

Submission
No 953

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

I am writing as a local resident and parent living in Parkes, New South Wales. I do not support the proposed Energy-from-Waste facility planned for Parkes. My main concern is the unknown and potentially long-term health risks this project could have on our children and future generations. Our community deserves to feel safe about the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil we live and grow food on.

1. Concern for Children's Health and Future

The greatest concern for me is the potential health impact this facility could have on children. The developing lungs and immune systems of young people make them far more vulnerable to air pollutants and toxins. Research from similar facilities overseas has raised concerns about exposure to substances such as dioxins, furans, and heavy metals, even when plants are operated within regulated limits.

These are risks that cannot be easily reversed if something goes wrong. The effects of pollution may take years or decades to appear, meaning our children could pay the price for decisions made today. I cannot support a project that could jeopardize their health and wellbeing for short-term financial gain.

2. Environmental and Agricultural Impact

Parkes is surrounded by farmland and open country. Many families collect and drink rainwater, which could easily become contaminated by particles settling from the air. Any pollution entering our water tanks or food chain could have lasting consequences for both human and animal health.

The farming community also faces potential risks to soil quality, crop safety, and livestock health. Even the perception of contamination could reduce the value of local produce and damage the reputation of our region. Our local economy and identity are tied to the land, and this project could place both at risk.

3. Inequality Between City and Country

It is deeply unfair that facilities of this kind are banned in the Sydney Basin but allowed in regional areas like Parkes. This suggests that the health and safety of regional families are considered less important. Every community in New South Wales deserves equal protection. The same health and environmental standards that apply in the city should also apply in the country.

Regional communities should not be treated as the dumping ground for Sydney's waste simply because we have more open land or fewer people to oppose it. Our children's health should not be traded for convenience or profit.

4. Community Consultation

There has not been clear or widespread consultation with residents about this proposal. Many people only learned about it after major steps had already been taken. Families should not have to fight for information about something that could affect their air, water, and future. Proper community consultation must involve transparency, early engagement, and the ability to influence outcomes — not simply being informed after decisions are made.

5. Sustainable Alternatives

Burning waste is not a sustainable or forward-thinking solution. It sends the wrong message about how we manage our resources and environmental responsibilities. Instead of transporting Sydney's waste hundreds of kilometres to Parkes, efforts should focus on reducing waste at the source, improving recycling systems, and supporting circular economy initiatives that create cleaner and safer jobs for regional communities.

6. Conclusion

I do not support the proposal for an Energy-from-Waste facility in Parkes. The long-term and unknown health risks, particularly for children, are unacceptable. Our community's future should be based on clean, sustainable industries that protect people, the environment, and the wellbeing of future generations.

This project may offer financial benefits in the short term, but the potential cost to health and safety could last for decades. I ask that decision-makers place the wellbeing of children and families at the centre of this process and reject the proposal for the Parkes Energy-from-Waste facility.