

Submission on the draft MWRRIP

From: Karen and Danny Ellis

11 December, 2015

Attention to Mr Les Willmott, (Chair Metropolitan Waste Resource Recovery Group)

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Draft Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan [DMWRRIP].

Firstly, as social media activists who contribute commentary on waste and its opportunities, we were officially invited to contribute to the community consultation in the CBD. We declined, firstly because we requested payment for our knowledge and time, and this was not available.

MWRRG staff would get paid or time-in-lieu, as would the caterers for the event get paid, therefore we expect the same. Just because the topic is waste, does not mean it is not worthy of payment. Our recommendations for the future are that selected and invited participants are paid for their time, and this is factored into project budgets.

Secondly, we had a strong feeling that our time would be 'wasted', as we are on the 'it starts with zero' agenda. The DMWRRIP has a strong landfill focus agenda. Landfill mining might be a future option, but dumping waste into landfill is not!

DMWRRIP recommends that in the future Melbourne's landfill waste goes to the western or northern suburbs. The arguments we have heard are as follows:

That waste has to go somewhere, and that the west, north and north west have more land for landfill.

These are the arguments that require addressing with thinking and reasoning. Many would argue that it is not fair governance, and that the east and south east become free-riders. This continues to create societal divide and gives the perception of waste being 'away over there' and not our problem. That's not the future for modern waste management.

The DMWRRIP appears to be pandering to an industry and State Government committed to the cheaper option of landfill, which in turn panders to the financial greed of the stakeholder industries.

Karen and Danny Ellis