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**From:** Tina Zappala [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 May 2019 10:42 AM  
**To:** recyclinginquiry  
**Subject:** Greater Shepparton City Council - Submission - Parliamentary Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management  
**Attachments:** Greater Shepparton City Council - Submission to the Parliamentary Inquir....pdf

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached Greater Shepparton City Council's Submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ifte Hossain, Team Leader – Waste Services  
[REDACTED]

Regards



**Tina Zappala**  
Executive Assistant to the CEO  
Greater Shepparton City Council

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9 May 2019

The Secretary  
Legislative Council, Environment and Planning Committee  
Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management  
Parliament House, Spring Street  
**EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002**

**By Email Only:** [recyclinginquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:recyclinginquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

### **PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT – GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION**

Greater Shepparton City Council appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management and looks forward to some positive action from this process.

#### **Overview of Submission**

In summary council would like to see actions from the inquiry that:

- Improve transparency throughout the recycling process particularly associated with the destination of material, processing arrangements and costs.
- Reduce reliance on overseas markets and processing through appropriate regulation and regional investment. Ensuring that the funds collected through the landfill levy are fully invested in establishing regional sorting, processing and product manufacturing.
- Result in investment in regional areas for local waste treatment facilities by initiating and supporting research, development and implementation of new technologies.

#### **Submission details**

1. Recycling is an essential service and should be treated as such in terms of regulation and oversight. In Victoria we have just a few large recycling providers. With limited competition it is difficult to achieve transparency and costing accountability. State/National oversight and regulation is required to enable councils and other stakeholders to make informed decisions, maintain credibility, confidence and ensure services to the community are competitive and environmentally responsible with regards to recycling services.
2. In 2018, the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) released the report of Managing the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy (MILL), which stated that over the next four years, the MILL is expected to collect approximately \$215 million a year.

- The report clearly identified concerns with the management of the funds already collected and it is clear that had these funds been reinvested in the industry earlier the recent issues experienced in the recycling industry may have been avoided or reduced. Council would like to see recommendations from the inquiry focused on how the municipal and industrial landfill levy and the associated Sustainability Fund can be reinvested to support the current state of the recycling sector to strengthen the industry and reinstate confidence of households to keep participating in kerbside recycling services. In particular actions that provide immediate access to the landfill levy fund to develop regional Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) and processing options which would reduce regional Council's current reliance on a few market players operating in Victoria.
3. As the facilitator of kerbside recycling services, Council is obliged to secure the best value for local communities. It is difficult for Council to be confident of achieving this in an environment where few operators exist, competition is lacking and local markets are limited. Councils have been asked to adopt a cost/risk-sharing price model with MRF operators and standard contract clauses proposed as part of funding relief packages. There is a lack of confidence that these clauses will be effective and/or able to be implemented particularly given the lack of competition and absence of regulation.
  4. Council support the decision to update the National Waste Policy and to include targets for waste reduction, improved resource recovery, use of recycled content, phasing out of problematic plastics, reduced organic waste to landfill and enhanced data. It would add value and effectiveness if detail regarding the objectives, how this will achieve those objectives and who is responsible for the actions to achieve these targets was also established at the same time.
  5. Strong domestic markets for recycled content are a necessity for a sustainable recycling system. Support for research and development, regulation on whole-of-government procurement targets for Australian recycled content and incentives for procurement of Australian recycled content by others, including local government are required.
  6. The parliamentary inquiry should include a review of the Product Stewardship Act which could genuinely help transition Australia to a circular economy where waste avoidance is prioritised. It's unacceptable that our current waste and resource recovery system provides little or no incentive for designers, manufacturers, importers, distributors and consumers of products to take responsibility for the environmental impacts of products throughout their lifecycle, from design to disposal.
  7. There are several unknowns in relation to the readiness and capacity of e-waste re-processors to deal with a significant and sustained increase in e-waste feedstock. The recycling market is volatile and influenced by a range of global factors. China's recent decision to ban certain waste product importation highlights the exposure of the recycling industry to factors outside of local control. As the collectors of e-waste, Councils (and therefore ratepayers) will carry a significant amount of risk in relation to this market also. A better understanding of this market and investment in market development if required is essential and should be considered in this inquiry.

Council once again thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the Parliamentary Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management.

For further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact Ifte Hossain on

[REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

**Peter Harriott**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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