

Submission  
No 981

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
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## Select Committee on Proposed Energy from Waste Facilities

Submitted by:

Resident of Forbes

31 October 2025

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a resident of Forbes. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) facility near Parkes. While I understand the need to manage waste responsibly, I do not believe the solution lies in transporting Greater Sydney's rubbish hundreds of kilometres west to be burned in the Central West — a region built on primary production, clean air, and agricultural excellence.

Our region is the backbone of Australia's food supply. We produce clean, high-quality food that supports both domestic and international markets. The perception that produce from areas near waste-burning facilities could be contaminated would have devastating consequences. Farmers in our region work under strict food safety and biosecurity guidelines to ensure their products are safe and free from harmful substances. Yet, if this project goes ahead, the community and the broader market could lose confidence in our produce. Once that reputation is damaged, it will be difficult — if not impossible — to restore.

Proponents of the facility claim that the technology proposed is “state of the art.” However, no system is ever fail-safe. Even the most advanced plants overseas have experienced malfunctions, leaks, and unplanned emissions. In a region where winds easily carry dust and pollen over long distances, even minor pollutant releases could spread widely across farmland and nearby communities. The health implications of exposure to contaminants — even at low levels — are well-documented, ranging from respiratory issues to developmental impacts in children.

This brings me to one of my greatest concerns: the health and wellbeing of local children. The proposed facility would sit alarmingly close to schools, family homes, and the township of Parkes. Many children in our area already face health challenges such as asthma and allergies, which airborne pollutants could worsen. The thought of adding another source of risk into the mix is deeply troubling. Our healthcare system in regional areas is already stretched thin. Access to specialists and treatment often requires long-distance travel, which adds further stress to families and individuals already struggling.

Mental health is another pressing issue. The uncertainty and fear surrounding this proposal are already causing anxiety in the community. People feel unheard and dismissed, as though regional areas are being asked once again to bear the burdens that cities refuse to carry. This is not fair, and it is not sustainable.

Our region should not have to shoulder Sydney's waste problem. The long-term costs to our environment, food security, community health, and reputation far outweigh any short-term gains. We deserve clean air, a healthy environment, and confidence in the food we produce and eat.

#### Alternatives to Energy-from-Waste Incineration

Instead of building an incinerator that risks our health and livelihoods, the government should support genuine waste reduction and circular economy solutions, such as:

1. Investing in waste reduction at the source — stronger producer responsibility laws and packaging reforms that minimise waste creation.
2. Expanding recycling and reprocessing facilities within metropolitan areas, closer to where the waste is generated.
3. Developing composting and anaerobic digestion plants for organic waste, turning food and green waste into valuable soil products and biogas energy.
4. Encouraging innovation in product design and repair industries, creating regional jobs that focus on reuse and remanufacturing.
5. Supporting education and community programs to change consumer habits and reduce landfill dependency.

We should be using alternatives that don't destroy people's livelihoods or harm their health. Where is the innovation Australia was once known for — the kind that improves lives, not harms them? Surely, we can find smarter, cleaner solutions that protect both our communities and the planet.