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DEPUTY STATE CORONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Councils are reminded of their legal and community obligations in the safe exercise of their service functions. Tragically, a young boy was killed in 2007 when a recycling collection truck, while reversing, collided with him. The inquest into the death of the boy was finalised in December 2007.

The Deputy State Coroner made the following recommendations to the Minister for Local Government:

“Local councils who are responsible for waste collection (either directly or through contractual arrangements) conduct a review and feasibility study in regard to the installation of rear vision camera systems capable of recording and storing images.

Further to the above, that a feasibility study be undertaken into relocating the monitor screen in waste disposal vehicles to an internal position between the steering wheel and the external rear vision mirror in use.”

Councils may owe a legal duty of care to some persons in certain circumstances. Actionable liability may attach to a council in any one or more of its functional capacities, including landowner or provider of services or facilities. Risk management and preventative action are important strategies in the safe delivery of council services and in minimising a council's exposure to liability.

Councils are encouraged to consider the Deputy State Coroner's recommendations as part of a systematic, pro-active approach to risk minimisation and public safety.

For a copy of the Motor Vehicle Collision Analysis Report in relation to the above recommendations, councils should write directly to the Registry, Coroner's Court, Westmead NSW 2145.



Garry Payne AM
Director General