



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Environment and Planning Standing Committee – Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

More than 200 submissions for recycling inquiry as series of public hearings begins

The Environment and Planning Committee of the Victorian Legislative Council has already received more than 200 submissions to its inquiry into recycling and waste management as it commences a series of public hearings this Friday 3 May.

The first day of hearings will focus specifically on the illegal storage of chemical and industrial waste that has led to significant events such as the Campbellfield fire in April 2019 and the West Footscray fire in 2018. This Friday's hearings will be held in the Legislative Council Committee Room at Parliament House from 10 am.

The hearings will include key witnesses from government departments, namely the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Environment Protection Authority, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, the Chief Health Officer and the Hume City Council.

“Given the challenges facing the recycling industry, this is an important inquiry for the Victorian community,” said Committee Chair, Mr Cesar Melhem.

“The disposal of waste to landfill is creating significant amenity issues for residents across Victoria, and it’s putting enormous pressure on local government’s capacity to deliver these services. This is a missed opportunity to reduce the environmental impacts of our resource use and to reduce waste generation. In the case of chemical and industrial waste storage, it can often generate significant public health and safety issues.”

While Friday’s hearings will have a specific focus on chemical industrial waste storage, they will be followed by a series of public hearings on the broader issues relating to recycling and waste management.

“We will be holding hearings in both Melbourne and regional Victoria over the coming months so that we get evidence across our state on matters that are important to a wide cross-section of the community,” Mr Melhem said.

“With more than 200 submissions received, there’s already been a very significant response to the inquiry from the community and we still have two weeks to go before the initial submission deadline of 10 May,” he said.

The hearing schedule, inquiry terms of reference and details on making a submission are available from the Committee’s [webpage](#).

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