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7 July 2006

Waste Generation and Resource Efficiency Inquiry  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2,  
Collins Street East, Melbourne VIC 8003

Attention: Waste Generation and Resource Efficiency Inquiry Team

**Re: Productivity Commission Draft Report – Waste Management**

The Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) is the Kwinana Industrial Area's (KIA) peak industry body, representing all the major industries and many of the smaller supporting industries in WA's premier industrial precinct.

The KIC was pleased to participate in this important Commission inquiry. Currently, within the KIA, 32 by-product synergies exist. The KIC, in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing (Curtin University) is conducting research to identify and implement further synergies. This exchange of material for beneficial reuse represents an example of resource efficiency. These synergies, which have environmental, economic and social benefits, need to be supported by a framework that encourages and supports implementation.

The Commission report recognises the range of policy instruments to encourage optimal resource efficiency and recovery and supports policy selection that best serves the community. The KIC recognises the importance of a best practice approach through policies that support efficiency and lead to positive outcomes for the community.

The KIC supports the waste hierarchy and is committed to the implementation of further synergies that can divert material from landfill and can enable the valuable recovery and reuse of inorganic by-products. In Western Australia, the current regulatory framework for inorganic by-product reuse is unclear and can potentially act as a barrier to implementation.

The KIC is currently liaising with the Western Australian government to address this important issue and highlight the current barriers that can prevent the diversion of by products to useful applications. This includes the lack of clear framework which can raise concerns amongst generators and users when trying to demonstrate a projects implementation value from both an environmental and economic risk perspective. Lack of community understanding and support can also act as an impediment. To this end, the KIC is supportive of an approach that involves stakeholder communication, research on environmental risks and market acceptance and a sound government framework to ensure inorganic by-product initiatives are researched and implemented.

On behalf of the KIC I commend the Productivity Commission examination of waste management in Australia and would be pleased to participate in any further research on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonia Swetman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

**Tonia Swetman**  
**Director**