Hi Peta,

Here are our additional submissions to the inquiry:

1. QON on energy from waste, please see attached response from Mike Ritchie, our Managing Director

2. QON regarding employment figures in the waste industry in 2009. These are the most recent reliable figures that we have and are widely referenced, but it should be time to update them:
a. The estimated direct FTE employment per 10,000 tonnes of waste is 9.2 for recycling and 2.8 for landfill. On a national level this corresponds to an estimated direct labour force of 22,243 FTEs in recycling activities and 6,695 FTEs in landfill operations, totalling 28,938 across Australia. Reference: Access Economics, Employment in waste management and recycling, commissioned by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, July 2009

3. I haven't had time to go through the transcript in detail, I'm sure it is close to being accurate and that anything that may have been missed won't affect the outcome of the Inquiry or my reputation as an SME so happy to accept it as is.

Regards,
Karinne

Karinne Taylor

From: Mike Ritchie
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 12:37 PM
To: Karinne Taylor
Cc: Matt Hyatt; Ron Wainberg
Subject: Re: NSW legislative Council - short response on EfW by Friday

Try this:

Karinne

Efw will not undermine recycling for a number of key reasons:

1. The economics of efw require a gate fee of greater than $200/t and more like $300/t. On the other hand recyclables are traded commodities e.g cardboard sells for $140/t, plastic $400/t etc. No one will send separated recyclables e.g cardboard or saleable plastic to Efw. This is equally true for source separated commercial recyclables (cardboard, plastic etc)

2. Mixed streams are not so simple. That is mixed waste with recoverable recyclables intermingled. These need to be collected and sorted first.

Households- On average the cost of domestic MRF sorting is $150/t in Australia (this is after sale of rhe products have been taken into account) plus the cost of dedicated collection (which you have to do anyway). So household recyclables are still cheaper to collect and sort than landfill (with levies) or Efw at $2-300/t.

Commercial mixed waste - with commingled recyclables is more expensive to sort (because the proportion of recoverable recyclables is lower than in yellow top recycling bins). “Dirty mrfs” therefore have a higher gate fee and there are few of them because the economics are poor. Gate fees of $200-300 are usual. This is on a par with Efw gate fees so commercial mixed waste with recyclables intermingled may be consumed by Efw.

2. Government policy - dictates that recyclables must be removed from the waste stream prior to Efw. Nsw has the strongest policy which requires pre-processing of all waste prior to use in efw. The same strict policies do not exist in other states but a general obligation to not treat recycling in an Efw exists in all state policies.

These policies do not apply to these waste streams going to landfill so currently most of the recyclables are lost to landfill anyway. Higher landfill levies or regulatory controls would be required to divert most of this mixed recyclable/waste stream toward recovery facilities. So Efw forms no greater threat to recycling than landfill for these reasons.

So in conclusion:

1. Source separated recyclables will never go to Efw for sound economic reasons

2. Mixed waste with intermingled recyclables may go to Efw (but no more likely than going to landfill as it currently does). Nsw has strict recovery criteria preventing recyclables going to Efw. Higher landfill levies (or regulation) will be required to divert mist of this material to recycling.

Kind regards,