



Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy (WtE) infrastructure in Victoria

Hearing Date: 26 May 2026

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Received Date: 23 June 2026

Additional questions on notice from David ETTERSHANK

1. Question Asked:

When will independent Business Cases and Environmental Effects statements be made available for all WtE proposals?

Response:

There is no consistent requirement for business cases across WtE regulatory processes.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) do not typically require or assess formal business cases as part of its planning application process.

Similarly, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) development and operating licence processes do not assess business cases given its focus on risk to human health and the environment.

Recycling Victoria (RV) does not assess full business cases; however, elements of a business case are required as part of the waste to energy cap licence process. This includes consideration of commercial viability when determining whether to issue a cap licence.

The commercial information provided by cap licence applications is commercially sensitive. Under section 55 of the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling Act) 2021*, Recycling Victoria is required to keep commercially sensitive information obtained in exercising its functions confidential.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) is best placed to respond to matters relating to Environmental Effects Statements.

2. Question Asked:

Has DEECA reviewed how much SEMAWP ratepayers will be paying to support incinerated of their household waste?

Response:

DEECA does not set or review ratepayer charges for waste services. This is managed by councils. Councils participate in competitive procurement processes to achieve the best value for their ratepayers.

3. Question Asked:

Will DEECA establish with health authorities a permanent ongoing epidemiological study to detect disease trends in communities around WtE facilities?

Response:

Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, the Department of Health is responsible for protecting and promoting health and wellbeing including for communicable and non-communicable diseases and environmental hazards.

The Department of Health may undertake public health investigations when an unusually high number of unexpected disease cases is identified. There are established systems in place for disease surveillance such as the Victorian Cancer Registry for cancer data and epidemiological trends, and other health registries. Concerns about a possible occurrence of unusually high numbers of a particular disease may be reported by health services, workplaces or community members and these are followed up by the Department of Health.