

Hanson

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Inquiry into Waste Generation and Resource Efficiency
Productivity Commission
Locked bag 2, Collins St East
Melbourne VIC 8003

Submission

Thank you for the copy of the Waste Management Productivity Commission Draft Report. Further to our initial submission dated 8 Feb 2006 we raise the following issue with the Commission.

Currently there is a Landfill Levy in Victoria payable to the EPA by landfill operators for the disposal of asbestos wastes to landfill. The current levy on asbestos is \$22 per tonne, this levy increases to \$26 per tonne from 1 July 2006 and further increases to \$30 per tonne from 1 July 2007.

Landfill levies are purported by governments to decrease the amount of waste going to landfill by making disposal more costly and therefore making recycling more viable. This is clearly not the case with asbestos as it is no longer produced or used in Australia and it cannot be recycled. A levy on disposal of asbestos is an unwarranted cost to companies cleaning up contaminated sites.

We recommend that no landfill levies should be payable on asbestos waste going to landfill as a levy discourages decontamination of asbestos contaminated sites and encourages people to hide asbestos waste amongst other wastes so posing a potential health risk to workers involved in the landfill industry as the asbestos is not securely packaged to contain to the fibres.

Please contact me if you require further clarification.

Yours faithfully,

MIKE ELLSMORE
Divisional Manager