

Submission
No 899

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is _____, and I am a 31-year-old resident of Nelungaloo, living on our family farm located within 10 kilometres of the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility in Parkes, NSW. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed (EfW) facility development.

My partner and I are raising two young children on our farm, and their health, safety, and future are my highest priorities. I am also an asthmatic, and I have serious concerns about how increased air pollution and fine particulate emissions from an incinerator could affect not only my own health but also that of my family and others in the community. The risk of toxic emissions, air pollution, and contamination of water and soil poses a direct threat to our wellbeing and to the long-term sustainability of this region.

Furthermore, baseline environmental testing must be conducted for all residents before any development proceeds. Without clear data on current air quality, soil, and water conditions, it will be impossible to measure the incinerator's true impact or ensure accountability if pollution levels rise. This testing is a necessary safeguard to protect our community's health and livelihoods.

Our farm at Nelungaloo is a mixed operation running sheep, cattle, and cropping, and I also own a second property east of Condobolin, where we operate an irrigated beef breeding enterprise. Farming is not just my job it is my life. I work seven days a week and truly live for it. I cannot imagine doing anything else. The land, our animals, and the community around us mean everything to me. Any decline in air quality or contamination of the environment would have serious consequences for our livestock, crops, and livelihood, threatening not only my business but the very way of life that generations of farming families have built here.

As a farmer, I am required to comply with strict environmental and biosecurity legislation governing land use, animal welfare, and water management. These rules exist to protect the environment and the community and I fully support that. However, I find it deeply unfair that a waste incinerator, which poses far greater environmental and health risks, appears to be facing less scrutiny and regulation. Why are local farmers held to the highest environmental standards, while large industrial operators seem to have exemptions or looser conditions? The double standard is unacceptable.

Beyond my farms, I also own a retail business in Parkes, and I am proud to contribute to the local economy. However, this project threatens to damage Parkes' reputation as a clean, progressive regional centre. Fears of pollution, odour, and environmental harm will drive away investment, reduce tourism, and lower property values not only for me but for the entire district.

My family has deep roots in this region my parents, siblings, and in-laws all live locally and are a huge part of our lives. They help us raise our children, support our farms, and contribute to our local businesses. We are also actively involved in community groups and local sport, which are central to life in Parkes. These activities bring families together, build resilience, and create a strong sense of belonging. If this incinerator goes ahead, I will have to seriously consider leaving the area to protect my family's health and future. But how am I supposed to manage without my family's support and without the community we are proud to be part of? They are my backbone emotionally, practically, and financially. If we are forced to move, who will help us? Who will compensate families like mine if our homes, farms, and businesses lose their value? How will we afford to relocate if our livelihoods are destroyed and our community is torn apart?

I am also deeply concerned about the strain this project will place on local healthcare. The medical facilities in Parkes are already under-resourced, and residents often have to travel long distances for adequate treatment. If pollution from this facility increases respiratory and other health issues, our health system will not cope. The resulting financial burden from medical costs, lost work time, and travel expenses will fall entirely on local families.

To make matters worse, I only recently learned about this project, despite living so close to the proposed site. I find it shocking and unacceptable that something with such major health and environmental consequences could progress this far without the community being properly informed or consulted. How can residents like myself make informed decisions about our future when we aren't even told about an industrial development of this scale practically on our doorstep?

For all these reasons, I strongly urge decision-makers to reject this proposal. Instead, I encourage investment in safe, sustainable waste management alternatives such as recycling, composting, and circular economy initiatives that create real local jobs without compromising public health, the environment, or our agricultural future.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission. I ask that you listen to the concerns of local residents, families, farmers, and business owners who want to see Parkes and its surrounding districts grow in a way that protects our people, our land, and our future.

Yours sincerely,