

Inquiry into Australia's Waste Management and Recycling Industries

The House Standing Committee on Industry, Innovation, Science and Resources will inquire into and report on innovative solutions in Australia's waste management and recycling industries, including:

- Industrial, commercial and domestic waste;
- Waste in waterways and oceans;
- Landfill reduction; and
- Other related matters.

The Committee is to focus on opportunities presented by waste materials, including energy production, innovative recycling approaches and export opportunities, and to also consider current impediments to innovation.

SUBMISSION

I refer to the final report (June 26 2018) on the Waste and recycling industry in Australia:

[Senate Standing Committee](#)

And the final report (March 28 2018) from the NSW Legislative Council Committee No.6:

[‘Energy from Waste’ Technology](#)

And I note, in particular, the comment:

Submission to the Senate “Waste and Recycling” Inquiry 2018 by the Department of the Environment and Energy:

“The Australian Government generally becomes involved when there is a nationally critical issue or set of issues that requires a shared or overarching approach. Implementation of an initiative usually requires involvement of all states and territories.

Key elements of the Australian Government's collaborative role are to ensure international obligations are met, improve data and reporting, and address national policy and market challenges. Outcomes of Australian Government involvement in coordination of solid waste management include greenhouse gas emission reductions, reduced energy and water use, and supporting jobs and investment for future long- term economic growth in Australia.”

I have made a submission to the Committee on Environment and Planning inquiry into and report on the sustainability of energy supply and resources in NSW. **I have proposed that a major centre for recycling of materials and conversion of waste to energy be created in the Hunter Valley, NSW as the region transitions away from a major economic dependence on coal production of 150mtpa.** The submission can be found at:

[Submission to NSW Parliamentary Committee](#)

I propose that this submission together with the detailed reports referred to above provides a framework to establish a solution for the treatment of waste and the recycling industry in the Hunter Valley, NSW, which could handle a major proportion of waste from NSW, Queensland and Victoria. Seaborne waste from other states and territories which is being exported could also be diverted to the Hunter and handled through the Port of Newcastle.

A recent report from EY (How we can find the treasure in our trash) stated:

“The announcement on Friday 9 August 2019 that Australia’s Environment Ministers had been tasked with banning the export of recyclable plastic waste and other materials in favour of developing a domestic market was welcomed by many, including the recycling sector.

It is hoped that COAG’s leadership will provide much needed direction and stimulus, to start the process of solving the current crisis and helping Australia build a functioning and productive resource recovery market for waste. A commitment to local processing, and the creation of local markets for hundreds of thousands of tonnes of recovered materials represents a considerable challenge. However, it all starts with recognising recyclable materials as a valuable resource and not merely as a burden.”

I believe the Australian Government in combination with the state and territory Governments, is now well prepared to commence a Hunter-based national initiative to solve the increasing waste crisis.