

Submission into Waste Generation & Resource Efficiency

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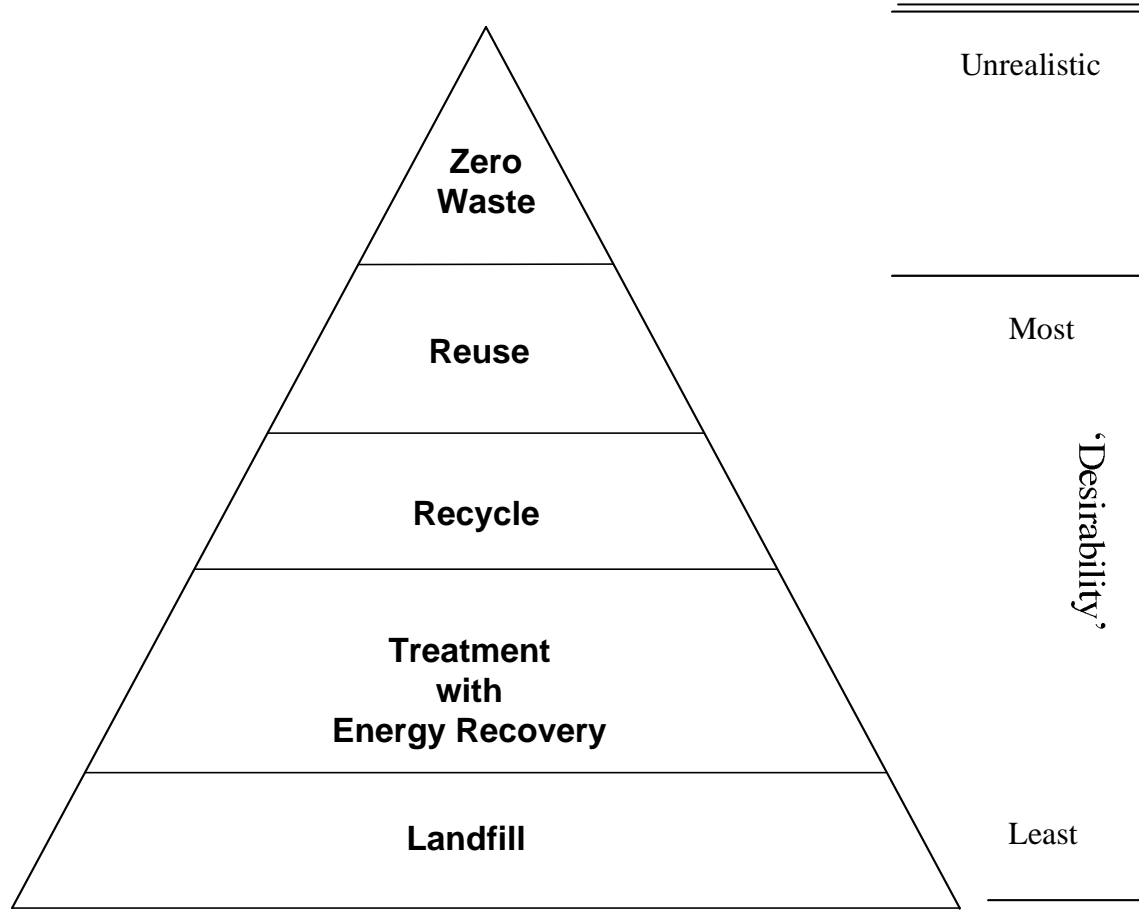
Themes of Submission (1)

- Zero Waste is not a reality: it is a goal
- Waste minimisation however makes good sense in both social and economic (Resource Efficiency) contexts,
- The promise of Zero Waste can create false expectations in developed and developing communities, and
- Zero Waste proponents can adversely effect sound waste management decisions.

Themes of Submission (2)

- Incineration with Energy Recovery is a valid way to manage many wastes, including municipal wastes, and
- It can be undertaken with strong environmental safeguards that protect the community more efficiently and securely than any other waste disposal option.

The Waste Management Hierarchy



The Application of the Hierarchy

- Assists with emphasising opportunities in waste management, but
- Does not take into account the cost of resources and energy in moving a waste up the Hierarchy, nor
- Takes into account health and other risks in such a movement.

Incineration with Energy Recovery(1)

- Is being carried out successfully with no harmful environmental consequences,

and

- By following the EU Guidelines on Incineration of Wastes emissions are not harmful to human beings.

Incineration with Energy Recovery(2)

- Produce a biologically inert ash,
- Significantly reduce the amount of material going to landfill, and
- Produce a significant amount of energy for community use.

Who is Incinerating Municipal Wastes - Safely (some examples)

- The Europeans, including the Irish,
- The Singaporeans,
- The Japanese, and
- The British.

Should Australia do likewise?

- Yes, despite claims that we have plenty of room for landfills (TIPS!)
- Why: Landfills are not productive in any real sense. They can only produce a fraction of the energy from waste as can be obtained by incineration, and they LEAK!

Conclusion (1)

- Waste creation is part of human existence,
- Each generation will produce a mark on the environment that will exist for many generations,
- That mark should be minimised as far as possible,
- The minimisation should not be to a point that we adversely effect our social and economic stability, and
- Zero Waste in an unachievable goal.

Conclusion (2)

- Incineration with Energy Recovery is a very legitimate waste management practice,
- For each waste Life Cycle Analyses are required to find what are the currently most suitable practices in terms of the Waste Hierarchy, and
- May we all produce less waste, and the waste that we do produce, may it be cleanly and productively managed.