

Recycling and Waste Management Inquiry – Submission

STOCKPILING

To better manage waste stockpiling, Government could consider introducing a new "processing" permit.

Any organisation or individual who is wanting to accept say 5,000 tonnes of waste or recyclable material on one or more sites should be required to obtain a "processing" permit from EPA. To obtain the permit, the organisation would have to be reputable and to explain how the material would be processed. The organisation would then need to report to EPA at the end of each month on the materials received and materials recycled / disposed of. A processing permit would be separate to a facility license which only covers a specific site. The processing permit would be for the organisation and apply to all operations inside Victoria.

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEMES

I support the introduction of a Container deposit scheme in Victoria. A container deposit scheme would change the public perception of containers from a waste to an item which should be recycled.

Establishing drop off centres for accepting containers would create employment, plus provide opportunities for charities to source additional income. I am old enough to remember scout bottle drives.

Containers dropped off at a drop off centre can be easily sorted as it is received into different glass colors and different plastic types. There is very little contamination received. Due to sorting and low contamination rates, the resultant product is a high-quality recycling feedstock which would meet China National Sword contamination levels.

Giving containers a value will reduce litter generation. More people would take their containers home or if they do leave them as litter other people will collect them to cash them in.

The introduction of a container deposit scheme in Victoria would harmonise Victoria with most other Australian states and territories. This will enable the opportunity for a national consistent message to be delivered to the community.



OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Significant quantities of waste from Melbourne is currently being transported to landfills in rural areas to minimise landfill levy payments, for example to Moorabool Shire.

I suggest that the Vic Government phase out the landfill levy differential between metro/provisional and rural landfills. To compensate rural municipalities, a scheme can be introduced allowing them to claim a levy rebate for all tonnes they landfill directly.

While I support government's push to reduce waste to landfill, new landfills will still be required in the medium term. The present framework of requiring landfills to be listed in a regional waste management plan before allowing a planning application to be considered is unnecessarily bureaucratic, anti-competitive and does not provide for the best environmental outcome. For instance, there may be a potential landfill site which stacks up well from an environmental viewpoint outside Melbourne; however, because it is in the wrong region is not even considered unless also in the rural regions plan. Encouraging an inferior site in the "right" region to then be considered. A good example of a successful landfill outside a region is the Woodlawn landfill in NSW which accepts approximately 20% of Sydney putrescible waste and is located 250km south of Sydney.

FURTHER INFORMATION

I would be happy to provide further information or to discuss my submission.

Yours sincerely

WM Waste Management Services Pty Ltd



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