

Submission  
No 966

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator planned for Parkes. I believe this facility poses unacceptable health risks to regional communities, the environment and our farming community.

I am a life-long resident of Parkes raising a young family and work in the education field. My spouse works in waste management, and my teenage child has plans to work in the education field. Unfortunately, if the incinerator were to go ahead we would be leaving Parkes over the concerns for our health.

Waste-to-energy (WtE) plants have significant environmental problems with the release of toxic air pollutants, and the creation of hazardous ash. This toxic ash contains harmful chemicals like dioxins and requires careful handling and disposal, which poses a risk of leaking toxins into the environment.

Burning waste is not a sustainable solution because it undermines waste reduction and recycling efforts.

Agriculture is a major industry in Parkes, contributing significantly to the local economy. Parkes is a major centre for broadacre cropping and livestock farming including sheep and cattle. Parkes produces a variety of grains like wheat and canola. If a WtE Incinerator were to be built here it would be damaging to our farming community as the quality of produce could be downgraded due to contamination from the Incinerator. Many farmers in this area, such as some members of my own extended family, have farmed for generations but many say if the incinerator goes ahead there will be no choice but to sell up and leave town.

The lack of community engagement from the proponents, local government and NSW Government has caused much stress as many residents were not aware of the WtE Incinerator proposal until earlier this year. This is not being transparent or fair to the community who will be affected the most.

One also wonders why the WtE Incinerator was rejected in Sydney by the NSW Government due to health and environmental concerns, but four regional precincts have now been burdened with Sydney's waste problem. It begs the question why my children's lives are deemed less worthy than that of the rest of NSW, besides a select few locations of these other precincts. This undermines fairness to regional communities and our basic human rights that all people are entitled to, no matter who we are or where we live.

The most concerning worry is the health of children and future generations who will be left with health problems that were deemed too risky for the metropolitan area but ok for rural areas. As it is, Parkes has had a shortage of Doctors for some time now and this will only increase with expected health issues that the Incinerator will bring.

In my opinion The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are not being upheld by the state government by going ahead with the WtE incinerator. Article 6 states that children have the right to live a full life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily. Article 24 says that children have the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Article 36 also states that children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development. I believe that an Energy from Waste incinerator would be detrimental to children's health, safety and development due to the toxic by-products.

Transporting of waste over 500kms away will only add to Australia's carbon footprint. There is likely to be litter and smell spread across the towns on the rail line. It makes more sense to have an Incinerator located to the source of the waste. I, however, believe that incineration is not the answer to Australia's waste problems, and instead a focus on a reduction of waste should be sought.

Parkes has high temperatures during summer around late 30 and early 40 degrees, this will further increase pollution from rotting garbage with the smell and increase in vermin to our town as the proposed location for the Incinerator is only 5kms from town. We also have a school located close to the proposed Incinerator; I fear for their safety.

Many members of our community are pleading for the State Government to see sense and hold our safety in the same regards to that of the metropolitan areas.

Sincerely,

Concerned Community Member of Parkes