

Submission  
No 926

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 30 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

**Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the proposed Energy-from-Waste Facilities in Regional New South Wales**

Submitted by:

Role: Concerned resident

Submission Type: Individual Submission

Date: 30th October, 2025

Contact details available on request.

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns regarding the proposed Energy from Waste Facility in my home town of Parkes. I am proud to be a 4<sup>th</sup> generation resident of Parkes. Two of my three sons are raising their families in Parkes. I am grateful for this opportunity for our voices to be heard. I have read the terms of reference and will attempt to relate my concerns to the specific categories they relate to.

a.) I believe we should be moving away from the use of EfW incinerators as other countries appear to be doing. These facilities have a massive carbon footprint. It seems to me that this is completely at odds with the Governments commitment to net zero emissions? This is compounded by the impact of transporting 600,000 tonnes of rubbish over 400kms from the source. The economic and environmental impact of this alone seems ludicrous.

b.) Emissions – I have deep concerns mostly for the younger members of our community for the adverse effects of emissions. Our younger generation deserve the opportunity to raise their children without the risk or even perceived risk of emissions of pollutants such as dioxins, heavy metals and particulate matter that are released from EfW incinerators. I personally know of young Parkes residents who were planning to return to Parkes to start a family but are now rethinking this move as they are not prepared to take the risk of exposing their children to the health risks of emissions from an EfW incinerator should it go ahead in Parkes.

I am sure there would be many other families who will either leave Parkes or choose not to move to Parkes or neighbouring towns because of the risks of contamination to our air and soil.

As to the concept of myself and my family relocating from Parkes I am concerned that the value of our properties will be decreased significantly if this proposal was to proceed. This would potentially leave us unable to afford to relocate elsewhere.

c.) I have heard the claims that newer waste incinerators run more cleanly and with less environmental impact. Nevertheless pollutants are still produced and regular servicing is required to maintain emission levels. Despite technological advancements, impacts from waste incinerators remain a concern for the communities where they are being built.

Adverse health outcomes near waste incinerators including cancers and reproductive dysfunction, have been demonstrated in primary studies. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that newer technologies are safe.

d.) We and a large number of other Parkes residents rely on rainwater tanks for our water supply. I am deeply concerned at the risk airborne emissions landing on our roofs would have on our water supply.

Further on the subject of water Parkes is located in a heavily drought affected area. I understand large quantities of water are required for the running of an EfW incinerator. Where will this water be derived in times of drought when we are all subject to water restrictions?

e.) The farming industry is the backbone of our community and I am deeply concerned for them and the impact this incinerator would have on them and their livelihoods. I was brought up with the knowledge that we all depend on the farmers and I have the greatest respect for them and the work they do. This proposal has been devastating for them.

f.) EfW facilities have been banned in all areas of NSW because of the risks including risks to human health and the environment. I have to question as many others are, why exemptions have been made at a few locations including Parkes. If this technology is not safe enough to put near Sydney in close proximity to the waste then why is it safe to be put near us? I am hopeful that this decision is not made on the basis of the risk per head of population being lower for our small community!

g.) I am greatly concerned with the disposal of the toxic bottom ash which I believe is the by-product of these facilities. I asked the question of how this bottom ash will be disposed at the information day at Parkes but nobody was able to answer this?

i.) I believe we should be moving towards a circular economy. I think there should be more pressure on manufacturers to find alternatives to plastic packaging. Government should be encouraging plastic recycling facilities such as SPEC at Taree. Burning plastic seems to be an antiquated and dangerous avenue for us to be going down.

j.) The community consultation with regard to this proposal was abysmal. I like many of the community felt blindsided by this proposal.

Living in a small rural community our access to many services is very limited.

We have a huge shortage of Doctors and limited medical services available at our hospitals (no maternity unit and very limited surgical procedures). We have to travel to a larger centre for treatment for any significant medical issues including psychological services. I am concerned that this may be impacted further if our town is subjected to the adverse effects of living with an EfW facility in our backyard.

There are no universities here forcing many of our children to move away from home to access further education.

There are very limited entertainment facilities, no movie theatres, bowling alleys or the like.

In spite of all this we feel lucky to live in a clean, safe environment. I am gravely concerned for the impact this proposal would have on our community.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and good luck with your inquiry.