

**Submission  
No 931**

## **INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES**

**Name:** Mrs Shirley Wright

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

Submitted by: Shirley Wright

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Date: 30/10/2025

My name is Shirley Wright, and I am a retired farm wife. My late husband Edward, myself and our two children (now adults) lived and worked in the Goonumbla area of the Parkes Shire, where we ran fat lambs, pigs, chooks, and crops of wheat. I loved the farm life — raising our two children there, caring for our animals, and tending to the land.

Life on the farm was more than just a livelihood — it was a way of life built on respect for the environment, community, and hard work. That's why I feel so strongly and deeply **opposed** to the proposal for an **energy-from-waste incinerator**.

Our **health, our land, and our local economy** are at serious risk if this project goes ahead. We have a responsibility to protect our environment and ensure a safe, sustainable future for our children and grandchildren. I urge decision-makers to listen to the people who live here and understand what is truly at stake.

## **Our Health**

The health of our community must come first. No amount of money is worth risking the health and safety of our community. Waste incinerators release **toxic emissions**, including fine particulates, heavy metals, and dioxins — substances known to cause **respiratory illness, heart disease, cancers, and developmental problems in children**. Rural areas like ours already face challenges with healthcare access; we cannot afford to add new health burdens caused by air and water pollution. Once the air, soil, and groundwater are contaminated, it is almost impossible to reverse the damage.

## **Our Land**

We have spent generations caring for and improving our land. The soil, water, and natural environment are the foundation of farming and local life. An incinerator risks contaminating this through **airborne fallout and ash residues**, which can settle on paddocks, crops, and waterways. That contamination could harm livestock, wildlife, and the ecosystems we depend on. Us farmers take pride in producing clean, healthy food — this proposal threatens the integrity and reputation of the land that provides it.

## **Our Economy**

Our local economy is driven by **agriculture, tourism, and small business**, all of which depend on a clean, safe environment. The presence of an industrial waste incinerator would **devalue property and farmland**, discourage visitors, and deter families from moving to the area. Instead of creating long-term local jobs, such facilities often bring only a handful of temporary positions while leaving behind pollution and loss of livelihood for farmers and local producers. The risks far outweigh any short-term gains.

## **Conclusion**

Our region's strength has always come from the people and the land — from those who care for it, not exploit it. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to **protect our air, water, and soil** so that they, too, can enjoy a healthy, thriving rural community.

I urge decision-makers to listen to the people who live here and understand what is truly at stake. Once our health and land are damaged, there's no going back.

We thank you and look forward to taking a stance on this situation and not letting this proposal go ahead.

Shirley Wright.