

Submission No 3 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.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade

- Again along with the EPA and the Health authorities a response effort to the Campbellfield fire that could not be faulted.
- I feel for the Fire Brigade who don't have the option of walking away from the immediate problem of this fire as did the EPA and Work Safe when they identified the risky situation a week before. They have only minutes to work out how to deal with a fairly unknown problem.
- What should have taken place when the problem was identified weeks in advance to this fire was an immediate manifest compiled and forwarded to the Fire Brigade so they could have a response plan already in place that only requires a press of a button to assemble all the correct personnel ,equipment and safety procedures. When these sites are proposed and permits obtained I feel that monthly manifests should be obtained from the company storing chemicals and other dangerous goods to track exactly what is being stored at any given time. From this information response authorities could use predetermined tailor built response plans to avoid last minute decision making.
- The opinion by the two main speakers who gave evidence at the enquiry was some what subdued to what the third officer told me just outside the room when I spoke to him. His opinion of knowing what took place prior to the Campbellfield fire was total disbelief and dismay. He said this is how it always happens and how we all talk about how good everyone responds but little is done prior to avoid dangerous situations. We are not like other authorities ,we cant walk away and take days to work out correct procedural protocol of how to handle a situation. We are expected to walk into this fire that could have potentially been a massive chemical bomb. Thankfully it all ended well and we are here and not at the Coroners court. I told him I felt for him and his personnel.

Ken Woodward

