

**Submission
No 873**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Brandon Tago

Date Received: 28 October 2025

Brandon Tago
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in Parkes. Although I have lived in Parkes for the past 10 years, this community has become my home and my partner and our four children are my entire life. Everything I do is for them and the future we're trying to build here. That's why this proposal fills me with fear, anger, and heartbreak.

My partner is a mental health worker and a lifelong resident of Parkes. Together, we are raising four children who all suffer from asthma. Even minor changes in air quality can cause serious breathing problems for them. The idea of an industrial incinerator releasing toxic emissions near our home is terrifying. Their young lungs simply cannot take that risk.

We also help care for my partner's 84-year-old grandmother, who has serious respiratory and heart illnesses. Her health is already fragile, and even a small increase in air pollution could take away her comfort and safety, or worse, her life.

My partner's family has deep roots in this region. Her mother and brother own farming properties just kilometres from the proposed site. They have invested their lives into this land, land that relies on clean water, air, and soil. If those are compromised, everything they've built will be at risk. My brother-in-law's partner also runs a small retail business in town, dependent entirely on local customers. If people start leaving Parkes because of health fears or falling property values, local businesses like hers will collapse.

This proposal doesn't just threaten our family, it threatens the future of Parkes itself. The Parkes Activation Precinct was meant to attract new industries and jobs, but who will want to invest beside a waste incinerator? No company will risk the safety of its staff or its reputation by locating next to a facility that burns waste. Businesses will stay away, jobs will disappear, and the economic vision for this region will fail.

As my partner sees every day in her work as a mental health professional, this proposal is already taking a serious toll on the wellbeing of local residents. People feel anxious, powerless, and unheard. The emotional strain of seeing your home and future put at risk by something you can't control is immense.

There has also been a lack of genuine consultation with the Wiradjuri Traditional Custodians of this land. It is unclear whether the Parkes Aboriginal Consultative Committee or Local Aboriginal Land Council have been properly engaged in this process, which is deeply concerning and disrespectful.

And I must ask — why here?

Would a facility like this ever be approved in a Sydney suburb, near schools, farms, and family homes? Of course not. So why is it acceptable in Parkes? Why are our lives treated as if they matter less just because we live in regional Australia? I am not sure why my life or the lives of my partner, our children, and our neighbours are considered of less value to the government now that we live in Parkes instead of Sydney.

It's also important to point out that waste incineration is the worst possible outcome for Australia's residual waste. Modern waste management has already moved beyond this outdated

and dangerous technology. With proper pre-treatment, better collection systems, and stronger source separation, far more materials can be recovered and recycled. Countries with zero waste policies are already proving that these methods work, they are safer, cleaner, and far more sustainable.

It is both cheaper and more effective to improve waste collection and sorting systems than to build large-scale incinerators that lock communities into decades of environmental and financial risk. There are already proven alternatives such as aerobic composting, anaerobic digestion, and Black Soldier Fly processing all of which recover resources, reduce emissions, and create economic value without endangering people's health.

For the sake of my family, our community, and future generations, I am pleading with you to reject this proposal. Parkes deserves clean air, safe water, healthy soil, and a future built on sustainable, responsible technologies — not on burning waste and risking lives.

Sincerely,