

# GENERAL ITEMS

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## DEVELOPMENTS AT ANZECC

The Australia and New Zealand Environment Council (ANZECC) on 7 February 1992 endorsed a national plan to dramatically reduce the amount of waste going to landfills by the end of the century.

Part of the plan involves negotiations with industry over targets for recycling. ANZECC aims to achieve the following targets:

- plastic containers 25% (currently 6%)
- glass containers 45% (currently 36%)
- paper 40% (currently about 32%)
- aluminium cans 75% (currently 62%)
- liquid paperboard 25% (currently less than 1%)
- steel cans 25% (currently less than 1%)

The ANZECC Ministers also agreed to a strategy to deal with the problems caused by the disposal of over 10 million used tyres in Australia each year, and further agreed to work towards banning the disposal of whole tyres to landfill by mid 1993; and agreed to introduce or increase the cost of the disposal of shredded tyres.

The Waste Minimisation and Recycling Strategy adopted by ANZECC is stated to be aimed at ensuring a 50% reduction in the total quantity of solid waste going to landfill by the year 2000.

The ANZECC Ministers have stated that they recognise waste minimisation and recycling industry is an important growth industry with the potential to create many jobs for Australians, citing the Pacific Dunlop announcement to establish a tyre recycling facility expected to be operating later this year in Victoria.

ANZECC has also reaffirmed its commitment to national guidelines to cover the transportation of hazardous wastes.

The guidelines have been designed to ensure the proper disposal of hazardous waste and better regulation of the transport of hazardous waste across State and Territory borders. ANZECC claims the guidelines will also help to stop the illegal dumping of waste and the movement of

waste across borders to take advantage of lower standards and costs.

ANZECC also adopted national guidelines for the assessment and management of contaminated sites. In adopting the guidelines the Council noted the need for urgent work to resolve the complex issues associated with legal liability in regard to the clean up of contaminated sites.

ANZECC asked the Commonwealth to commission the CSIRO to identify options for processes and sites for dealing with the disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

The ANZECC meeting reaffirmed its strong support for the interim planning target for the emission of greenhouse gases which was endorsed by the Commonwealth and State Governments in October 1990.

The target involves the stabilisation of emissions of greenhouse gases by the year 2000 at 1988 levels and a 20 per cent reduction by 2005.

However the target provides important provisions that Australia should not proceed with the adoption of response measures which have adverse economic or trade impacts in the absence of similar actions by the major greenhouse emitting countries.

ANZECC Ministers also stated they welcomed the close cooperation between Australia and New Zealand in the negotiations taking place to develop a climate change convention but expressed concern at the difficulties in achieving an effective international agreement at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS FOR MARKETING

In February 1992 the Trade Practices Commission published a document entitled "Environmental Claims for Marketing - A Guideline".

The Commission says that the Guideline is designed to:

- promote compliance with the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act and the State and Territory Fair Trading Acts by manufacturers, importers and marketers who make claims of environmental benefit for their products;