

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

I wonder if you would add this to my previous submission.

I did a submission to the NSW Government's Extended Producer Responsibility report. I wanted them to include CD's as a product of concern. Apparently you can recycle records and not CD's. They didn't indicate in any way they would even include it in the future in their report or if there was a best practice recycling facility in NSW, a recycling and collection facility or a CD crusher. I am not aware of it or have forgotten.

I was wondering if you could see that an operation to recycle CDs was placed in every state.

I would not want them exported or imported into different states from within Australia. I mean the waste generated by CD's or any product for that matter. There may be some comparative advantage because some states have a best practice recycling process on different waste streams where other states have not. I feel there is an economic term for this giving one company an economic advantage over others, and it should be eliminated. I have gone blank and can't remember the term at the moment.

I have seen articles now where people are measuring the oil use in the production and distribution of products and the GHG's emitted, and to reduce trips is normal for people to be concerned with who are interested in the environment to include in their indicator calculations. So I hope you are doing this.

One Family, One Month, 50kg Of Packaging. Why? – The Observer Magazine Investigates.

February 3, 2006 07:34 AM - Leonora Oppenheim, Barcelona

I also wanted to say these indicators seem to be the indicators for solid waste. I am unaware if the NSW Government has held talks with ENGO's and community groups on these indicators unless they gave us the chance within the waste strategy talks. I don't remember a great deal of debate about them except that on the footprint indicator.

United Nations Division for Sustainable Development-National Information-Indicators of Sustainable Development

... to the level of economic activity in a particular ... have set national targets for the reduction of solid waste within a ... and operational costs for solid waste management reduced. There ...

[www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/indisd/english/chapt21e.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/indisd/english/chapt21e.htm) - 47k - Cached - More pages from this site - Save - Block

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natlinfo/indicators/indisd/english/chapt21e.htm>

Also I have noticed that companies are saying they have solutions to problems but are they really triple bottom line solutions. I think we need a group to check that companies are doing the right thing a sort of triple bottom line monitoring on products.

[http://www.saft.fr/130-Catalogue/PDF/general\\_offer.pdf](http://www.saft.fr/130-Catalogue/PDF/general_offer.pdf)

I don't believe in a voluntary approach to recycling I think it should be mandatory and I have heard a consultant from the computer industry saying the issues around recycling should be set out in law so people know exactly what is required of them this consultant represented the Australian computer industry and I feel she said any law should be mandatory for all companies.

I noticed this web page [http://www.digicult.info/downloads/twr2003\\_01\\_low.pdf](http://www.digicult.info/downloads/twr2003_01_low.pdf) and when considering best practice technologies this might be a good way to think about recycling technologies I don't know, I also thought the federal government could give a best available "Technology Watch Report" every two years but on recycling and resource recovery technologies.

New technologies are emerging at a phenomenal pace and there is no

shortage of technologies that either appear or purport to have value for the heritage sector.

So, the problem is not identifying new technologies to review but selecting those

that are most likely to have a positive, significant, sustainable, measurable, and cumulative

impact on the cultural heritage sector. A key issue will be ensuring that the technologies selected for review do not quickly become obsolete. One needs to remember the CD-I technologies adopted with great excitement by the heritage sector in the late 1980's only to disappear very soon thereafter. CD-Is were left holding materials that appeared to be inaccessible, such as the BBC's Domesday Survey. The process of selecting technologies is, therefore, a complex and risky one.

Emphasis has been placed on technologies that have been proven in other domains and can be transferred to the heritage sector with minimum risk of failure or "infant obsolescence". There are many technologies that could bring value to heritage institutions

and to ensure that the sector makes the best selection of those that can be covered

the project team used the following questions to compare different possible technologies:

- Has the technology proven its value in other domains?
- Does it have clear applicability to the heritage sector? Are there scenarios that clearly demonstrate its potential?
- Is the technology likely to enhance access, use, understanding, conservation, and/or preservation of the cultural heritage? Will it improve the visibility, use, or management of heritage collections?
- Will it enable institutions strategically to improve their use of computer- and onlinebased technologies to exploit their assets?
- Is it likely to have a lasting impact on the heritage sector?
- Can the technology be exploited by different sizes and types of cultural heritage institutions?
- Will the impact of the technology be measurable?
- Can the technology be brought into use easily?
- Is the technology stable and pervasive?
- Is the technology going to improve delivery of service?

There has also been a "Technology Gap in Recycling Workshop" done in another place in the world. I believe the federal government should hold such a workshop in Australia. There may already have been one I just don't know about it.  
[http://recycle.nrcan.gc.ca/full\\_workshop\\_e.pdf](http://recycle.nrcan.gc.ca/full_workshop_e.pdf) Mostly Done for the Automotive, Construction and Plating and Electronic Scrap and these issues should be covered in our country nationally.

I need to ask others what they think about resource centric planning I have never seen a paper on this except for the one below I mean a paper by an NGO, may be their is one I dont know? Whether this issue is it actually is related to recycling and optimal utilisation I am not sure???

PPT] Impacts of Major Issues Identified

File Format: Microsoft Powerpoint - View as HTML

Utilise and distribute patented technology for taking a Resource Centric ...

Using Proficiency and cost to determine the theoretical best allocation. ...

[www.pmichapters-australia.org.au/](http://www.pmichapters-australia.org.au/)

[melbourne/events/PMI\\_event\\_May\\_2004\\_summary.ppt](#) - Supplemental Result - Similar pages

I also wanted to say I was reading this web link and I have thought that [http://www.nmw.ac.uk/change2001/Abstracts/dec\\_abstracts.pdf](http://www.nmw.ac.uk/change2001/Abstracts/dec_abstracts.pdf)

at point 8 on page 6 the Federal government should always employ scientists who work from the view of environment first and environmental health and human health first

I need these other parts added here to this statement because I know working as a volunteer in environment groups our environmental quality has gotten worse not better and I wonder what has happened to our scientists if they dont listen. Science gave us DDT lead in petrol that was sprayed around our suburbs where young children have grown up and I believe have bought genetic harm to individuals and that is an intergenerational equity and intra generational equity problem and all governments do is reduce medicare so I feel there is something very wrong if governments wont pay for care of affected people who through no fault of their own have been exposed to harmful health pollutants then the companies must pay through extended producer responsibility and if this means they pay into a scheme that makes medicare open to all people, then so be it???

Also the GHG problem I believe is happening it cant be reversed. I am told so people who dont listen to the community because they feel they dont know science or they have a mental health problem or just take an elitist attitude "Why would they know". these attitudes are useless to society and stochastic testing should be done to eliminate decision makers who dont listen or show a compassion of environment and environmental health and health first psychological traits. People can understand by observation and by doing their own reading. that something is wrong and when they sound the alarm and scientists dont think it is important at the moment then it becomes an important issue through the media, well what use are people like that to society if they cant be proactive and that isnt being proactive I feel!!!!

Finally, there

is considerable anxiety within scientific and policy making networks about growing public mistrust and

scepticism in the legitimacy of science.

I am also thinking about toxic incinerators of the past and now  
the new evolving hazardous waste disposal technology with double crubbers  
the community needs  
commitment to bring local people into dialogue

with experts to share their knowledges and engage in joint action to progress the development of

environmental science and management.

At Part 18 it says that

The in situ data are essential for the success of global observations

This is vital used with space observations so for recycling data we need to make sure Australia in situ data

is correct. Someone needs to do a literature review of data sources for recycling rates and recycling technologies and inputs and outputs but that can't be done by community groups or ENGO's unless the finance is found. At point 25 Graehame Harris of the CSIRO Land and Water Canberra ACT says I believe if a community group happens to have a labor government and that government gives money in the form of a grant and there is similar paper done in other states with similar observations and statistics that point to significant environmental damage by products and state governments can't act then the federal government must.

Overall the

present mix of land use on the continent is not sustainable and business as usual is not an option.

One of the things my I was hoping was that recycling jobs would help with jobs that cannot carry on because they are not sustainable

At point 45 it says in an article by an economist it says I agree with the misdesign in our case in NSW although efforts are being made to correct that but government is so slow and finance is needed to be available to change government redesign of political and economic systems even for recycling and resource recovery. Because we do have some amazing pieces of science appearing that could relate to solid waste reduction and we need to bring this future stuff online now. So that is a large infrastructure change.

there is a need to

expand their focus to include efforts to identify and analyse the fundamental causes of degradation,

causes that lie in the mis-design of political and economic systems.

If there is anything you might think is gobbledegoose in all of this then email me and ask.

Yours sincerely

Ms Lyndall McCormack

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Secretary Of The Sustainability Club