

From: Krystle Leist [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 May 2019 9:51 AM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management
Attachments: 20190424 Submission for Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached to this e-mail a Submission for the Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management from Rebecca Stockfeld, General Manager Infrastructure Assets and Planning for Central Goldfields Shire Council.

Kind Regards,

Krystle



Krystle Leist
Executive Assistant | Central Goldfields Shire Council

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24th April 2019

The Secretary, Environment and Planning Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

E-mail: recyclinginquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management. As with all local government authorities, the collection and disposal of waste is a core function of council.

The terms of reference of the inquiry are broad and Central Goldfields Shire will make comment on areas that are within our realm of knowledge. By way of background, Central Goldfields Council contracts waste collection and disposal to this degree is not a provider of recycling services or waste disposal.

Council provides a general waste, recycled materials and food and organic waste collection service to our residents via a third party contractor. The contractors make arrangement for where the materials are disposed of (with the exception of FOGO which is placed in a council developed compost facility). Therefore, while directly affected by the impact of the China National Sword policy through changes in price to disposal of materials, we do not operate a recycling facility.

Central Goldfields Shire supports the concept that it will take action by all levels of government, and the recycling industry, to solve the recycling crisis to build some stability and sustainability into the system. There must be leadership shown by all levels of government in addressing the issues. Small rural shires are not in a position to have a great impact on the state wide recycling system.

Council supports the concepts provided in the MAV "Rescue Our Recycling Action Plan" which is a multi-faceted approach to tackling the problem, particularly the need for greater investment by government and greater regulation of the waste and recycling industry.

It has become evident that rural councils will need to support and employ options to collaboratively procure kerbside recycling services to enhance competition and attract local and regional solutions for materials separation, particularly with the implementation of the impending e-waste ban. Councils cannot do this alone and require the state government to invest in and build more capacity and sustainability in recycling processing facilities right across the state. There is the concern that regional facilities will not have the materials volumes to achieve economically viable options in rural areas, hence the need for government investment.

There needs to be support and funding of market development, particularly of local and regional markets and a market that is diverse so that it is not affected by one or two of the major players. Local governments can assist by supporting market development through procurement of recycled content, however this needs to be affordable for councils.

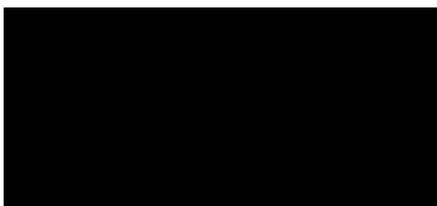
The uncertainty of the recycling system over the past two years has affected the confidence of our communities. Council and the government need to continually reinforce the message to the community to recycle and reassure residents that recycling is being employed and materials are being recovered and reprocessed into products with recycled content. Confidence of the community is important in the development and sustainability of the system.

In relation to regulation, there must be improvement in the transparency and accountability of the recycling industry. There must be greater access to data on recoverable materials markets, the costs and revenue within the recycling sector to achieve the best value for the community and ensure the community is well informed.

Solutions need to be cost effective and affordable for rural communities such as Central Goldfields Shire, particularly having to deal with the tyranny of distance, and transport costs, and the lack of processing and markets options in rural areas. The need to build in the creation of local jobs should also be a strong consideration to development of local and regional outcomes.

We look forward to the findings and recommendations of the inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Stockfeld
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