

Submission
No 977

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

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

I am a resident of Parkes Shire and live in a neighbouring community of Parkes. I have lived my whole life here and have raised my three children here as well.

Growing up, I played sport in Parkes every weekend as did my children. My children also attended dance and music lessons and participated in school events in Parkes. I regularly go to Parkes for my grocery shopping and medical appointments. I work full time in the Parkes Shire and have owned a small business here as well.

I object to the proposed Parkes Energy from waste facility and this submission is to share my concerns of the impacts on human health including on regional town drinking water, rainwater harvesting and soil contamination, the spread of the emissions predicted and the quality of emissions to be generated, and the impact on agriculture locally and across the wider region. I am very concerned over not only any short-term impacts, but the long term impacts this will have on residents of Parkes Shire Council, and in particular the young children growing up, studying and living in the area.

An EfW facility in Parkes to combust waste materials, will release pollutants that deposit on land and water surfaces. Long-term exposure to such pollutants will increase risk of respiratory and cardiovascular disease to the residents of Parkes and the surrounding areas. The pollutants on surfaces will enter drinking water and foods grown locally, increasing the risk of neurological or developmental defects, or carcinogenic effects. Unsafe water for drinking or food preparation will increase water treatment costs or reduced suitability for household use of the water supply. Deposition or runoff from the EfW facility can contaminate soil resulting in toxins in locally produced food such as wheat, lamb and beef.

The spread and quality of emissions from an EfW facility are concerning. Airborne pollutants such as dioxins, heavy metals, fine particulates, and acidic gases can disperse over long distances and settle on soil, crops, rooftops, and water sources, risking the contamination to drinking water, rainwater tanks, and locally produced food.

Uncertainty around the accuracy of the model of dispersion, monitoring frequency, and long-term exposure are of great concern for people living in the Parkes Shire who may experience continuous low-level exposure to such pollutants affecting their health and the quality of the local environment.

An Energy-from-Waste (EfW) facility can pose risks to local and regional agriculture due to airborne pollutants such as dioxins, heavy metals, and fine particulates onto soil, pasture, and crops. These contaminants can accumulate in the soil and be absorbed by plants or ingested by livestock, leading to the accumulation of the pollutants in the food chain. In the long term, this may affect the quality and ability to sell local produce, reduce soil quality, and create concern about food contamination. Just the possibility of contaminants can have significant economic impacts across the farming area.

I oppose this proposal and request that alternative waste management solutions are investigated that do not pose a risk to the environment or human health, and do not cause distress to local communities where the proposed facilities are to be located.

Please recommend that the Government reject Energy from Waste incineration, to protect the health and future of Regional NSW and our agriculture industries. Other countries are phasing out thermal energy from waste. Australia should be using that experience, not ignoring it.

Parkes and the surrounding areas deserve sustainable, safe industries and investments, that drive economic growth and value add to our agricultural sector and the community. The Regulation should provide Regional NSW with the same precautionary health protections as Greater Sydney.

Yours sincerely,