



Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2017

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee

Waste and Recycling Industry in Australia

Envorinex Brief

Envorinex was established in June 2009 to manufacture plastic products from virgin resins by either extrusion or injection moulding. These products are manufactured for a range of Australian industries and exported to many countries such as our anti-fatigue matting to oil rigs in Scotland. All in-house produced waste is recycled and reused within our manufacturing processes.

In 2011 Envorinex clients began requesting products made from recycled materials and as such we initiated an Australian first program for the recycling of waste uPVC imported window profile material. Envorinex started a joint venture with a Melbourne disability centre where they collected the waste off-cuts from Melbourne PVC window fabricators, sorted, granulated and transported the material to the Envorinex factory in Tasmania where we recycled and re-manufactured it into new products.

Envorinex then successfully designed and ran a waste flexible PVC recycling program with the Tasmanian hospitals by training the staff, collecting, recycling and re-manufacturing the waste IV bags and tubing into new 'second life' products.

During the last two years Envorinex have collected over 3000 tonnes of waste plastics from around Tasmania, recycled and re-manufactured this valuable material into new 'second life' products for Australian market clients.

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Envorinex is currently the only fully integrated recycling plant in Tasmania with any excess recycled pellets sold to other manufacturers in Melbourne.

a. The quantity of solid waste generated and the rate of diversion of solid waste for recycling

In Tasmania, there are thousands of tonnes of plastic waste which is currently being dumped, burnt or stockpiled due to the lack of disposal support and incentives. Envorinex have identified 2,317 tonnes of plastic waste stockpiled in just four sites with location advice on many more similar sites.

It is not the weight of the plastic waste that is the issue but the volume that this equates to in landfill sites. Envorinex can collect 4 tonnes on our trucks which equates to 43.2 cubic metres.

Envorinex is currently only processing a fraction of the Tasmanian plastic waste with the biggest proportion going to landfill and a small fraction of such waste being sorted, baled and shipped off-shore for recycling.

b. The accreditation and management of landfills

I personally would like to see landfill sites run by the EPA and not private enterprises to try and alleviate current corrupt systems.

There should also be annual audits applied outlining the waste type, weight and volume which has been processed with heavy penalties for both the company which has delivered the waste and the landfill site accepting waste - which could otherwise have gone to a recycler.

c. The extent of illegal landfilling

Despite our promulgating the services of Envorinex, by which we offer to collect selected waste free of charge, we are still finding major Tasmanian businesses having their waste collected by waste operators who are dumping the material at landfill sites. We have collected images of this process and tried to interdict this practice but to no avail.

d. The role of landfill levies in determining the end destination of material, including the hypothecation of collected levies for enforcement and waste diversion purposes

Landfill levies in Tasmania are at the very bottom of the National Waste Levy Scale, some transfer sites do not charge for waste disposal and those that do, are so low that it does not cover the administration cost.

Landfill levies should be priced high enough to encourage major businesses to send their waste to recyclers and not to landfill sites.

Due to the extremely low landfill levies within Tasmania, Envorinex was forced to collect waste from around the state as a free service to enable our business to obtain valuable waste plastic and this has impeded our ability to expand due to a very tight cash flow situation.

As an example; a semi-trailer can drive onto the weigh bridge at a landfill site with just 4 tonnes of waste black poly pipe and pay \$600 in Victoria while in Tasmania only \$40 but while that semi-trailer load is 43.2 cubic metres the plastic waste will not break down for over 600 years. It is not the weight but the volume measurement which is more important to our landfill sites and it should be charged accordingly.

e. The role of different incentives and collection methods in determining the quality and quantity of material collected for recycling

As a recycler, Envorinex would like to see a system whereby the volume of waste we are diverting from landfill is subsidised by Tasmanian Councils or the Federal Government from the collected landfill levies.

The level of incentive should be gauged by the definition of 'recycler', those companies which are collecting waste, baling and either shipping offshore or selling to processors should not be compensated with the same level of incentive as those that are collecting, recycling back into pellets and re-manufacturing the waste in a true closed loop process.

f. The destination material collected for recycling, including the extent of material reprocessing and the stockpiling of collected material

The destination of all the Tasmanian waste plastic material we collect for recycling is our George Town factory where we reprocess 100% of the collected material into pellets for our own extrusion or injection moulding into new 'second-life' products with any excess of pellets being sold to Melbourne based plastic product remanufacturers.

g. The current economic conditions in the industry, including the market for material collected for recycling

Tasmania is unique in that as an island, Bass Strait is the most expensive shipping route in the world. Consequently, as a recycler we ensure that the waste we collect is recycled and remanufactured into commercially valued products to cover the cost of our shipping which even after freight equalisation is still very expensive.

Obviously, the lower grade polymers are not worth Envorinex collecting, as by providing a free collection service, the recycled market price is not sufficient to cover our costs.

h. The transportation of solid waste across state boundaries

Landfill levies and incentives should be nationally set at a Federal level which would overcome this issue.

i. The role of the Australian Government in providing a coherent, efficient and environmentally responsible approach to solid waste management, including by facilitating a federal approach

The Federal Government needs to set clear guidelines and pricing for all Australian States.

Australian recycling processors should receive compensation for the volume of waste, not the weight of waste, which they are diverting from landfill coupled to an auditable pathway for materials recycled.

Waste collection companies that are combining recyclable materials with general waste then disposing of the comingled waste into landfill sites should not receive any incentive.

Businesses that deliver their waste to recycling processors should receive an incentive.

j. Other related matters

If you require any further information on the above submission, I would welcome your contacting me on the below numbers or email.

Kind Regards

Jenny Brown  
Managing Direct