

**Submission
No 929**

INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

Name: Mr Albert Wykes

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

Submitted by: Albert Wykes

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G'day. My name is Albert Wykes and I'm a proud primary producer, shearer and fencing contractor of Trundle NSW, within the Parkes Shire area.

Along with my parents and two siblings, I've spent my life working on and caring for the land and it's shaped me who I am today. Farming isn't just my job, it's my way of life. I take great pride in growing crops and raising healthy sheep, looking after the land so it can continue to provide for us and future generations. That's why I strongly **oppose** the proposal for the Energy from Waste Incinerator. I believe it threatens the health of our environment, our farms, and the wellbeing of our community.

My wife and I were married just last year, and we're now getting ready to welcome our first child — Baby Wykes — in May 2026. I want my children to grow up surrounded by clean air, safe water, and thriving soil and farmland — not pollution and uncertainty. This is about protecting the place we call home, not just for us, but for everyone who comes after. If it's not fit for the city area, why is it fit for our rural homes?

Reasons of Opposition:

Health and Safety of Our Community

The health and safety of our community must always come first. No matter how “modern” the technology claims to be, incinerators still release pollutants — dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particulate matter — that can cause serious health problems like respiratory illness, heart disease, and even cancer over time. These particles don't just disappear; they travel through the air and settle on our soil, water, and vegetation.

Here in our rural community, many families rely on rainwater tanks, home-grown produce, and spending time outdoors. That means we're even more exposed to the risks these pollutants bring. Contaminated air and water don't just harm the environment — they threaten the health of our residents, especially our children, elderly, and those already living with health issues. We shouldn't have to trade our health or our way of life for an industrial project that gives us nothing in return.

Protecting Our Farms and Food

Our farming land is one of our greatest strengths — we produce clean, safe, and high-quality food and fibre that our country depends on. Building an energy-from-waste incinerator here puts that at risk.

Ash and emissions from the incineration process can drift onto farmland, contaminating soil, pasture, and water sources. Even the *perception* of pollution can damage our reputation. Consumers today want to know their food comes from a clean, sustainable environment — and any link to contamination could undermine the trust we've worked generations to build.

Healthy farming relies on healthy ecosystems — clean air, pure water, and fertile soil. Once those are damaged, productivity and biodiversity decline. It takes decades to build resilient land, but only one poor decision to destroy it.

Economic and Property Impacts

While the company behind this proposal talks about economic benefits, the reality is that the long-term financial risks to locals are much greater. Property values often drop near industrial waste facilities because of concerns about odour, emissions, and visual impacts. This affects not only homeowners but also farming families who've invested their lives into their land.

Tourism and small businesses — both vital parts of our regional economy — could also suffer. Who wants to visit or invest in a place associated with pollution and waste? And when problems arise, it's often local councils and taxpayers left to cover the costs of monitoring, health impacts, or cleanup — not the corporations that profit from the project.

Standing Up for Regional Fairness

Too often, regional communities like ours are treated as the easy option — somewhere to put facilities that city councils don't want in their own backyards. This proposal is another example of that unfairness.

We deserve the same respect and protection as any urban community. Our open landscapes, clean air, and close-knit way of life are not dumping grounds for city waste or risky industrial ventures. Rural Australia isn't a soft target — it's the heart of this country, and it deserves to be valued as such.

Conclusion

For all these reasons — protecting our health, safeguarding our farms, maintaining our economy, and standing up for fairness — I strongly oppose the construction of the energy-from-waste incinerator.

Our future should be built on clean, sustainable practices that protect both our people and our land. This is our home, and we must protect it for our kids and the generations to come.

I look forward to hearing your response and putting a stop to this situation to protect our health, our kids, our farms and our community.

Thankyou,
Albert Wykes