

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### Victoria

#### **Hazardous Waste Strategy**

On 3 February, the Victorian Government launched its new hazardous waste strategy, with the stated objective of reducing hazardous waste going to landfill by 50% over the next ten years. The strategy includes initiatives intended to “stimulate and motivate industry to adopt new approaches to minimise the amount of hazardous waste currently going to landfill sites in Victoria”.

Specific measures announced include:

- a levy of \$10 per tonne of hazardous waste going to landfill to encourage industry to find innovative and more environmentally friendly ways of dealing with these wastes;
- boosting existing cleaner production programs to help industry adopt low waste technologies and management systems;
- carrying out a one-off free collection of excess or deregistered rural chemicals, partly funded from the \$10 levy;
- encouraging the waste management industry to invest in new technologies to treat prescribed wastes, including soil remediation; and
- introducing legislation and regulation to encourage the re-use, recycling of and energy recovery from hazardous wastes.

The Government also announced a review by a consultative committee of management practices for prescribed industrial waste and landfill siting options. The committee has been asked to provide advice on:

- the development of a statutory industrial waste management policy which will facilitate resource recovery through setting clear requirements for the treatment and management of hazardous waste as well as clear criteria for storage and disposal to safeguard the environment;
- current and future waste generation trends;
- world’s best practice in all aspects of design and operation of repository/landfill facilities to ensure protection of the environment, and
- options for disposal and management of industrial wastes, and for appropriate sites.

The committee will be chaired by the Liberal MP Geoff Coleman, with members from a range of interest groups:

- Rob Joy, EPA and EcoRecycle Victoria;
- Caroline Hogg, ALP MP for Melbourne North Province;
- Brian Boyd, Trades Hall Council;
- Professor Ian Rae, Former Deputy Vice Chancellor of VUT;
- Mr Harry van Moorst, Werribee Residents Against Toxic Waste;
- Dr Nicole Williams, Plastics and Chemical Industry Association;
- Mr Kevin Love, Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- Mr Leigh Phillips, Department of Infrastructure; and
- Mr Ian Munro, Business Victoria.

The committee will also advise the EPA on the implementation of *Zeroing in on Waste*, the Industrial Waste Strategy for Victoria, released by the EPA in April 1998, and the Department of Infrastructure on appropriate siting strategies for new waste facilities. The committee is required to provide a report to Government on a comprehensive approach to waste management within six months.

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