

Submission

No 10

INQUIRY INTO MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NSW

Organisation: Lismore City Council
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Date Received: 14/03/2006

Kylie Rudd - Inquiry - municipal waste management

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Date: 8/03/2006 3:34 PM
Subject: Inquiry - municipal waste management
CC: "Phil Klepzig" <Phil.Klepzig@lismore.nsw.gov.au>

F.A.O. Kevin Greene M.P.
8 March 06

Dear Sir

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS INQUIRY INTO MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NSW
COMMENTS FROM LISMORE CITY COUNCIL**

Many thanks for your letter dated 30 January 2006 inviting a submission from Lismore City Council (LCC) on 'best practice approaches for municipal waste contracting; landfill and levy issues impacting on municipal waste; and the effective and more extensive use of new waste technology'.

LCC does not contract out the collection or landfilling of municipal waste and operates 'Northern Rivers Waste' internally as 'day labour'. At present organics reprocessing and recyclables sorting (through Tryton Waste Services & Ballina Shire Council's Material Recovery Facility) is contracted out.

Lismore is outside the extended regulatory area and therefore not subject to Section 88 landfill levy contributions, so has no comment to make on levies.

In reviewing municipal waste services, LCC is cautious of new waste technologies as the reality appears to be that many are 'conceptual' at best and the untried and untested nature makes large capital investment, and /or long contract terms high risk. It is especially difficult in rural and regional areas to balance environmental outcomes with financial and other resources, due to the relatively small volumes of waste, large transport distances and lack of infrastructure.

LCC has concentrated on minimizing domestic waste to landfill and sees domestic waste as it's 'remit'. A number of techniques have proved successful in diverting domestic waste, including recyclables drop off centres, Revolve (buy-back) centre, and organics (food/green waste and paper and card.) kerbside collection and LCC is assessing options for the introduction of kerbside recyclables collection. Current techniques have collectively contributed to achieving a diversion from landfill rate of around 60% in the domestic sector.

However, efforts in domestic waste diversion amounts to an overall diversion from landfill rate of only 30%, given the volumes of waste to landfill in Lismore from commercial waste service operators,. The challenge, (as LCC sees it) is how to introduce incentives for private sector waste (skip) operators that encourages the commercial and industrial sector to separate out waste for recovery.

Hope these comments are helpful.
Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me by email (or phone 02 6621 8890).

Lesley Trott
Waste Minimisation Officer
Lismore City Council

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