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From: Simon Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 May 2019 9:24 AM
To: recyclinginquiry
Cc: Ossie Martinz
Subject: Submission Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management
Attachments: Submission Inquiry Recycling and Waste Management - Monash .docx

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached the City of Monash Submission into the Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

If you require any further information please let me know.

thanks



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City of Monash

Submission

**Inquiry into Recycling
and Waste Management**

May 2019

Introduction

The City of Monash welcomes the opportunity to make submission in response to the Victorian Parliament Environment and Planning Committee's inquiry into recycling and waste management.

The City of Monash is situated in the metropolitan region of Melbourne and is home to a diverse mix of people, cultures and backgrounds. Along with most municipalities in Victoria, the City of Monash is facing a range of waste management challenges. These challenges are driven by several factors:

- The drive to reduce waste sent to landfill and increase resource recovery;
- The closure of local landfills and subsequent larger transport distances for disposal of wastes;
- Increasing cost of the EPA levy;
- Recent introduction of Rate Capping and its effect on services;
- Growth in the development of Multi Unit Developments;
- Population increase; and
- Impending implementation of a food organics recovery scheme

As a result of these changes, the City of Monash has developed this Waste Management Strategy 2017 to prepare for the future of the waste industry and deliver a sustainable and effective service to the community. Council has identified five goals that will underpin Council's commitment to waste management and the Community. They are:

- To increase waste diversion from landfill;
- To minimise waste generation;
- Leading the way;
- Serving our customers; and
- Pride in our city.

As a provider of waste services and infrastructure, the City Monash plays an important role in our waste and resource recovery system and must therefore be considered a key stakeholder for this inquiry.

- 1) The responsibility of the Victorian government to establish and maintain a coherent, efficient and environmentally responsible approach to solid waste management across the state, including assistance to local councils

The SWRRIP sets out goals and strategic direction for the next 30 years required to ensure we have infrastructure in place to manage the waste we generate in a manner that maximises recovery and minimises adverse impacts on the community, environment and public health.

Monash is supportive of the SWRRIP but would like to see more action for its implementation. This should be funded by the Landfill levy and as a quicker pace.

A stable and sustainable resource recovery system is the existence of strong markets for recycled materials. Further investment is required in these areas.

2) Whether the China National Sword policy was anticipated and responded to properly

In July 2017 the Chinese Government signalled that it would impose significant restrictions on the import of waste products beginning in 2018. There appears to be have been little done to prepare Victoria for the impacts of China's decision. Some workshops were run by MWRRG in late 2017 informing Councils of such change but there was no sense of urgency or any real preparation done apart from discuss longer term strategies.

In July 2018 the Victorian government released the Recycling Strategic Plan (RISP). The RISP's stated goals are to stabilise the recycling sector; increase the quality of recycled materials; improve the productivity of the recycling sector; and develop markets for recycled material. Monash was an active participant in its consultation and welcomes the initiatives. However, given the recent closures of SKM, the speediness of actions is paramount.

3) Identifying short and long-term solutions to the recycling and waste management system crisis

Monash supports the Rescue Our Recycling Action Plan published by the MAV. Monash was an active participant in Recycling workshops run by the MAV. The plan outlines five key actions each level of government should take to achieve lasting beneficial change to our recycling system. Much of what is included in the plan are long-held positions of the local government sector that have been articulated advocacy over the last few years. Monash requests the inquiry take note of actions outlined in the plan.

Both tiers of government need to take more actions in regards to the circular economy and for establishing whole of life solutions to reduce waste in the first place.

Monash also refers to the 2018 VAGO report titled managing the Municipal and Industrial Landfill levy. The findings outlined in this report are quite alarming and highlight the importance of using this fund for its intended purpose. Monash believes that there should be clear benefits linked to waste and resource recovery from allocated projects from levy funds and funding back to Local Government should be increased to address strategic matters.

4) Strategies to reduce waste generation and better manage all waste such as soft plastics, compostable paper and pulp, and commercial waste, including, but not limited to product stewardship, container deposit schemes, banning single-use plastics and government procurement policies

Monash considers that more needs to be done to place ownership and responsibility for its disposal of waste on the creator rather than Local Government. A CDS is a good start, far more needs to be done on product stewardship and community behaviour change rather than disposal. Responsibility for this mainly rests with Government and whilst some good initiatives have been made, more can be done.

5) Other related matters

FOGO. Most metropolitan Councils are now well underway or in the final planning for the introduction of food into the green kerbside bin. This is a key action in strategic documents released by the state. As yet there is little or no funding available for Councils to draw on to assist with its implementation despite the high profile this initiative is attracting. Councils require funding for infrastructure and the like to support the rollout of Fogo in order to be successful in its implementation.

Waste to Energy. Monash and other SE Councils are partnering with the MWRRG regarding procurement of Advanced Waste Treatment options or Waste to Energy. Already a comprehensive business case has been developed and an EOI is about to be released to the market. As yet, Victorian government is yet to release its policy position on waste to energy. Considering the MWRRG is a State body, it is quite odd that it would push ahead with its work without any policy position from the state.

Legacy landfills. Many Councils, including Monash have ongoing responsibilities in regards to maintaining closed landfills. Increasing EPA compliance requires an increasing level of funding by Council to comply. These costs, which, are in excess of annual operating services requirements should be excluded from rate capping or waste charge calculations to enable satisfactory funds are available to comply with EPA regulations and maintain environmental standards.