

[REDACTED]

From: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 10 May 2019 4:21 PM
To: recyclinginquiry
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management

Ms Ros Aikman
[REDACTED]

CFO
Yume
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

--

Yume Food Australia (“Yume”) is a Melbourne based for-purpose for-profit enterprise with a mission is to drive revolutionary change in the food system by enabling the sale of surplus food that might otherwise go to waste. Food waste is a growing environmental and social issue globally. In Australia alone, around 5.3 million tonnes of food are wasted each year, of which 2.2 million tonnes (40%) occur in the commercial sector. In dollar terms, this food waste is estimated to cost the economy \$20 billion each year. The solution Yume provides is an online platform that connects primary producers, manufacturers and wholesalers (“suppliers”) who have surplus produce to smaller manufacturers, caterers and other commercial kitchens (“buyers”). Avoiding surplus food going to landfill in this manner has multiple benefits:

- Reduce landfill costs, volume and methane production;
- Return valued to Australian farmers and manufacturers;
- Avoid the waste of embodied water and carbon emissions involved in the production and distribution of surplus food.

The impact that Yume has in realising these benefits was recognised at the 2018 Victorian Premiers Sustainability Awards, in which Yume was an award winner in multiple categories, including the ultimate Premiers Recognition Award.

The Victorian Government has an opportunity to take a leadership role in tackling food waste and, in determining forward policy and action, should prioritise solutions that sit at the top of the waste hierarchy. In response to this Parliamentary Inquiry into Waste and Recycling, Yume has two key recommendations for government.

(1) Establish a new funding program to support businesses promote circular economy solutions

Yume has been immensely disappointed that both Sustainability Victoria and Department of Environment have no grant or funding channels available for a solution at the top of the food waste hierarchy.

Existing funding programs (which support resource recovery infrastructure and market development for recovered resources) miss the opportunity to stimulate the development of innovative circular solutions more broadly. Such innovative business models include products as services, product life extension, sharing

platforms and re-distribution platforms (such as Yume), all of which reduce the demand for virgin materials and reduce waste that may otherwise be sent to landfill. Funding could be administered on a matched basis, recognising that there is commercial value in such business models, but that government can play a role in assisting these solutions to scale more quickly to realise their environmental and social outcomes sooner. Such a funding program could be considered as part of the development of the Victorian Government's circular economy policy.

(2) Leverage government purchasing power to materially shift the dial on resource recovery

The stimulus effect of government procurement on resource recovery is already being realised in some sectors, for example where recycled content is applied in major infrastructure projects such as new road construction. In the case of wasted food resources in the commercial sector, there is a massive untapped opportunity for government to contribute to landfill avoidance through direct purchasing. The Victorian Government should mandate the maximisation of quality surplus food purchased through all government-funded facilities, including corrections, education, health, child-care and government operations through mandatory quotas for sustainable food procurement. As well as waste avoidance, such an approach would realise substantial cost savings that may then be re-deployed elsewhere to deliver other government programs and services. Yume would be an ideal partner to facilitate government taking advantage of this opportunity.

Case Study on Prisons:

- 7,600 people currently incarcerated in Victoria
- Department of corrections food budget is \$6.90-\$7.20/per head per day
- Costing approx. \$20million per annum

Say, through quotas 20% of the food budget was purchased through Yume at an average of 40% discount

- Direct Government savings of \$1,600,000 ($\$20\text{m} \times 20\% \times 40\%$)
- Money returned to Australian Farmers and Manufacturers of \$2,400,000 ($\$20\text{m} \times 20\% \times 60\%$)
- Assuming an average \$4/kg this would divert 600 tonnes from landfill and 1200 tonnes of CO₂ and methane 26 times more potent than Co₂!

--

File1:

File2:

File3: