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Mr Roger Bailey
General Manager
City of Lithgow Council
PO Box 19
LITHGOW NSW 2790

25 February 2013

Dear Mr Bailey

The NSW Government has announced the release of a \$465.7 million *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative that sets out a progressive waste and recycling agenda over the next five years.

The initiative has been developed in response to the recommendations of the independent review of the waste levy and brings forward a holistic and strategic approach to waste and recycling that will transform the way waste is managed in NSW.

The Hon Robyn Parker, Minister for Environment and Heritage, appointed the internationally renowned consultancy firm, KPMG to undertake an independent review into the operation of the NSW waste levy. The review was identified as a priority action under Goal 23 of *NSW 2021: A Plan To Make NSW Number One*. The review focused on the impact of the levy on the recycling industry, households and illegal dumping. The KPMG report and the Government's response to its 17 recommendations are available at: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/levyreview.htm

A key theme identified by KPMG from the consultations was the need to reform funding programs to stimulate investment in infrastructure, education and the development of waste initiatives. The *Waste Less, Recycle More* package provides funding of \$465.7 million to be spent over five years on waste and recycling in NSW. The package is the largest waste and resource recovery funding package in Australia that will help achieve the State's recycling targets, stimulate investment in infrastructure and combat illegal dumping and littering. Key funding programs in the package include:

- \$250 million Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Package, that includes:
 - \$70 million to facilitate the establishment of community drop-off centres for problematic wastes (eg gas bottles, paint, fluoro tubes)
 - \$70 million to target the collection and re-processing of food waste from businesses and householders
 - \$60 million to stimulate investment in waste and recycling infrastructure to support levy paying communities
 - \$35 million to support businesses across NSW increase waste avoidance and resource recovery
 - \$15 million to support recyclers reduce residuals, increase their efficiencies and develop innovative recycling solutions and new markets.
- \$137.7 million for local councils to develop fit-for-purpose local solutions for their communities, including \$13 million to support regional and rural councils with regional coordination and infrastructure planning, and \$7 million in grants for landfill consolidation, closure and transfer stations

- \$58 million to combat illegal dumping through partnerships between the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), councils, the community and land owners
- \$20 million in funding for litter programs to ensure NSW has the lowest litter per capita.

Details of the new waste and resource recovery initiative are included in the brochure enclosed.

Other key outcomes of the KPMG review that have been adopted as part of the *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative include:

- the release of a draft state-wide illegal dumping strategy for public consultation
- the release of a draft energy from waste policy for public consultation
- establishment of an expert reference panel to advise on infrastructure
- a pilot program providing a levy rebate for the disposal of asbestos for home renovators
- reinstating an exemption of the levy payable on virgin excavated natural material disposed of at a landfill.

In their report to the Government, KPMG made a recommendation to extend the waste levy across the State, exempting landfills that receive less than 5,000 tonnes per year. Given the significance of this proposal, the Government has decided to withhold a decision on this recommendation until likely affected local councils and other stakeholders have been consulted on the issue.

As a result, the EPA will be consulting with councils and other stakeholders affected by implementing this KPMG recommendation, and will provide Government with a report outlining stakeholder feedback. This process will be included as part of the consultation phase of the statutory review into the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005* in early 2013 and importantly provides all councils with an opportunity to participate in the decision making process.

Further information regarding the above initiatives is available on the EPA's website at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/WasteLess.htm The EPA will also be hosting information sessions for interested stakeholders throughout March 2013. Details on the information sessions are enclosed for your information.

If you have any further questions, please contact Steve Beaman, Director Waste and Resource Recovery on (02) 9995 6073.

Yours sincerely

BARRY BUFFIER
Chair and CEO
Environment Protection Authority

Enc:

Lithgow City Council - Records Unit

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 Class: _____
 IR: _____
 Cust: (d KPMG) (d, Robyn Parker)
 Sub: (AR) 39/17-1.2
 Action Index: _____
 Notes: Similar to doc: "Waste Less, Recycle More" publication HCD & Dept. for RLP
 Acknow Letter
 DO NOT Return to _____
 Return to Recd _____

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Exec.
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Schedule of stakeholder information and consultation forums

Stakeholder information and consultation sessions will cover:

- Five year \$465.7 million *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative
- Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy
- Draft Energy from Waste Policy Overview
- Review of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation*
- Draft Illegal dumping strategy
- Consultation on geographic coverage of the waste levy

Session	Date Time: 9.30-4pm	Venue	Address
Coffs Harbour	Wednesday 6 March 2013	Break free Aanuka Beach Resort	11 Firman Drive, Coffs Harbour
Parramatta	Friday 8 March 2013	Novotel Parramatta	350 Church St Parramatta
Sydney CBD	Monday 11 March 2013	Rydes World Square	389 Pitt Street, Sydney
Maitland	Wednesday 13 March 2013	Telarah Bowling Club	Clark St, Telarah
Kiama	Friday 15 March 2013	The Pavilion, Kiama	2 Bong Bong Street, Kiama
Tamworth	Monday 18 March 2013	Quality Hotel Powerhouse	248A Armidale Road (New England Hwy) Tamworth
Wagga Wagga	Thursday 21 March 2013	Commercial Club Wagga Wagga	77 Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga
Dubbo	Monday 11 March 2013	Dubbo RSL	Cnr Brisbane Street & Wingewarra Street Dubbo

Please RSVP to:
wastelevy.review@epa.nsw.gov.au