

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
GPO BOX 520
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

PO Box 21, Oaklands Park
South Australia 5046
245 Sturt Road, Sturt
South Australia 5047
T (08) 8375 6600
F (08) 8375 6699
E council@marion.sa.gov.au

Attention: Tessa Cramond

Dear Ms Cramond

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT - AA1000420 ANCILLARY SERVICE STREAMS - COUNCIL SOLUTIONS SUBMISSION

The City of Marion is fully supportive of the Council Solutions submission to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) for Ancillary Service Streams.

At Marion, as with all other Councils, we are committed to reducing the cost of services to our community, recognising our residents are faced with cost of living pressures on the family budget. They expect (and we strive to deliver) efficiencies in how their local Council operates and their rates are spent.

This is challenging for any level of government as well as for businesses in an environment where costs are increasing. Local government is faced with the additional burden of cost-shifting from other tiers of government while the introduction of rate capping in South Australia will place further pressure on Council budgets.

However, we are hopeful that with strategic initiatives to collaborate in service provision across Council boundaries, and with initiatives such as what Council Solutions is proposing, we will be able to continue to do more with less. We firmly believe that the Proposed Conduct will deliver resident-value through:

- increased service efficiencies.
- cost savings in tendering / procuring waste services through reducing the replication of work for both participating Councils and potential suppliers through alignment of specifications and service standards and the administration of a single tender process.
- environmental benefits from the increased diversion of waste from landfill.
- lower costs for participating Councils through improved purchasing power.
- increased competition from the stimulation of the market that this will bring.

[The City of Marion acknowledges it is part of Kaurna land and recognises the Kaurna people as the traditional and continuing custodians of the land.](#)

Marion supports the reasons for conducting a separate RFT process for the Ancillary Service Streams including:

- maximising competition by allowing potential suppliers who are capable of providing any or all of the Ancillary Service Streams to tender without also being required to provide 3-Bin System collection services. This opens up the opportunity to potential suppliers, large and small, generalist and specialist, to tender.
- providing a greater focus on the delivery of these services where diversion is typically low and difficult to manage.

Marion is also in the process of reviewing its waste policies to allow for the anticipated growth in the use of bulk bins (particularly in the area of multi-use dwellings) to provide waste services to our community. We consider the ancillary service stream procurement will assist us in providing such services, including through learning from the experience of the other Participating Councils.

Marion's procurement policy requires us to seek the best value for money via open and transparent competition for services to ensure the optimal outcomes for our residents and fair and equitable treatment of suppliers. The Proposed Conduct, we believe, supports this important, high-level objective. In addition, Council has a long-term vision that we will reduce waste to landfill and continually improve our environment, which the Proposed Conduct supports.

Finally, we are fully committed to working in close collaboration with other Councils, the State Government and businesses to deliver better services to our community.

Evidence of this commitment is our involvement in the Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA) with the cities of Holdfast Bay and Onkaparinga, Council's 20-year history with the G6 Procurement Group and now Council Solutions along with supporting local government procurement on a broader scale. All these have delivered benefits for our residents that will be built-upon should the submission be successful.

Marion has directed Council Solutions to act on our behalf and facilitate the procurement of the ancillary service streams, and accordingly unreservedly support the Proposed Conduct.

Yours faithfully



Adrian Skull

Chief Executive Officer

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