

Submission
No 914

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
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Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Energy from Waste (EfW) Technology – 2025

Submitted by:

Resident of St Ives, Sydney NSW

28 October 2025

Introduction

My late husband's family has farmed in the Central West, near Parkes, for many generations. Over the years, we have visited them often — through bumper seasons, devastating droughts, floods, weddings, births, and losses. Through it all, I have witnessed first-hand the immense pride, dedication, and stewardship that farmers in this region show toward their land and their role in feeding our country.

It is this deep connection to the region and understanding of the farming way of life that compels me to make this submission opposing the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator near Parkes.

Impact on Farming and Rural Communities

The Parkes region and the surrounding Central West form part of one of the major food bowls of New South Wales. Farmers here work tirelessly to maintain soil health, water quality, and biodiversity — not only for their own livelihoods but for future generations.

The proposed EfW incinerator threatens to undo decades of care and investment in the land. The risk of contamination to air, soil, and water from toxic emissions such as **dioxins, furans, PFAS, and persistent organic pollutants (POPs)** cannot be overstated. Overseas examples have shown clear links between EfW facilities and **food contamination**, as well as **poorer health outcomes** for nearby populations.

To situate such a facility in an area responsible for producing a significant portion of our fresh food supply is deeply irresponsible and short-sighted.

Transport and Environmental Risk

The plan to transport Sydney's waste hundreds of kilometres to Parkes is both **economically and environmentally unsound**. The carbon footprint from transporting waste such a vast distance completely undermines any claimed environmental benefits of the project.

Furthermore, there is a serious risk of **leakage, spills, or accidents** during transit. Waste transportation on this scale increases the potential for environmental contamination long before it even reaches the incinerator site.

Health, Safety, and Environmental Concerns

Communities in regional NSW have the same right to clean air, safe water, and a healthy environment as those in metropolitan areas. Yet, the placement of this incinerator near Parkes suggests that **regional people are being asked to bear the environmental and health burdens of Sydney's waste problem**.

Contaminants released from EfW incineration — even at low levels — are known to accumulate in the food chain, posing long-term health risks to humans and animals alike. Once released, these substances are **impossible to fully remove from the environment**.

Unanswered Questions and Long-Term Risks

One of the most pressing concerns is **what happens to the ash** produced by EfW incineration. I understand that this ash is classified as **hazardous waste** and cannot be safely reused or easily disposed of. How will it be contained, and where will it go? If the goal is to solve a waste problem, why replace it with an even more toxic one?

This approach is not a solution — it is simply **moving Sydney's waste problem onto the shoulders of rural communities**, creating further environmental and health risks in the process.

A Call for Smarter Waste Solutions

Instead of burning waste and releasing pollutants into the environment, NSW should be investing in **true circular economy solutions** — improving recycling

systems, supporting waste reduction at the source, and developing sustainable alternatives.

Incineration is not innovation; it is destruction disguised as progress. The health of our regional communities, the safety of our food systems, and the integrity of our environment must not be sacrificed for the convenience of metropolitan waste management.

Conclusion

The Central West and Parkes region are home to hardworking, proud Australians who have cared for this land for generations. They should not be made to suffer the consequences of an ill-conceived proposal that threatens the very air, water, and soil that sustain us all.

I urge the Inquiry to reject the proposal to build an Energy from Waste incinerator near Parkes and to direct its focus toward cleaner, safer, and fairer waste solutions that protect both urban and rural communities alike.

I request that all planning and approvals for this proposed project be put on hold until the NSW govt replies to the Inquiry.

I request that the Australian Electoral Commission puts it to a vote for regional NSW, just like they did in South Australia for the proposed radioactive waste facility.

Respectfully submitted,

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