

**Submission
No 880**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Miss Bridie Lacey

Date Received: 29 October 2025

My name is Bridie Lacey, and I am 19, having lived in Parkes my entire life, and I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Energy-from-Waste in our town.

I have grown up helping rehabilitate native wildlife, and it has been an important part of my life. My mother has spent years rehabilitating injured animals in our community, and I have learned from her the value and responsibility of caring for our native species. Introducing an Energy-from-Waste facility here would directly undermine that work and threaten the very wildlife we strive to protect. Our native animals are already struggling due to bushfires, loss of habitat, predation by feral animals, vehicle strikes, and other human impacts. The addition of PFAS, dioxins, and other persistent forever chemicals from the proposed plant would further harm their health and habitats. This is not a risk we need to impose on our native wildlife.

Parkes, as well as a habitat to many native species, is also a farming town, and I know many local farmers (emerging and experienced) personally. The risks posed by contamination from this facility through air, soil, and water would directly affect their farms, crops, and livestock. The consequences for these families would be severe; their entire way of life is jeopardised, and the futures of young people wanting to pursue agriculture in this region are at risk. This is not just an environmental issue; it is also a community issue that affects the well-being of everyone living here, especially young people whose futures and health are at risk.

It is also deeply unfair that Sydney's waste would be transported and dealt with in a small regional community like ours. If this type of facility is considered unsafe for a major city, then it is equally unsafe for Parkes. The community should not be treated as a dumping ground for hazardous waste simply because we are smaller and more remote. The health risks are equal to those in Sydney; just because there are fewer of us here does not mean our health matters any less. However, that is the message that is coming across at the moment.

Energy-from-Waste has been marketed as a "clean and green" solution, but the reality is very different. It is not sustainable, and it produces harmful emissions that threaten human and environmental health. It also removes the pressure to implement zero-waste measures that address the root of the cause. Where is the pressure to reduce the amount of waste being made if it can just be burned, and why would they when they need to feed this billion-dollar project? Native wildlife already suffers because of pollution; if we remove the need to get rid of it, then our wildlife will continue to suffer. Instead, we should focus on zero-waste strategies that prevent waste from being produced in the first place, particularly by holding packaging companies accountable for the amount of single-use waste they produce. Expanding local recycling, composting, and other waste reduction programs are far safer and more responsible ways to manage waste.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the proposed Energy-from-Waste facility in Parkes. It would harm wildlife, agriculture, public health, and the integrity of our community. Parkes deserves safe, sustainable, and responsible development that protects people, animals, and the environment, not a hazardous facility that threatens all of these.

I call on the NSW government to place an immediate pause on all Energy-from-Waste project planning and approvals until it has officially responded to this parliamentary inquiry and thoroughly considered the serious issues raised by local communities, scientists, and health professionals.

Bridie Lacey