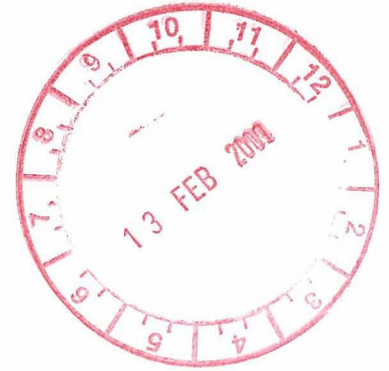


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12 February 2009

The Hon Sheila Mills MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council WA
Parliament House
GPO Box A11
PERTH WA 6837



Dear Madam

SUBMISSION - INQUIRY INTO MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The City of Armadale supports the Rivers Regional Council (RRC) submission to the inquiry. However, the time allowed for submissions, especially over the Christmas holiday period, is too short for the importance of the issue.

The inquiry and many of the submissions are concentrating on the rear end of the process ie waste arriving at the receival station, rather than the front end of the process ie the products and packaging in the market place. Extended Producer Responsibility at a national or even international level is required in one form or another, fully supported by government procurement policies and practices.

Action to achieve improvements in waste management include:

- Introduce a scheme for product recycling similar to that of energy efficiency star rating stickers on electrical goods.
- All products and packaging to have recycling symbols clearly displayed on the various components.
- Composite products that can not be recycled or are difficult to separate should be discouraged where practical alternatives exist.
- Structure government procurement practices to insist on these requirements.
- Protect the waste processing facilities from urban encroachment.

The subject of your enquiry is of such importance that it should be endorsed by Council and the supporting letter be sent over the signature of the Mayor. In the case of your enquiry, this important process has been constrained by your imposed time frame.

The City of Armadale would be pleased to present its views directly to the Committee by giving evidence to you.

As waste management is of importance to the well being of our community, Council trusts your enquiry will bring about enduring benefits.

Yours sincerely

W-A Bruce

Executive Director Technical Services

