

Submission  
No 941

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

# Submission to the NSW Legislative Council Select Committee on Proposed Energy from Waste Facilities

30 October, 2025

I am writing as a resident of Parkes, NSW, to express my strong opposition to the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility within the Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP).

My family — two adults and two children — moved to Parkes four years ago when my husband was recruited from overseas to fill a senior management role at a local business that now employs over 50 people. The position could not be filled locally or elsewhere in Australia. As a lifelong city person, I was hesitant to embrace regional living, but I quickly came to appreciate everything Parkes offers: no long commutes, affordable housing, and accessible family-friendly activities. After receiving permanent residency in late 2023, we purchased a home in Parkes in May 2025, committing to this community long-term.

## Concerns about the Proposed Facility

### 1. Lack of Transparency

The Parkes community was not adequately consulted before the site was selected and the project approved. This has eroded trust in both local council and state government processes.

### 2. Environmental Risks

Chemicals such as PFAS — known as “forever chemicals” — pose serious risks to ecosystems and human health. Parkes is surrounded by agricultural land producing food for human consumption. Contamination of soil and water would have far-reaching consequences.

### 3. Health Uncertainty

The long-term health impacts of living near EfW facilities remain unclear. Until the science is definitive, regional communities should not be used as testing grounds.

### 4. Property Values and Community Stability

As a homeowner, I’m concerned about the financial impact if property values decline. The facility may deter new residents and prompt existing families to leave, weakening the social and economic fabric of Parkes.

### 5. Reputation of the SAP

The SAP was designed to attract clean, innovative industries. A waste incineration facility contradicts this vision and risks redefining Parkes as a dumping ground rather than a destination for growth.

## Conclusion

Sydney's waste problem should be addressed locally. Transporting waste over 500 km to burn it in Parkes is not a solution — it's displacement. If my rubbish bin is full, I don't throw it over the fence into my neighbour's yard. This proposal sends a message that regional communities matter less than urban ones. That's not only hurtful — it's wrong. Parkes contributes to the state through agriculture, mining, and community resilience. Our health and wellbeing matter just as much as those living in Sydney.

I support further research into EfW technology and acknowledge its potential. However, until it is proven safe and sustainable, regional areas should not bear the burden of experimentation.