

MEDIA RELEASE

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Shutdown of Clarinda recycling facility would worsen Victoria's recycling crisis

Leading recycling company, Alex Fraser, has asked Kingston City Council to extend its operating permit so it can continue to save up to one million tonnes of waste from going to landfill every year.

Alex Fraser recycles problem glass waste from kerbside collections, and construction waste, diverting them from landfill to make construction materials urgently needed for Victoria's 'Big Build' infrastructure projects.

Its Clarinda facility has the capacity to recycle around one million tonnes of waste each year – around 25 per cent of Melbourne's glass and construction waste, which is enough to fill the MCG every two years.

However, the permit for this facility is due to expire in 2023, and, without an extension from Council, the site will shut down.

"Victoria is already in a recycling crisis; this would only make things worse," Alex Fraser Group Managing Director, Peter Murphy, said.

"Kerbside glass is at the heart of Victoria's recycling crisis – our Clarinda facility recycles 200 million broken glass bottles every year. Closure could mean they go to landfill instead."

"If we're shut down, it would also mean Victoria loses access to one million tonnes a year of recycled resources needed to complete major infrastructure projects in Melbourne's south east. A major metropolitan quarry would have to be established to extract the same volume of resources," Mr Murphy said.

Alex Fraser supplies recycled construction materials to projects including the Level Crossing Removal Projects, Monash Freeway Upgrade, Thompsons Road Upgrade, and the Hallam Road Upgrade. It is also ideally located to supply the planned Suburban Rail Loop, South Eastern Roads Upgrade, and Mordialloc Freeway.

"Almost every Victorian has driven on a 'green road', built from materials recycled by Alex Fraser. The construction materials we produce from waste that would otherwise go to landfill reduces the carbon footprint of projects by up to 65 per cent."

"Using recycled material in infrastructure is only possible with facilities like Clarinda that are close to our cities – where waste is generated, and where major projects are underway."

Alex Fraser was established in 1879, and is recognised world-wide as a leader in innovative recycling solutions. The Clarinda recycling facility commenced operations in 2009, and employs 50 people full-time.



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In 2015, Kingston's industrial area was rezoned to be green wedge. Since then, Alex Fraser has been actively working with the State Government to identify potential alternative locations.

"Unfortunately, there are no viable alternative sites, and so we're asking Kingston City Council for more time," Mr Murphy said.

"We need more time so we can continue to recycle until we can relocate, to avoid adding to Victoria's recycling and resources crises."

Alex Fraser's application to Kingston City Council, lodged this week, seeks a 15-year extension of its operating permit.

"Victorians want certainty about what's happening with their waste. If this key recycling facility is shut down in 2023, it would significantly impact on Victoria's recycling capability, and cut the supply of construction materials that are helping to build Victoria."

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