

Submission

No 4

## INQUIRY INTO MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NSW

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## **Municipal Waste Management in NSW**

**Submission by Greg Freeman  
Director**

### **Impact Environmental Consulting Pty Ltd**

There are several issues that relate to the improvement of waste management practices in NSW but the most significant of these I believe is landfilling, particularly in rural and regional areas.

The main issue here is that landfill pricing is not great enough to encourage alternatives (Alternative Waste Technologies). Landfill Pricing is usually set on an ad-hoc basis by Councils on what they believe to be market prices rather than what it costs. This can be redressed by requiring prices to be set on a Full Cost Accounting basis, where land purchase costs, operational costs and closure and rehabilitation costs for the life of the landfill are all taken into account setting landfill pricing. This FCA approach is endorsed by the US EPA as a way to set landfill disposal pricing.

As consultants, we have been involved in 3 successful AWT projects, in Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and South Western Sydney. The Port Macquarie and Coffs projects were justified because a FCA approach to landfilling was undertaken, proving that AWT could compete with landfilling.

Proper landfill pricing is the tool to encourage waste avoidance and separation. If lower prices are charged for separated recoverable materials and higher prices for materials to be landfilled, then this sends clear economic messages that recovery is the better option.

I have considerable experience in waste management, particularly in rural and regional areas and would be happy to appear before the Committee.

Regards  
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