

Merri-bek Civic Centre

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Parliament of Victoria
Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Waste to Energy Inquiry
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

wastetoenergyinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au

16/03/2026

Merri-bek City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the development and expansion of waste-to-energy (WtE) infrastructure in Victoria being undertaken by the Economy and Infrastructure Committee.

It is the view of this Council that the Victorian Government should not support the development and expansion of this industry, as investment in large-scale WtE incineration infrastructure presents long-term financial, environmental and social risks. WtE is inconsistent with the first and third principals of a truly Circular Economy - 'to eliminate waste and pollution' and 'to regenerate natural systems'. Council has resolved to prohibit waste to energy thermal technologies in its future waste processing contracts.

Whilst we agree that the Victorian Government needs to reduce waste to landfills, we believe this should be achieved without reliance on thermal WtE. Instead, investment, policy and regulations should focus on:

- Driving rapid system change towards waste avoidance, circular manufacturing, reuse, repair, recycling and pre-treatment of truly 'residual' waste.
- Strengthening the requirement that body corporates offer better recycling and circular economy options where they use private waste contractors.
- Working with food businesses to introduce stronger measures to reduce single-use takeaway containers and use 100% reuseable crockery and cutlery for in-store dining, including considering planning requirements for new businesses.
- Improves recycling and recovery from construction and demolition waste at small construction sites and by builders across Victoria.

To achieve the *Recycling Victoria, A New Economy* goal to "cut total waste generation by 15 per cent per capita by 2030" the Victorian Government must put in place the right regulatory and pricing

signals to drive waste avoidance and reduction across all four streams, as well as initiatives to improve material efficiency, reuse and recycling over incineration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'P' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Pene Winslade

Director Place and Environment

27/03/2026