

**From:** Ian Barnes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 December 2019 1:08 PM  
**To:** Adjudication  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: ACCC Draft Determination – Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group & Ors (recycling sorting, AA1000451) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** AA1000451 - Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (recycling sorting) - ACCC to Interested Parties re Draft Determination - 5.12.19.PDF; AA1000451 - Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (recycling sorting) - Draft Determination - 5.12.19.pdf

Connie and Hayley,

**Re: AA1000451 – Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group 2019 (Recycling Sorting) – submission**

Whitehorse City Council is pleased to make this submission in support of the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) application to jointly investigate and potentially procure the provision of sorting services for commingled recyclable material which is collected from residents' kerbsides (**Recycling Sorting Services**). As one of the participating Councils, Whitehorse Council and our community expect to achieve financial and environmental benefits from this process. A multi-Council contract for sorting recycling has the potential to attract new service providers to what is currently a very limited number of suitably experienced recycling sorters in Victoria. The aggregation of recyclables from the participating Councils also has the potential of attracting a service provider/s willing to construct new sorting infrastructure to ensure that there is sufficient capacity over time to process municipal recycling.

As you may be aware, the sorting and processing of kerbside recycling in Australia faces serious challenges as a result of a ban by China in 2018 from importing low quality mixed recyclables such as kerbside recycling, and subsequent similar restrictions by other Asian nations. Every Australian State is impacted by these export restrictions and the recycling sorting and processing industry needs to improve the quality and capacity here in Australia rather than export recyclables. This proposed tender and subsequent contract provides an opportunity for the recycling industry to offer improved quality sorting and add local capacity for processing recyclables in metropolitan Melbourne.

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 continue and improve its recycling services, including a clear community preference to recycle a wider range of materials through the kerbside recycling service. This will only be possible if the recycling industry is able to upgrade its recycling sorting and processing facilities, which the proposed MWRRG procurement project can play a key role in delivering to participating Councils. The community also commented favourably on Council seeking to partner 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 processes such as the recycling sorting procurement process subject to this application to the ACCC.

The proposed recycling sorting contract is expected to specify higher recycling standards that will increase the capture and recovery of more components of the recycling stream, an added benefit in terms of the circular economy and environmental outcomes.

Whitehorse Council therefore believes that there is significant public benefit in the MWRRG joint procurement recycling sorting services project proceeding. It will enable Council to have confidence that our valued and essential recycling collection services can continue to be delivered across the City, through the certainty of having a competitively tendered recycling sorting facility to process municipal recyclables. Council currently has a recycling sorting contract in place, however the next contract is likely to be based on different standards and requirements that will certainly impact the recycling services for the community. We are therefore willing participants in the MWRRG procurement process, and support their application.

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

We are happy for our submission to be made public.



**Ian Barnes**

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