

Submission  
No 997

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE  
FACILITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 31 October 2025

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Partially  
Confidential

## Submission Regarding the Proposed Energy from Waste Incinerator – Parkes Region

I am a woman born and raised in the Parkes region. I have always loved this area for its peaceful environment and relaxed country lifestyle — it's the reason I've chosen to stay and raise my own family here. I'm a mum to one beautiful two-year-old daughter, with another child on the way.

My husband suffers from severe asthma, and my sister has a genetic illness called Cystic Fibrosis, which seriously affects her lungs. Because of this, the proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator makes me question whether to stay or move away from the area I've always called home.

I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding these references:

(D) Impacts on human health, including regional town drinking water, rainwater harvesting, and soil contamination.

(E) The impact on agriculture locally and across the wider region.

(J) Any other related matters.

I am deeply worried about the long-term effects of toxic emissions such as dioxins and fine particulate matter that will be released into the air. These pollutants can spread across the region with changing winds, affecting air quality for everyone. I'm particularly concerned that there appears to be no requirement for 24/7 monitoring of all emissions, especially dioxins and fine particles, which are known to pose serious health risks. Without constant monitoring, how can we be assured that emissions are within safe limits?

People like my husband, sister, and others with respiratory or immune-related illnesses would be among the first to feel the effects of reduced air quality.

I also find it unfair that thermal waste incineration is banned in NSW and the ACT due to health risks, yet regional areas — including Parkes — are being considered for exemptions. If other countries are moving away from these facilities due to environmental and health issues, why is Australia not learning from their experiences? Every Australian deserves the same level of health protection, regardless of whether they live in a regional, coastal, or metropolitan area.

The Central West region is known for producing high-quality food, beverages, and agricultural products that supply people across Australia. This project poses a serious threat to those industries, our environment, and our community's reputation for clean, sustainable production.

It is also unfair that regional communities are being burdened with Sydney's waste problems. If Sydney produces the waste, then Sydney should manage it — not Parkes.

In summary, this project threatens our clean air, water, soil, local roads, agriculture, and most importantly, our health. I urge the government to reject the proposed Energy from Waste incinerator to protect the health and future of regional NSW and our valuable agricultural industries.

Sincerely,

Parkes Region Resident