

Submission No 2 for the INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT.

I was present during the inquiry and have the following questions that I would have liked to ask and statements I would like to make on each of the interviews.

DELWP and EPA.

- A number of inspections were made prior to the fire at the Campbellfield site. On a danger scale of 1 to 10 what was the level of risk at this site prior to the fire that the workers and staff within the complex and the surrounding residences were exposed too.
- In hindsight was this site prior to the fire at a risk level whereby state authorities should have acted immediately to secure the site and the neighbouring area in case of a large emergency. In other words treat it like a bomb site.
- Do the state authorities have a response protocol and ready team to deal with this type of stored chemical situation that is identified as a potential threat prior to any emergency in regard to spillage , fire or explosion. That is to pull it apart and make it safe prior to any emergency.
- The connection between the EPA and Work Safe prior to the fire appears distant at best. I would have imagined that as soon as a location has been noted as possibly breaching the regulations ,everyone would be involved immediately . That is EPA, Fire Brigade and Work Safe. It appears that in the case of the Campbellfield site prior to the fire, the EPA identified it as being overloaded and having breaches of safe work practices. Immediate shut down action was not put into place buy the first person to identify the problem and only standard communication processes applied. In other words the two breaches of overloaded and bad work practices together should have been a big enough red flag for a pending danger. There appeared to be a reluctance to cross over it to each others field of expertise and make the call. I hope this lack of immediate action will be identified as a late response to a situation that could have been avoided. I liken the “sort it out yourself approach”(the company fix their own problems) to if a policeman pulls you up for being over .05 and allowing you to drive away and then testing you next week to see if you were under the limit.
- I think the regulations need to be checked and reviewed if required with respect to the storage chemicals so we can be sure that we don't allow a cocktale of different chemicals to exist side by side in the same building. Again collaboration with all the authorities including the local government needs to happen so as to avoid hot spots that could potentially harm the public if something goes wrong.

Ken Woodward

