

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 August 2019 9:43 AM
To: Info
Subject: 20190824 - Response - Draft Zero Waste Strategy - [REDACTED]

Dear Council,

Congratulations on a well presented draft. I wish with respect, to make the following comments.

- To achieve goals as presented on page 30 there is a need to have, (a) regular bin inspections with follow up consultation when bins fail the inspection and (b) ongoing public education.
- Adding a FOGO/garden organics bin should mean that the 140 litre residual bin need only be collected every second week, as with the recycle bin and the new FOGO/garden organics bin.
- SVC need to discuss with Strata precincts the need to have one FOGO/garden organics bin situated at residential Strata Precincts. This bin charge to be made to the Body Corporate. Some precincts with 10 or more units may require 2 or 3 bins. Again all associated costs to be debited to the body corporate. This will save bin collection as well as reduced cost to property owners within the precincts.
- Page 31. The success of this Strategy could be judged on how on how well the ongoing educational program is carried out. Working alongside the educational program should be the return of the 355 Waste Management Committee, with Tumbarumba and Tumut working jointly, so that we all keep abreast with new technology and are prepared to change direction as economy and technology dictates. Thus bringing all our communities along with future progress.
- I note that the closing date for current funding submissions is August 2019. It is vital that we keep abreast with all possible funding options. Allowing staff to put time aside for this purpose is essential.

Your faithfully,

[REDACTED]

1 INTRODUCTION

2 The NSW government abides by the legislation set out by the *Waste Avoidance and Resource*
 3 *Recovery Act (2001)* in conjunction with the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act (1997)*.
 4 These Acts aim to champion waste avoidance and resource recovery for all waste streams with
 5 the goal of a continual reduction in waste generation in NSW. Snowy Valleys Council recognises
 6 'zero waste' to landfill is a highly aspirational goal that aligns with this legislation. Simple changes
 7 in how Council treats waste education and recovery in the Community will greatly reduce current
 8 rates of non-recyclable waste to landfill.

Comment [WJ1]: Updated
legislation – had Victorian

9 The NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging Local Councils to become greater
 10 advocates for waste management in their LGA. The EPA recognizes that Council strategies
 11 regarding waste will drive a reduction in waste sent to landfill, increase recycling rates, treating
 12 recycling as a resource and ultimately reduce illegal dumping. This is being facilitated through the
 13 Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Program (2017-2021) providing support and
 14 significant funding opportunities to LGA's, with a particular emphasis on Regional Councils.
 15 Snowy Valleys Council aims to fund the principal costs for their waste reduction improvement
 16 plan via this plan.

Comment [WJ2]: I have seen no
evidence for alternate funding

17 In line with suggestions from the Household Waste and Recycling Research Report (EPA, April
 18 2016) and the Regional Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-2021 (EPA, 2014)
 19 it is hoped that Regional Councils focus on:

- 20 -Increasing Dry Recycling
- 21 -Targeting Organics in the Waste Stream
- 22 -Reducing Waste to Landfill
- 23 -Combating Illegal Dumping and Littering

24 Coincidentally, these are the key issues driving challenges to waste disposal in Snowy Valleys
 25 Council.

26 The principal waste streams considered for improvement by Council is the municipal Solid Waste
 27 Stream (SWS) and Commercial and Industrial Waste Stream (CIWS). The EPA strongly suggest
 28 focus be given to Construction and Demolition Waste Stream (CDW) also.

29 The main issues for Council with attaining waste reduction targets approaching zero using a
 30 revitalized waste management strategy include:

- 31 - Sparse waste data: SVC's waste figures are poorly estimated. Anecdotal estimates indicate
 32 that recycling recovery rates are below desired state targets. This suggests that current waste
 33 management strategies are not meeting Council's requirements and so are unsustainable for
 34 future operations. However, to better quantify what needs to change within the current
 35 waste strategy, a fair baseline for categorized waste must be determined.
- 36 - Costs associated with the removal of waste to landfill
- 37 - Lack of Education about recycling and waste disposal in the LGA i.e unsustainable
 38 consumption and disposal rates
- 39 - Lack of opportunity for the collection and recycling of organic waste i.e as a possible revenue
 40 stream

41 While there are significant challenges for Council to overcome to approach their waste targets, it
 42 is vital that consideration be given to the significant infrastructure currently in place. It would not
 43 be prudent to decommission equipment and programs that may be working and require
 44 maintenance/ alteration rather than removal to build efficiency.

45 Council has a 2 bin general waste and recycling kerb side program providing urban members of
 46 the LGA with a waste disposal service. The products from this are directed to Council's wide
 47 spanning network of recycling centres and transfer stations. A memorandum of understanding
 48 between Council and Valmar Support Services (Not-for-profit disability support provider)
 49 facilitates a hand-sorted recycling program for Snowy Valleys Council which has maximized
 50 recycling rate within the confines of the current waste management strategy. Council has also

51 partnered with REROC to enable effective recycling of metal, oil, e-waste and CRC products which
52 are not able to be facilitated in the LGA.

Comment [WJ3]: Unsure of this arrangement since we have left and joined the Canberra JO

53 Council has identified 5 objectives as key targets to reach a goal of approaching zero waste to
54 landfill in the LGA. These targets should be tackled progressively to ensure success. They can be
55 seen below:

- 56 1. Establish a data collection program to drive intelligent decision making
- 57 2. Drive innovation in waste management i.e treat it as a resource
- 58 3. Deliver waste education and advocate for behavioral change
- 59 4. Harmonise current services LGA wide and integrate infrastructure improvements
- 60 5. Maximise resource recovery

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64 Points that need to be made clear in from the current waste strategy in the yet to be written Action Plan

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66 **1. SUMMARY:**

- 67 -What are the key drivers of waste problems in SVC
- 68 -What is the Council's adopted strategy (High Level)
- 69 - Baseline figures on which decisions are based
- 70 -Approximated figures/ reductions to be achieved/ SVC to be measured on

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72 **2. ACTION PLAN:** Clear actions to facilitate this strategy over a given timeframe i.e 5 -10 years
73 i.e Objective – Action to perform – Desired outcome to be assessed against

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75 **3. ACCOUNTABILITY:** How will SVC be accountable / how will SVC measure their success

- 76 - Policy and Legislation
- 77 - Environmental Policies
- 78 - Related Strategies i.e how to tackle illegal dumping
- 79 -Annual checks and milestones

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81 *The strategy is light on technical detail and information from where /how figures come from or are
82 calculated. SVC should look at including;

- 83 - Waste Audit Report
- 84 -Realistic Financial Assessment
- 85 - Any Business Cases if applicable – particularly relevant if significant infrastructure upgrades are
86 warranted

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