

Submission No:

108

29 June 2007

Standing Committee on Industry and Resources
 House of Representatives
 Parliament House
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: The Secretary

Dear Sir / Madam,

Inquiry into the Development of the Non-Fossil Fuel Energy Industry in Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment regarding the study of renewable energy and the prospects for economically viable electricity generation, storage and transmission. With regard to the terms of reference, LMS provide the following:

Renewable energy plays an important role in Australia's energy industry, and LMS have been involved in the supply of renewable energy in various forms since the early 1980's. Since this time our company has developed into a significant national Independent Power Producer making a considerable contribution to national Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) trading and are currently generating over 300 megawatt hours per year of renewable energy with significant expansion planned over the next three years.

LMS specialise in the conversion of landfill gas and coal seam methane to renewable energy. Combustion of both of these gases results in the destruction of a known pollutant (namely methane) resulting in a reduction of greenhouse gases as well as the production of renewable energy, which in turn results in a reduction in the use of fossil fuels which would otherwise be required to generate the same amount of electricity.

LMS facilities are base load power stations, that is they operate for 95% of all available hours 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every year, making the most efficient use of the fuel. The application of this proven technology is already deployed at landfill sites in every state and territory of Australia from Launceston to Darwin as well as in regional centres such as Bendigo and Ballarat. Additionally LMS have successfully developed Australia's first micro-power

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facility at the Tweed Shire Landfill which generates 0.3 megawatts of renewable energy from landfill gas, and proves that the technology is successful on both a small and large scale.

LMS have been involved in various international studies, including a study of the recovery and utilisation of methane emitted from municipal landfills for APEC, and are well placed to provide comment to the Committee on the existing non-fossil fuel industry in Australia from the bioenergy perspective.

Landfills play an important role in the waste industry in Australia, and there are many economic, environmental and social benefits associated with the recovery of bioenergy from waste including employment, rehabilitated land, cleaner air, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

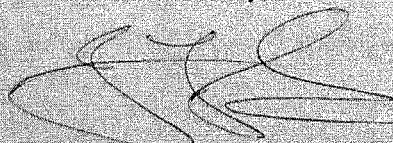
The generation of renewable energy has far reaching implications, which include economic implications for the nation, compliance with Kyoto targets, and also Australia's ability to participate in international greenhouse schemes considering over \$15 billion worth of carbon dioxide was traded on the international Kyoto-based market last year. Therefore the development of a non-fossil fuel industry in Australia becomes a very important issue.

An important environmental consequence of landfill gas and bio gas production is the increase made to greenhouse gas emissions. While the sun, wind and water provide sources of sustainable energy and a replacement for fossil fuels, landfill and bio gas are unique as they are existing pollutants that, when destroyed or reprocessed, provide a valuable renewable resource for the community.

There will always be a need for landfills to exist in some capacity and the efficient and effective conversion of methane from waste into clean renewable energy represents real economic viability. Therefore if we can negate the effects of landfill gas on the environment and at the same time produce significant quantities of clean renewable energy whilst destroying a pollutant, the existence of landfills becomes less of an environmental issue.

LMS appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important issue and again commend the Australian Government for instigating a review of renewable energy in Australia.

Yours sincerely,



MANAGING DIRECTOR
John Falzon