

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Recyclers dirty on Waste Management Report**

The Australian Council of Recyclers has criticised the Productivity Commission's Waste Generation and Resource Efficiency draft report as encouraging a throw-away society.

Released this week, the draft report was the result of an inquiry in which the Commission was supposed to examine how resource efficiencies could be optimised to improve economic, environmental and social outcomes.

Australian Council of Recyclers CEO Anne Prince said that the inquiry had failed to address its terms of reference, ignoring resource conservation matters for the easier task of reviewing waste disposal.

"Ignoring the upstream benefits of recycling, the inquiry implies that recycling is mostly a waste of time and we should be concentrating our waste management on cheap landfilling instead," Ms Prince said.

"After 20 years of educating the community about the need for recycling, the report's recommendations have failed to provide any clear framework of how to improve Australia's economic, environmental and social performance in relation to waste management and resource recovery. In our view the report represents a backward step."

Ms Prince said the Productivity Commission's draft recommendations were disappointing in that they encouraged a take-make-waste pattern rather than a more sustainable mode of reuse and recycling.

"The report's recommendations to evaluate the costs and benefits of waste management options and discontinue landfill levies will result in landfill becoming cheaper than recycling," Ms Prince said.

"The consequences of landfill becoming a more financially attractive option will have significant implications for the recycling industry, including loss of jobs. It will also result in poor resource management, with more products being thrown away after one use and more energy being expended to manufacture new products from virgin resources."

Ms Prince said the Australian Council of Recyclers wanted to see the Commission address the resource efficiency issues that it was instructed to examine, before calling for responses to a half-finished job.

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For further information, contact:

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