



Office of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

Mr Geoff Lake
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Australian Local Government Association
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DEAKIN ACT 2600

ALGA MAIL	
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Dear Mr Lake

I refer to your letter of 18 September 2009 to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, concerning resolutions relating to waste policy from the 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government. The Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter and to reply on his behalf.

The resolutions have been noted but cannot be commented on ahead of consideration of the National Waste Policy to the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) in November 2009. You may be aware, however, that the EPHC has been undertaking consultation on a national product stewardship scheme for computers and televisions and will be considering the decision regulatory impact statement at its November meeting.

There are also a number of current Australian Government initiatives that are relevant to the General Assembly resolutions.

The Australian Government's AusIndustry programs, administered by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) provide assistance for research and development activities to develop solutions to climate change. Waste and energy related projects that apply new recycling technologies have been granted funding under these programs.

In May 2009, Minister Garrett announced the FluoroCycle scheme, which also has the support of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council. FluoroCycle is a voluntary industry partnership to increase recycling of mercury-containing lamps in Australia. With Australian Government funding of up to \$500,000, the scheme will be delivered jointly by the Australian Government and Lighting Council Australia.

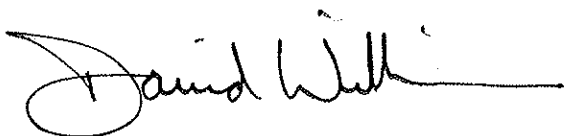
A stakeholder implementation group has been established for FluoroCycle and the Australian Local Government Association is represented on that group. As its first priority, the scheme will target the commercial and public lighting sectors as these account for approximately 90 per cent of lighting waste in Australia.

The FluoroCycle scheme will also include an outreach program to recruit participants to the scheme and a 'promotional and recognition' strategy to highlight the commitments and achievements of participants. The scheme is expected to be launched by the end of the year and implementation will commence in 2010.

The key initiative supported by the Australian Government for managing packaging waste in Australia is the National Packaging Covenant. The Covenant is a voluntary product stewardship arrangement between all levels of government (including local government) and a broad range of industries in the packaging supply chain to reduce the environmental impact of packaging materials. The new Covenant will focus on driving better design, including recycled content, improving litter outcomes and supporting growth in recycling rates for packaging.

Thank you for bringing these resolutions to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Williams
Chief of Staff