiratory diseases, cardiovascular issues, developmental disorders, and increased cancer risk.

Communities living near EfW facilities are particularly vulnerable, as toxic emissions can travel long distances through air currents and settle on land and water sources. Despite claims of “safe” emission levels, there is **no proven safe threshold** for many of these toxins, especially when exposure is continuous and cumulative over years.

I urge the Inquiry to prioritise public health and demand **independent, long-term health monitoring** for any existing or proposed EfW sites.

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## 2. Air, Water, and Soil Pollution

Incineration is not a clean process. Burning waste releases a complex mix of pollutants that disperse into the air, eventually contaminating soil and waterways. When rainfall occurs, airborne particulates can leach into local catchments, threatening both surface and groundwater quality.

This contamination poses a direct risk to agricultural areas, local food systems, and ecosystems that rely on clean air and water. The accumulation of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants in soil can have lasting impacts that are difficult, if not impossible, to reverse.

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### 3. Toxic Incinerator Ash

EfW facilities generate large quantities of toxic ash—both bottom ash and fly ash—which contain concentrated levels of heavy metals, dioxins, and other hazardous substances. Managing this waste is an ongoing challenge.

Despite being marketed as an energy recovery process, EfW simply transforms one waste stream into another—an even more toxic and concentrated by-product that must be carefully handled and disposed of. Improper storage or disposal of this ash risks leaching contaminants into soil and groundwater, creating long-term environmental liabilities for future generations.

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### 4. Insufficient Research on Agricultural and Ecological Impacts

There has been **inadequate independent research** on how EfW emissions and by-products will affect agriculture, livestock, and native fauna in Australian conditions. Given the proximity of some proposed facilities to farmland and sensitive ecosystems, this lack of data is deeply concerning.

Airborne pollutants can settle on crops and pasture, entering the food chain through livestock and affecting both animal and human health. Similarly, native wildlife may be exposed through contaminated water sources or vegetation. The cumulative and long-term effects of such exposure remain poorly understood.

I call on the Inquiry to recommend a moratorium on new EfW developments until comprehensive, independent environmental and agricultural impact studies have been conducted and publicly released.

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### Conclusion

While reducing landfill waste is an important goal, the **EfW model presents serious risks** that could undermine human health, agricultural productivity, and environmental integrity. True sustainability lies in **waste reduction, reuse, and recycling**, not in burning waste and dispersing toxic by-products into our communities and ecosystems.

I respectfully urge the Committee to take these concerns into account and to recommend stronger regulatory oversight, independent monitoring, and a

precautionary approach to any future EfW projects in Australia. I however will remain opposed to the construction of any EfW within NSW.

**Sincerely,**

Phone:

Email: