



Executive Officer

I was unaware of the enquiry until listening to Hon John Pandazopoulos on Thursday September 4 on ABC Regional Radio. He mentioned even though submissions had closed, late submissions would be considered.

My submission results from a talk I attended 2 years ago in which a number of statements were made that seemed to be very relevant. I have not heard the statements discussed in the present debate and wish to throw them into the mix for consideration. They are:

1. Melbourne Water has treatment Plants located at Werribee and Carrum established early last century
2. In order for the solid waste to reach the treatment plants, water is used as the transport mechanism.
3. Water in addition to that 'flushed' is required in order the transport of solid waste is effective
4. This process requires a high power input to operate pumps such that Melbourne Water is one of the largest electricity users in Melbourne
5. Many cities throughout the world process their solid waste closer to the source rather than use water as a transport mechanism.

Most debate regarding sewerage has centred on what to do with the water after the treatment plant. However the statements suggest there is a better way that considerably reduces the water used in the process, reduces the use of electricity and the questions the requirement for the treatment plants. No doubt the treatment plants and their location has served Melbourne well. However the current debate has not put alternatives to the operation of the treatment plants as a high priority.

The alternatives would be expensive, however perhaps more cost effective than some of the options to increase Melbourne's water supply and more cost effective than some of the reuse options from the current treatment plants. All of these options also require considerable capital and on going costs, particularly in the form of electricity use.

Therefore I request the statements are investigated in order to develop and properly consider options to process the solid waste closer to the source.

Regards

Vince Hurley