

Submission
No 898

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 29 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Proposed Energy from Waste Facilities in Regional NSW

Submitted by: _____, Retired Emergency Services Officer, Farmer, Coach of a Forbes sporting club

Location: Central West NSW (near Parkes and Forbes)

Terms of Reference Addressed: (d), (e), (f), (i), and (j)

Request to Give Evidence at Hearing: No

1. Introduction

I am a retired emergency services officer, farmer, and coach of a local sporting club. My wife & I relocated to the Central West to enjoy semi-retirement on a small farm and I also spend significant time on the waterways of Forbes and Parkes.

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed Energy from Waste facility in Parkes.

2. Environmental and Health Concerns

As someone who regularly engages with the Lachlan River system, I am deeply concerned about the potential contamination of our waterways. The risk to rainwater harvesting, soil health, and air quality from emissions such as dioxins and fine particles is unacceptable. These pollutants pose long-term health risks to residents and threaten the ecological integrity of our region.

The proposed facility is surrounded by many farms and homes reliant on tank water. Any contamination—real or perceived—could devastate local agriculture and erode trust in our clean food supply as well as threaten the health of local families.

3. Impact on Lifestyle and Community

The Central West offers a peaceful, rural lifestyle that attracts families, retirees, and tourists. This facility threatens that way of life. The mental health impact of living near a high-risk industrial site, coupled with concerns about noise, smell, and vermin, cannot be ignored.

As a coach of a community sports club, I see firsthand how our waterways foster connection, wellbeing, and pride. The facility may jeopardise these shared spaces and the community spirit they support.

4. Equity and Governance

It is deeply troubling to me that thermal Energy from Waste is prohibited in most of NSW due to health risks, yet Parkes is excluded from these protections. Regional communities should not be burdened with Sydney's waste and I feel this proposal reflects a lack of equity and transparency in infrastructure planning.

The consultation process also appears to have been inadequate. Decisions of this magnitude require genuine collaboration with affected communities—not tokenistic gestures.

5. Alternative Solutions

Rather than locking Parkes into long-term waste contracts, the government should invest in waste avoidance, reuse, and recycling initiatives. Cold Energy from Waste technologies and circular economy models may also offer safer, more sustainable alternatives.

6. Closing Statement

I respectfully urge the committee to reject the proposed Parkes Energy from Waste facility. Our region deserves clean air, safe water, and industries that enhance—not endanger—our way of life.

Let us lead with innovation and integrity, not incineration.

Yours sincerely

References

Incinerator Dangers – NSW Planning Portal How Waste-to-Energy Incinerators Work in Australia – University of Sydney New Report on Waste-to-Energy Incineration – Toxics Free Australia Parkes Clean Future Alliance Waste-to-Energy in Australia – The Conversation