

**Submission  
No 2**

## **MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE ON PRIVATE LANDS**

**Organisation:** Snowy River Shire  
**Name:** Mr Sean Crowe  
**Position:** Manager Waste Services  
**Date Received:** 4/07/2013

Dear Mr. Patterson,

Currently our Council has no compliance resources to police illegal landfills on private lands within our shire.

Our shire consists of smaller town ships surrounded by larger rural farmlands. Council is aware that there are many farmlands that still operate the old practises to bury their waste on their own properties.

Whilst Council concedes that this is happening there are currently no available resources to enforce it.

What is required in our area to assist with "cleaning up" this problem would be several phased approach.

Firstly and media and public education campaign would have be developed to explain why this is not an accepted practise and that Council would commence policing this issue.

Once complete the only way to pin point the landfills is from the air. A helicopter would be required to GPS pinpoint these landfills. Once complete Inspection officers would have to investigate and take action.

This all requires a huge investment by Council for which we have no funds for. Sure we may be able to generate some funds through fines etc, but if we get challenged in court will not be able to afford legal fees and or even cover the staff time and associated costs with running a program like this.

The illegal landfill situation in our shire is really unknown. Having said that, at many public meeting people boast about avoiding charges and dumping waste or even burning it on their own land. Some older farmers see this as common practise still. Whilst illegal dumping is usually out in the open and cost our Council about \$5,000- \$10,000 per year, I believe this is insignificant to amount of illegally operated landfills that exist on private properties.

I hope this review process will identify that this is a major problem for rural Councils to police and that grant funding or program initiatives can be developed to assist with ensuring that this problem gets solved.

There is significant money being given by the EPA for Council to tackle illegal dumping, but in my experience, due to the high landfill costs in metro areas this will always be an issue for cities. The hidden problem of illegally operated landfills in rural Councils has been overlooked and I is good to see that this issue is finally seeing the light of day.

If you have any questions regarding my submission I would be more than happy to discuss this with you.

Regards

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Manager Waste Services

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