

29 May, 2019

Michael Baker
The Secretary, Environment and Planning Committee
Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management
Parliament House, Spring St
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Via email:
recyclinginquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au
Michael.baker@parliamentvic.gov.au

Dear Michael,

**NWRIC SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION
VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY 'INQUIRY INTO RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT.'**

This letter provides supplementary information to the *Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry Into Recycling And Waste Management* by the National Waste Recycling Industry Council (NWRIC).

The inquiry asks stakeholders to identify; 'processing capabilities in Victoria and the potential to expand the local recycling industry', and 'Challenges facing the existing industry'. In regard to this matter, the NWRIC would like to draw the Government's attention to the important matter of planning controls for construction and demolition (C&D) recycling facilities.

Victoria generates around 12.87 million tonnes of waste materials per year (2016/2017)¹, of which 8.62 million was recovered. Nearly half of recovered materials (i.e. 47% or 4.1 million tonnes) was aggregate, masonry and soil. Therefore, C&D materials are the single biggest recovered stream type in Victoria.

However, in order to process this material, suitable fixed and secure sites must be available, in locations that are close to markets. One of Victoria's leading recycling companies is Alex Fraser Group, which operates a site at 275 Kingston Rd, Clarinda. This site has a capacity of one million tonnes per year and has been identified as part of a long term resource recovery hub by Sustainability Victoria in its [State-wide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan](#).

Alex Fraser's Clarinda site is well known for operational excellence and has built good relationships with its neighbours. It provides an important avenue to market recycled materials, including glass, which reduces pressure on kerbside recycling programs. It is also an important supply point for Victoria's Big Build, supplying millions of tonnes to projects such as M1 and Level Crossing Removals, and reducing pressure on natural resources during a significant resource shortage.

However, due to recent planning decisions by the City of Kingston, this site is scheduled for closure. Despite the efforts of state government agencies including Invest Assist, no alternate site has been identified. This is a matter of State significance and government must act to preserve this site if it is to avoid the loss of badly needed recycling capacity in Victoria.

In order to mitigate this issue going forward, the NWRIC is calling for the establishment of 'green zones' identified and protected for waste and recycling businesses. These zones must protect recycling assets for the life of the infrastructure. Without these planning provisions, the private sector

¹ Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Report 2016-17.

will not invest to develop the necessary recycling capacity to transition Victoria to a circular economy.

We welcome further correspondence on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Rose Read
CEO, NWRIC



ABOUT THE NWRIC

The National Waste Recycling Industry Council (NWRIC) is the national peak body representing waste and recycling businesses. We work to improve waste and recycling services for all Australians.

Our members² and affiliates³, service most households and businesses across every State and Territory. The NWRIC's 450 plus members range from small family-owned businesses to multi-billion-dollar global companies. They collectively own and operate nearly every private waste and recycling asset in Australia for collecting, recycling, processing and treating waste.

The NWRIC members work together and cooperatively share a vision for a fair, safe, innovative and sustainable waste and recycling industry. The NWRIC members do this by:

- transforming waste into resources for reuse or energy;
- ensuring the safe handling, disposal and treatment of non-recyclable and hazardous waste; and
- providing a safe and clean environment for the community.

The NWRIC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Waste and Recycling industry*.

² Australia's nine largest waste & recycling companies: Alex Fraser Group (Hanson), Cleanaway, J. J. Richards and Sons, Solo Resource Recovery, Sims Metal Management, Suez, Remondis, ResourceCo and Veolia.

³ Waste Recycling Industry Association, Queensland (WRIQ), Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW (WCRA), The Victorian Waste Management Association (VWMA), Waste Recycling Industry Association of South Australia, Waste Recycling Industry Association of Western Australia (WRIWA) and the Waste Recycling Industry Northern Territory, WRINT.