



*Our ref: HB:AC: 50/5/5*

14 February 2006

The Manager  
Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Inquiry into municipal waste management in NSW**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on issues relating to waste management practices in NSW. Waste management handling procedures are very different between urban and rural areas, and residential and industrial/commercial producers. Waste management for non-hazardous residential and some non-hazardous commercial waste streams in Narrandera is the responsibility of the Narrandera Shire Council.

Narrandera Shire Council is committed to caring for the environment and has commenced investigation of sustainable waste management practices that will assist Council to minimise waste to a future landfill site. Presently Council provides a weekly refuse collection service - green bin. However, no recycling service is provided.

Identification of a partner to assist in the provision of waste management services is difficult in rural locations. The primary objective of the Standing Committee on Public Works into Municipal Waste Management in NSW should be to assist non-Metropolitan Councils to find the best solutions available and partners for waste management and to ensure services are provided at a subsidised price so that rural rate payers are not disadvantaged.

Higher resident expectations in urban areas may have sparked off change including improved services, the reduction of environmental nuisances, and a higher environmental quality. In rural areas awareness-raising campaigns and provision of services are hindered by a lack of available funds and the financial burden of investigating waste management technologies such as compaction, baling and shredding, to minimise the volume and nuisance of waste and to facilitate opportunities for developing secondary markets for recycling waste is beyond the means of many rural Councils.

Council employs no specific human resources to manage and administer compliance with waste related legislation and regulations and Council is finding it difficult to finance capital improvement works such as the installation of a weighbridge to quantify waste stream data.

The principle that the "polluter-pays" all costs associated with waste management does not take into account that a small rate payer base reduces the funds available to provide services. For example, Council pays particular attention to identifying and cleaning up illegal dump sites. However the costs to Council far exceed revenue generated from enforcement activities and is not sustainable.

To reduce resource consumption, companies must be given incentives to reduce their waste through active waste prevention and recycling. A reduction in packaging would reduce some of the costs associated with waste disposal to rural Councils.

Regional partnerships with other Councils has resulted in a regional tender for the collection of scrap metal, however the reality of the service has been ad hoc and far from satisfactory.

Should you require any more information regarding this matter, please contact Council's Director of Environmental and Community Services, Ms Heather Bell on 02 6959 5550.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K M Murphy', written in a cursive style.

**K M Murphy**  
**General Manager**