

Submission

No 19

## INQUIRY INTO MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NSW

**Organisation:**

**Name:** The Hon. Kerry Hickey MP  
**Position:** Minister for Local Government  
**Telephone:** 02 9228 3333  
**Date Received:** 28/03/2006

---



New South Wales

The Hon. Kerry Hickey MP  
Minister for Local Government

Ref: 06/1860  
MIN: A45387  
Doc ID: A45387

Mr K P Greene MP  
Chair  
Legislative Assembly  
Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

28 MAR 2006

Dear *Kevin* ~~Mr Greene~~

I am writing in reply to your letter of 30 January 2006 regarding a submission to the NSW Standing Committee on Public Works' Inquiry into Municipal Waste Management in NSW.

I am advised that the Department of Local Government has made a submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Waste Generation and Resource Efficiency, which outlines the department's role and the role of local government in waste management.

The role of the department is to provide a clear policy and legislative framework to local government in NSW so that councils are able to deliver quality services to their communities. The Department of Environment and Conservation, which administers the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*, is better placed to provide technical or specialist knowledge in relation to local government's role in waste management.

Under section 24 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, councils can provide waste management services, including domestic, business and roadside services, within their local government areas. Under the Act councils are largely autonomous in terms of determining, in consultation with their community, how such services are best delivered to meet the current and future needs of the community.

Under section 496 of the Act, councils must make and levy an annual charge for the provision of domestic waste management services for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available.

Local councils frequently contract out waste management services, including waste collection, disposal and recycling services. Under section 55 of the Act, councils are required to invite tenders before entering into contracts valued at \$150,000 or more with waste management service providers. This must be

done in accordance with clauses 163-179 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Under section 23A of the Act the Director General of the Department of Local Government has prepared draft Tendering Guidelines for NSW Councils to assist councils in applying clear policies, consistent procedures and effective risk management strategies in undertaking the tendering process. The draft Guidelines are currently with councils for comment and it is anticipated they will be released in April 2006, from which time they must be considered by councils as part of the tendering process. The draft Guidelines have also been provided to the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW, for distribution to its members for comment.

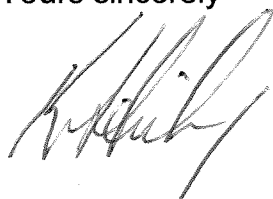
I am advised that the department does not collect information specifically related to the Inquiry's terms of reference. However, it does collect some waste data from councils through the department's annual Domestic Waste Management and Recycling Return. Information about average charges for domestic waste management services per property, costs per service for domestic waste collection and the average amount of waste and recyclables collected per capita is reported in the NSW Local Government Councils Comparative Information, which is published annually by the department.

More detailed data collected from councils by the department is provided to the Department of Environment and Conservation. This includes information about the amount of domestic waste and clean-up waste going to landfill, the amount of dry recyclables and garden organics collected, the amount of waste processed through alternative treatment technologies and the amount of waste and recyclables deposited at a drop-off facility.

To obtain information specifically related to the Inquiry's terms of reference it is suggested that the Local Government and Shires Associations and/or local councils be contacted directly.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely



Kerry Hickey MP  
**Minister**