

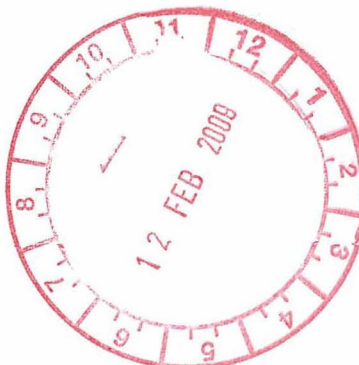
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12 February 2009

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

Your Reference:  
Our Reference:  
Enquiries: DV Harris  
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Dear Madam

### Submission - Inquiry into Municipal Waste Management

The City of Gosnells, an active participating member of the Rivers Regional Council (RRC), fully supports the comments and statements contained in the submission by the Regional Council to the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs inquiry into municipal waste management in Western Australia.

It needs to be noted that this correspondence has been prepared by council officers that form the RRC's Technical Advisory Committee and has not been presented to Council for approval/endorsement due to the time constraints set by the inquiry. The comments stated herein should be taken in context with the contents of the submission.

The submission concentrates on matters which most closely affect the RRC and some of the major issues raised are:

- Municipal waste management in Western Australia is conducted within an environment still lacking in clearly defined State Government waste strategy and policy
- A lack of State Government leadership, direction or inputs into alternatives to landfill disposal, including the establishment of Alternative Waste Technology (AWT) facilities
- The State Government has not acted on the decline in local markets for recycled materials
- The State Government allows local governments and private enterprise to research and develop waste management processes and technologies without providing any leadership or assistance.


- The determination of the State Government to “phase out” landfill sites on the Swan Coastal Plain without providing viable alternatives.

It is highly likely that the current global economic situation will affect the ability of local governments and private enterprise to viably fund the construction and operation of AWT's and hence there will be an increased reliance on landfill in the short to medium term. Regardless of the future of AWT facilities it has to be recognised that there will always be a need for landfill sites to accommodate residual waste components therefore the State Government needs to assist Local Government in identifying and protecting appropriately located sites that will provide for the future needs of the metropolitan area.

The same can be said for AWTs which to date have principally been provided by local government and/or private enterprise with little support from State Government. An alternative approach will need to be considered if the future provision of waste management services is to remain sustainable.

Waste management should be regarded as an essential service, therefore measures need to be taken to ensure that the service can be delivered within a viable and proactive regulatory framework

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

**Dave Harris**  
**Director Infrastructure**