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**From:** Ian Barnes  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 August 2019 4:23 PM  
**To:** Adjudication  
**Cc:** Jeff Green; Ilias Kostopoulos  
**Subject:** Whitehorse City Council submission to ACCC - re: AA1000448 – Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group 2019 – submission

**Categories:** Submission

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**Re: AA1000448 – Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group 2019 – submission**

Whitehorse City Council is pleased to make this submission in support of the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) application for a joint competitive tender process to investigate, and potentially procure, the provision of advanced waste processing services. As one of the participating Councils, Whitehorse Council and our community will achieve financial and environmental benefits from this process. A long-term contract for processing municipal waste using advanced waste technology will provide our community with certainty that their waste can be reliably processed and avoid the need to send waste to landfill.

In 2018, Council undertook extensive community consultation when developing our new Waste Management Strategy 2018-2029. Throughout this consultation, there was strong community support for Council to reduce its reliance on sending waste to landfill and to partner where appropriate with other Councils in waste procurement projects to achieve financial benefit from 'bulk' purchasing. The Waste Management Strategy adopted by Council in December 2018 has as one of its key actions to participate in a joint procurement process seeking advanced waste technology to process municipal waste.

A particular driver for Councils in the South-East of Melbourne is the pending closure of the last remaining landfill in the South-East within the next 5 years or so. Unless an alternative facility can be established in the South-East for processing municipal waste, Councils will be forced to transport their municipal waste longer distances across Melbourne to landfill in the North and West of Melbourne, adding to transport costs and greenhouse emissions. These landfills also have a limited lifespan, with some potentially closing by 2030. Seeking a tender for the establishment of an advanced waste processing technology facility is expected to increase the capture and recovery of more components of the waste stream, an added benefit in terms of the circular economy and environmental outcomes.

The aggregation of waste from 16 Councils will ensure that a suitably sized advanced waste technology facility is attractive to the market as it will be viable for the operators and affordable for the users. Although the collective quantity of waste across 16 Councils is significant, it represents only a small proportion of overall waste that needs processing across metropolitan Melbourne, and is therefore unlikely to adversely impact competition. Instead it is hoped that new players will be attracted by this tender, increasing competition in the waste processing industry.

Whitehorse Council therefore believes that there is significant public benefit in the MWRRG joint procurement project proceeding. It will enable Council to have confidence that our valued and essential waste collection services will continue to be delivered across the City, through the certainty of having a competitively tendered advanced waste technology facility to process municipal waste.

Whitehorse Council would appreciate being kept informed of the progress of the application by the ACCC, and Whitehorse Council's nominated contact person is Ian Barnes, Assistant Manager Sustainability

Regards,

Ian Barnes  
Assistant Manager Sustainability

Email:

Ph

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