

Submission
No 1041

**INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED ENERGY FROM WASTE
FACILITIES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 31 October 2025

Partially
Confidential

My name is _____ and I am 16 years old. I have lived in Parkes my whole life. My family owns a farm here and it is where I have grown up learning to care for the land, our animals and the environment that supports us. I have 2 older brothers and a younger brother. This is the only home I have ever known and the people and community here mean a lot to me.

I am writing to object to the proposed Energy from Waste incinerator at the Parkes Special Activation Precinct. I am addressing Terms of Reference (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), and (h).

(a) Performance of the Proposed Technology

From what I understand, the technology being proposed for this facility is not currently used anywhere similar in Australia and it isn't proven to be safe in an agricultural area like ours. If it truly was the safest and best solution for waste, then it seems reasonable that it would be built where most of the waste actually comes from, instead of being placed hundreds of kilometres away in a regional town.

(b) Spread and Quality of Emissions

Parkes is surrounded by open farmland and we get strong winds across the region. Any emissions that come from the facility won't just stay close to the building they will travel across paddocks, into water tanks, through livestock feed and into the air we breathe every day. Even small amounts of dangerous particles can build up over time. It worries me that something invisible could change everything about the place I grew up in, without us being able to stop it once it starts.

(d) Impacts on Human Health, Drinking Water & Soil

My family, like many families around Parkes, drinks tank water. If emissions get into the air and settle onto our roofs, that goes straight into our drinking supply. We don't have another option. I also worry about the health of the students at my school especially younger kids whose bodies are still developing. Breathing in unsafe air or living with contaminated soil isn't something you can just fix later. The effects could last for the rest of our lives.

(e) Impact on Agriculture

Farming is more than just a job here; it's our identity, our history and our future. If there is even a rumour that our crops or livestock are unsafe, it could damage the reputation of the whole region. Agriculture relies on trust. Once that trust is lost, people won't buy from us and farms like ours could suffer, even if we personally did nothing wrong.

(f) Impact on the Parkes Special Activation Precinct

We were told the Special Activation Precinct would bring new industries that were good for the community and supported local jobs. A waste incinerator does not represent the future many young people want to stay in Parkes for. If the goal is to keep young families here and encourage people like me to build our futures in this town, then the projects chosen for the region need to support health, sustainability and pride and definitely not risk and uncertainty.

(h) Emissions Monitoring Systems

From what I have learned, there is no guarantee of constant, independent monitoring of all emissions. If results are delayed or averaged out over time, that means problems could be happening before anyone knows. By the time pollution is detected, it would already be too late. Monitoring doesn't prevent harm, it just tells us harm has already happened.

Parkes is my home. I want to live here when I am older, raise my own family here and keep the land healthy for the next generation.

This project puts that future at risk.

I am asking that this committee reject the proposed Energy from Waste incinerator, and instead support solutions that reduce waste, protect agriculture, and keep regional communities safe.

Sincerely,

Age 16

Bogan Gate/Parkes, NSW