

## **VWMA slams City of Kingston on its closure of world-class Clarinda recycling site**

The CEO of the [Victorian Waste Management Association](#) has described the decision by the City of Kingston to not extend a permit for Alex Fraser Group to continue operating its world-class glass and construction material recycling facility at Clarinda as “socially irresponsible”, “greedy” and an example of “environmental vandalism”.

[Alex Fraser Group](#), an industry leader in waste and recycling, has operated the site since 2009, employing local people and investing millions to ensure the facility remains a leading recycler of construction material and glass from kerbside collections. Millions of tonnes of waste each year are recycled into construction materials for infrastructure projects including level crossing removals and road upgrades.

The company had applied for a 15-year extension to its permit to operate the facility from the City of Kingston, which would have provided certainty for workers and heavy users of the site from the construction, building and domestic sectors. That application has been rejected by the City of Kingston, which signals the closure of the facility, further disruptions to kerbside recycling, and millions of tonnes of recyclable material unnecessarily going to landfill.

“This socially irresponsible and greedy decision by the City of Kingston is a perfect example of why councils cannot be entrusted with decisions that have repercussions for the whole of Victoria,” said VWMA CEO Peter Anderson.

“We stand in lock-step with [Alex Fraser Group’s calls for Premier Andrews and Minister D’Ambrosio to intervene](#) on a decision that will only worsen Victoria’s recycling crisis, not to mention impact jobs and undermine what little confidence is left in the sector.”

Mr Anderson said the decision was disastrous for the environment given the vast amounts of waste that could go to landfill and not be recycled into construction materials for the state’s infrastructure projects. Alex Fraser Group had been set to increase the Clarinda facility’s glass recycling capacity by 200 million bottles per year.

“Alex Fraser Group is now responsible for recycling almost all of Victoria’s problem glass. When you think of the flow on effects of this decision in terms of additional truck movements to transport waste to landfill and sand from far-reaching quarries it’s hard to think of a more environmentally irresponsible decision.

“At a time when councils are waxing lyrical about climate emergencies, we have with the City of Kingston a council that has squibbed an opportunity to reduce emissions, reduce waste sent to landfill and recycle millions of tonnes of waste, and instead put their own interest ahead of the environment.

“The decision sends an awful message to private sector businesses like Alex Fraser Group, who we need to invest in waste and recycling technology. If our own governments won’t back the recycling sector, why would the private sector?” Anderson said.

**Ends...**

### **About the Victorian Waste Management Association**

The Victorian Waste Management Association (VWMA) is one of Australia’s oldest waste and recycling associations representing Australia’s largest membership of waste and resource recovery businesses including collection and transporters, processors, recycling facilities and landfills. <http://www.vwma.com.au/>

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