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Waste Policy Task Force
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Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on the 'Draft National Waste Policy Framework: Less waste more resources' Discussion Paper

The City of Marion welcomes the development of a *National Waste Policy* and acknowledges its importance as a major step towards achieving Australia's waste minimisation and management objectives described in the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development.

The City of Marion provided a submission in the consultation paper '*A National Waste Policy: Managing Waste to 2020*', and has endeavoured not to repeat information and views already provided in our earlier submission.

There are, however, a number of issues that the City of Marion feels have not been adequately addressed in the draft Framework that directly relate to the roles and responsibilities of local government:

- Funding Resource Recovery and Waste Management Improvements:

Key Principle 4 states that "*The costs of resource recovery and waste management are borne by the participants in the product supply and consumption chain and not by the community generally.*"

The draft Framework does not clearly describe how improvements in collection and separation of household wastes to facilitate increased resource recovery, which are often delivered by local governments, are to be funded.

- Education Programs:

Education is an important and integral strategy for the success of any bans and implementation of new schemes to reduce the likelihood and incidence of illegal dumping or dumping via the kerbside general waste bin.

Will there be a national approach to communicating messages about new approaches and programs, including brochures, posters and advertisements in the media? How will these be funded?

- Contamination:

Reduction of contamination in the kerbside recycling bins and green organics streams is an important issue for local government. Actions to reduce contamination rates, for example reduced compaction rates in collection vehicles, must take into consideration



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unintended outcomes such as increased vehicle emissions if more vehicles and/or more collections are required.

- Collection Frequencies:

The South Australian Government is moving to legislate against fortnightly collection of residential waste, thereby forcing a continuation of existing weekly collections that may be unnecessary if increased resource recovery options significantly decrease volumes of household wastes requiring collection.

A number of New South Wales Councils, including Bellingen Shire and Nambucca Shire, have introduced fortnightly collections of residual waste and a recent survey at Norwood Payneham & St Peters Council in metropolitan Adelaide found that 61% of residents didn't have a capacity problem with fortnightly collections of residual waste.

How will national targets be reasonably achieved if barriers continue to be put in place at a state level?

- Illegal dumping:

While it is recognised that product stewardship/extended producer responsibility and lifecycle and supply chain management and initiatives to drive environmental and economic benefits is a crucial step in taking responsibility, there are other areas that need addressing in the policy, including illegal dumping.

If residents and ratepayers feel that they cannot dispose of prohibited items in their kerbside collections and there is no readily available alternative it is likely that incidents of illegal dumping will increase.

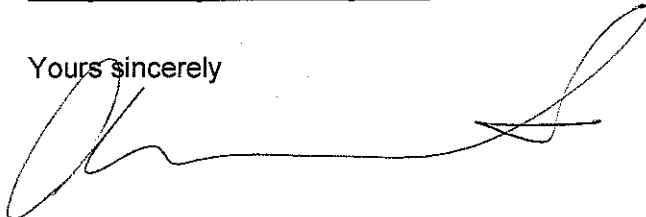
The draft Framework does not provide a clear direction on how waste education initiatives including public campaigns about the cost to the environment, society, local governments, and the fines associated with illegal dumping, are to be developed, managed and funded.

Thank-you for the opportunity to present this submission on the *'Draft National Waste Policy Framework: Less waste more resources'* discussion paper. The comments presented in this submission, while not formally endorsed by Council, have been reviewed by Elected Members and relevant staff.

The draft framework represents an important step forward in the effective waste management across Australia and the City of Marion looks forward to working collaboratively with the Commonwealth Government in the delivery of its objectives.

If you have any queries regarding the submission, please contact Ann Gibbons, Sustainability Planner – Environment, on ph: (08) 8375-6857 or email: ann.gibbons@marion.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Mark Searle
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