

Submission
No 922

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mrs Emma Brown

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

Energy from Waste Parliamentary Inquiry Submission

My name is Emma Brown and I am a lifelong resident of Parkes. I have grown up, went to school, worked, married, and now raise children in this wonderful town. Parkes has been home to my family since 1980 and I have dedicated a great deal of my adult life caring for the Parkes community in a variety of ways both professionally, working in support services, in public libraries and schools and as a volunteer, running a youth centre in early adulthood and in various volunteering roles throughout adulthood.

Fourteen years ago, my husband moved from Sydney to Parkes to marry me because he believed Parkes would offer a much healthier lifestyle in which to raise a family.

We are raising our children, aged 11 and 9, on a small hobby farm with a dam, bore water and only rainwater for drinking and washing. We rely completely on clean air and soil for potable water safety on our property.

My husband and I both work at Parkes Christian School

. The school is located within 5 kilometres of the proposed Energy from Waste facility site.

As a friend and colleague to many farmers and food growers around Parkes, I am greatly concerned about the long-term environmental impacts this facility could have for the air and soil quality in Parkes. The 2024 Waste Incineration Policy Position Statement states that the new incinerators should be located away from areas of food production. As our town is a major food producer in NSW, the risk of contamination of food products as a result of potentially harmful emissions from this facility is too great.

As an employee of Parkes Christian School, I am concerned about my place of employment being in such close proximity to the facility and the effect that potentially harmful emissions from the facility would have on air quality at the school for students and staff. The school is growing rapidly and I am concerned that if this facility goes ahead, this will have a negative effect on student and staff wellbeing, as well as turn families away from enrolling their children in the school, or indeed from moving to Parkes in the first place.

As a lifelong resident, I am shocked by the lack of concern for the Parkes Shire's over 14,000 residents whose health, wellbeing, businesses, agricultural output, water quality and home values will be negatively affected by the establishment and long-term operation of this proposed facility. There is far too much at stake in our happy and thriving community to have it gambled away in favour of a waste incinerator to deal with Sydney's waste. We do not consent to our health being sacrificed so Sydney's waste problems can be out of sight and out of mind.

There are alternatives. My humble submission to the NSW Government is that they find one and reject this proposal for Parkes.