

Submission
No 952

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Mr Paul Brown
Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

My name is Paul Brown, and I have lived in Parkes for the past fourteen years. I first came here from Sydney after marrying my wife, believing that Parkes would offer us a healthier, more balanced lifestyle and a better environment in which to raise a family. Parkes has provided all that and more, and has become our home in every sense of the word.

Together, my wife and I are raising our two children, aged 11 and 9, on a small hobby farm just outside of town. We rely entirely on clean air, clean water, and healthy soil for our day-to-day living, our drinking and washing water comes solely from rainwater, and we depend on the safety of our local environment for our family's wellbeing.

My wife and I work at Parkes Christian School, . The school sits less than 5 kilometres from the proposed Energy from Waste facility site, and I am deeply concerned about the potential effects such a facility could have on the air quality for our students and staff. The school is growing rapidly and has become an important part of our community. I worry that the presence of this facility could discourage new families from enrolling or even moving to Parkes.

I also have many friends and colleagues in the local farming and food production industries, and I share their concerns about the long-term environmental risks this project poses. The NSW Government's 2024 Waste Incineration Policy Position Statement clearly advises against placing incinerators near areas of food production. Parkes is a significant food-producing region for New South Wales, and any contamination risk, no matter how small, could have devastating consequences for our farmers, their livelihoods, and the town's reputation.

I am an elder of the local Assemblies of God church, and in as much, I can also speak to the overwhelming majority of my congregation who are concerned with the prospect of the Energy from Waste project. I seek not only the wellbeing of my family, but that of the families and elderly that attend my church, as well as all those who live within the Parkes region.

As a husband, father, teacher, and member of the Parkes community, I find it deeply troubling that this proposal is even being considered. The health, wellbeing, and economic future of more than 14,000 residents should not be jeopardised to deal with Sydney's waste problem. We have built a strong, thriving community here, and this project threatens everything that makes Parkes such a good place to live.

There are better and more sustainable waste solutions available. I strongly urge the NSW Government to reject this proposal and seek alternative approaches that do not compromise the health and future of regional communities like ours.

Sincerely,

Paul Brown