

Submission  
No 871

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 28 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

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

From: – Parkes, NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy-from-Waste (EfW).

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am an aged pensioner living in Parkes. I moved here in 1974, and several of my family members also reside in the area. I previously owned a handicraft business in Parkes for three years and later graduated as a mature-age student in 2003 with a **Bachelor of Social Science (Social Welfare)**.

Over the years, I have been deeply involved in our local community. I am currently a **Parkes Future Alliance** community member and volunteer with the **Parkes Neighbourhood Centre**, assisting aged-care clients and providing quality-control support. I have also contributed many hours to **Middleton Public School**, **Parkes High School** youth programs, the **Vietnam Veterans group**, **Women's Domestic Violence Support**, and **St Vincent de Paul**, where I served as President and occasionally assisted in the welfare section.

These experiences have given me a broad understanding of the social, health, legal, and welfare challenges faced by people of all ages in our community.

I strongly oppose the proposed **Energy-from-Waste incineration project at the Parkes Special Activation Precinct**. These facilities emit toxic chemicals known to harm human health, food, water, the environment, flora, and fauna. Parkes is a strong agricultural and family-oriented community that depends on clean air, water, and healthy soil, all of which are put at risk by this project.

The **Parkes Energy Recovery Project**, **Parkes Shire Council**, and the **NSW Government** have failed to properly consult with the public and local businesses from the beginning. In 2020, confidential contracts were made without notifying residents about the serious dangers associated with incineration emissions. Since then, there has been a lack of transparency, and legitimate safety questions remain unanswered. Public “information sessions” were only held after the community became aware of the proposal in April, and even then, many questions were avoided or dismissed.

**Government greenwashing around incineration has been going on for many years.** This is evident in the **Hansard record of the NSW Legislative Council**, which shows a consistent pattern of misleading claims about Energy-from-Waste as being “clean” and “renewable,” despite mounting scientific evidence to the contrary.

(Reference: [NSW Parliament Hansard, Legislative Council, Doc ID HANSARD-1820781676-5048](#))

The **Central West** region already has high rates of cancer and other health conditions, making it unacceptable to expose residents to further risk. Safe, healthy food and clean water cannot be guaranteed near an incinerator due to the potential for chemical contamination.

Council and project proponents have promoted the incinerator as bringing jobs, cheaper energy, new housing, and population growth, but these claims are misleading. The **Parkes Clean Future Alliance (PCFA)** survey shows that many residents would leave Parkes if the project proceeds. Any jobs created would largely be for specialist workers, not locals, and the energy produced would only serve businesses within the SAP, not the wider community.

Waste-to-energy incineration has been **banned in the ACT** and **restricted in seven NSW regions** due to serious health and safety risks. Yet rural communities such as Parkes, Tarago, Lithgow, and Richmond Valley have been unfairly targeted, this is **environmental and social discrimination**.

Responsible community groups, including the **Parkes Clean Future Alliance**, have undertaken comprehensive research into the environmental, health, and safety issues associated with incineration. Findings shared during the **Zero Waste Asia webinar (August 2025)** and local information sessions attended by over 600 people, including councillors, clearly demonstrate the unacceptable risks. Despite this, Parkes Shire Council has failed to support its own residents, with some representatives falsely claiming that

due diligence and adequate research had been completed. A simple online search into incineration safety contradicts those claims.

Further concerns arise from the **report by Dr Ali Abbas**, dated **2 April 2025**, provided to the Hon Penny Sharpe. His report, summarising “newest international practice standards and controls,” states that:

1. Current NSW limits are *stringent compared to others* and that “*there are currently no updates to EU or US practice standards and controls for EfW facilities.*”
2. He **suggests flexibility** in amendments to emission monitoring by allowing **averaging** to lower costs for the waste industry, in consultation with the **EPA, NSW Health**, government agencies, and industry representatives.
3. He proposes the use of “**measurements of uncertainty**” in compliance assessments of emissions.
4. He recommends **Techno-Economic Analysis (TEA)** to meet emission standards.

These points indicate a concerning shift toward prioritising industry cost-saving over public health protection. **Dr Abbas has connections to the waste industry** and appears to be more aligned with industry interests than with independent **Health and Safety regulation**.

Environmental campaigner **Jane Bremmer** has also highlighted that the **Western Australian Government** has been silent on any new EfW information and that **bottom ash from WA incinerators is exported to the UK** for metal recovery. This practice risks **marine pollution**, as containers carrying hazardous ash have been known to **fall into the sea**, causing potential ocean contamination.

It is deeply concerning that foreign investors appear to be influencing this waste project while common sense, community safety, and human rights are being disregarded in the pursuit of government income. Rural communities deserve the same level of protection, transparency, and respect as metropolitan areas.

For the health, safety, and future of Parkes and surrounding communities, **I urge the Inquiry to recommend that this project not proceed**. The risks to human health, agriculture, and the environment are too great, and no amount of economic justification can outweigh the need to protect our people and land.

Finally, I strongly recommend that the NSW Government **impose an immediate moratorium on all planning and approvals** for EfW projects **until it formally responds to this Parliamentary Inquiry** and addresses the serious concerns raised by communities, scientists, and health professionals.

**Sincerely**