

Submission  
No 883

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 29 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

## **Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy from Waste (EFW)**

My name is. I have lived in Parkes and the surrounding district for more than 60 years.

I worked for an energy provider prior to starting our family and then tertiary education provider before retiring several years ago.

Our family have owned and operated mixed farming properties within a 20km radius east and west of Parkes. My father ran a successful farming enterprise cropping wheat, barley, canola and oats and breeding livestock sheep (meat & wool) and cattle (meat).

I am concerned about the long-term impact the proposed Energy From Waste (EFW) project will have on the health and the future of Parkes and the regional area. I welcome this Parliamentary Inquiry into proposed EFW facilities in Regional NSW, Parkes.

I attended the community event where over 650 people attended, the majority being extremely concerned about the lack of information and community consultation regarding the EFW incineration facility proposed for the town. In fact, many do not even know the exact location of the proposed EFW within the Special Activation Precinct (SAP).

I question the idea of transporting of 600,000 tonnes of Sydneys red bin waste over 500km by rail to Parkes adding unnecessary transport safety risks due to distance, possible leaks and increased emissions. I understand that the principles of managing waste is to do so as close as possible to where it is generated. It has been said that there is nothing stopping the amount doubling and then include commercial waste also, coming by both road and rail from Melbourne and Sydney. We do not want to be burdened with Sydney's bin waste and associated environmental, health and economic risks.

No one will want to live in Parkes, our real estate and property values will suffer. My son has just sold his rental property here in Parkes choosing now to permanently live in Orange and we too are looking to relocate if this incinerator goes ahead. We currently reside and own several residential blocks in town and have experienced firsthand the difficulties of having a scrap metal salvage company operating nearby in a residential area and the associated noise, soil contamination, vermin, dust, particle emissions pertaining to health and safety risks. The decision to stay or relocate should this facility go ahead has mental health impacts on us and many others in the community. Parkes already has problems attracting general practitioners, medical and teaching staff. Residents are required to travel more than 100km to Dubbo and Orange for specialist care. The proposed facility will be detrimental to attracting expertise with many not willing to come to Parkes due to health risks to their family.

I query the waste to energy benefits as there will be no benefit to residents only to industry that is prepared to set up alongside a facility that is emitting particles that include dioxins, furans and PFAS. "Burden of Truth" is a fictional television legal drama series investigating toxic waste buried under a sporting field which came to light after girls started falling ill and exhibiting unexplained neurological seizures years later. There are many parallels portrayed in this series as health and legal repercussions may not be known for many years to come. In fact, the Parkes Christian School is located only 5km away from proposed facility. How can the proponents of this incinerator ensure strict regulation and monitoring of this facility, and I query the ability of the EPA to prevent any contamination?

My belief was that the SAP was setup to attract transport and logistic industry due Parkes unique location by road and rail eg motor vehicle yards, freight companies which it has failed to substantially attract. Is it only going to attract similar developments that undermine our health, economy and way of life?

Instead of lazy waste incineration I urge that resources be directed towards recycling and composting programs, waste reduction initiatives and community education and to invest in alternative approaches to re-use and repurpose materials instead of burning. We should not be forced to accept hazards that metropolitan residents would not tolerate.

We want to maintain our clean air, water and soil and have a sustainable future for our residents and agricultural community. We want to maintain our iconic town known for The Dish and the Parkes Elvis festival and not be bypassed due to Sydney's dumping ground. We want our voices to be heard.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposed EFW and this submission is to share my concerns.

I would like to refrain from giving evidence at a hearing and request my name is kept confidential.

I respectfully request a written response addressing my concerns.

Kind regards