

17 December 2015

Draft Implementation Plan Submisssions
C/- Metropolitan Waste and Resource
Recovery Group
P O Box 1326
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (Draft Plan).

Knox Staff and Councillors have taken the opportunity to attend briefings on the Draft Plan and also have considered it with Council Committees.

In principle we support the intent of the ten priority actions contained in the Draft Plan, however we wish to emphasise the need to progress guiding objectives which would directly impact across many of the priority actions. These are as follows;

1. A stronger target for reducing waste to landfill is needed. The reduced percentage of waste to landfill is expected to be offset by population and will therefore result in steady increase of total waste to landfill. As presented, the Plan fails to identify any ambitious target, which takes account of best practice and emerging technologies and yet in the current environment, it is critical that such a target be identified to provide certainty for investment by the waste management sector.
2. A stronger push towards introducing world best practice and emerging technologies for processing waste resources, for example, waste to energy is required. It is our view, that government (State or combined with local) should initiate and construct, or co-construct a flagship waste to energy project incorporating world best practice and architectural excellence to prove the viability of the technology and set the benchmark for more private enterprise investment, community engagement and acceptance. The Sustainability Fund represents a strong opportunity to support such an objectives.
3. Stronger advocacy is required for greatly increased product stewardship legislation to cover the costs associated with recycling e-waste, packaging, mattresses, chemicals and plastics. It is our view that if the rationale is to fund waste minimisation and resource recovery then it should follow that product stewardship is included as this puts the onus back on the producer and is consistent with the aims of the Draft Plan.

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4. Many of the actions will ultimately be reliant on investment from the private sector. However, further clarity is required on how the private sector will be engaged and what will be the incentive for investment.
5. The implementation of the ten priority actions will be reliant on funding being provided, which is most likely coming from the Sustainability Fund. This is controlled by Sustainability Victoria so they should be taking ownership with the actions. This is not apparent in the Draft Plan.
6. In 2012 the then Department of Sustainability and Environment released the Victorian Advanced Resource Recovery Initiative (VARRI). Despite extensive input from Local Government, this ultimately resulted in the development of a discussion paper, rather than achieving the stated aim of assisting metropolitan Melbourne to meet it's towards Zero Waste solid waste recovery targets. What lessons were learnt from this exercise so the same outcome is not repeated with the Draft Plan.

Should you wish to discuss our comments please contact Councils Waste Management Coordinator Geoff McMeeken on [REDACTED] during business hours.

Yours sincerely

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Matt Hanrahan
Manager – Sustainable Infrastructure

