



Hazardous waste

# Operation of the *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989*

This annual report is prepared in accordance with section 61 of the *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989*. It covers the operation of the Act from 1 July 2006 until 30 June 2007.

## Purpose of the Act

The purpose of the Act is to regulate the export, import, transit and disposal of hazardous waste to ensure that human beings and the environment, both within and outside Australia, are protected from the harmful effects of hazardous waste.

The Act and its 1996 amendments enable Australia to meet all its obligations under the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The Basel Convention regulates the international movements of hazardous wastes.

## Functions of the department

The main functions performed by the Department of the Environment and Water Resources in relation to hazardous waste are:

- processing export, import and transit permit applications under the Act
- ensuring compliance with and enforcement of the Act
- preparing, implementing and amending legislation relating to the international movements of hazardous waste to and from or through Australia
- formulating and implementing policies relating to the international movements of hazardous waste to and from or through Australia
- providing administrative assistance to the Hazardous Waste Technical Group, which provides advice to the department on hazardous waste management
- participating in international forums, such as the Basel Convention and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which deal with the international movements of hazardous waste
- providing information to stakeholders on the Act and the permit process.



## Basel Convention

The Basel Convention was developed by the United Nations Environment Programme and adopted on 22 March 1989. Australia ratified the convention on 5 February 1992 and it entered into force on 5 May 1992. The convention imposes two kinds of obligations on members:

- specifically, to control the export and import of hazardous and other wastes (other wastes being household wastes or incinerator residues), to provide for notification and consent, as required by the convention, and to track shipments to environmentally sound disposal
- more generally, to minimise the movement and generation of hazardous and other wastes, and ensure that hazardous wastes are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the conference of the parties to the convention was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 27 November to 1 December 2006. Among other things, the meeting began developing a work plan for the environmentally sound management of electronic waste focusing on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

## Regulations

Regulations made under the Act provide for:

- setting fees for permit applications
- the operation of arrangements under Article 11 of the Basel Convention, which allows transboundary movements of waste between parties and non-parties or under modified control procedures
- general administrative arrangements required by the Act.

## Permits

In 2006–07 the department processed 48 applications for permits to import and export hazardous wastes (31 exports, 16 imports and one transit). Twenty-one permits were granted, two applications were refused and one was withdrawn; 25 applications were still to be resolved as at 30 June 2007. All permit applications were processed within the statutory timeframes. Details of permit applications received in 2006–07, including those not resolved by 30 June, are presented in the tables below.



## Fee income

This year \$63,360 was received in income from fees.

## Contraventions, enforcement and suspension of permits

The department continued to focus on the need to strengthen enforcement and take further actions to prevent and combat illegal traffic in hazardous waste. Enforcement action this year included seizing illegal shipments of electronic waste, household waste and used lead acid batteries.

## Publications

Under section 33 of the Act particulars of all applications, permits and variations were published in the Commonwealth of Australia Government Notices Gazette.

**Table 1: Export permits granted in 2006–07**

Applicant	Quantity (tonnes)	Granted (d/m/y)	Type of waste, disposal operation & destination
Sims Group Ltd	2,000	7/07/2006	Waste glass cullet from cathode ray tubes transported from Sims Recycling Solutions (Australia) to LimburgGlas BV (Sims-Mirec) (The Netherlands)
Exide Australia Pty Ltd	8,400	15/09/2006	Spent wet automotive and industrial lead sulfuric acid batteries transported from Exide Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to Exide Technologies Vernon Smelter (United States)
Transwaste Technologies Pty Ltd	240,000 litres	20/09/2006	Waste from production, formulation and use of resins, latex, plasticisers, glues and adhesives transported from Transwaste Technologies Pty Ltd (Australia) to New Zealand
Gritter Instrument Manufacturing	2.5	1/11/2006	Dental amalgam sludge transported from Gritter Instrument Manufacturing Company Pty Ltd (Australia) to Dental Eco Service GmbH (Austria)
MRI (Aust) Pty Ltd	150	4/12/2006	Nickel, cadmium and metal hydride batteries transported from MRI (Aust) Pty Ltd (Australia) to Kobar Ltd (Republic of Korea)
Umicore Australia Ltd	2,000	14/12/2006	Waste zinc residues containing lead and cadmium transported from Umicore Australia Ltd (Australia) to Umicore Oxyde (Belgium)
BP Refinery (Kwinana) Pty Ltd	600	21/12/2006	Unregenerated hydrotreater catalyst transported from BP Refinery (Kwinana) Pty Ltd (Australia) to Metrex B.V. (The Netherlands)
TES-AMM Australia Pty Ltd	500	28/05/2007	Electronic waste transported from TES-AMM Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to TES-AMM Singapore Pty Ltd (Singapore)
Dodd and Dodd Group Pty Ltd	3,500	01/07/2007	Used lead acid batteries transported from Dodd and Dodd Group Pty Ltd (Australia) to Samji Metal Industrial Company Ltd (Republic of Korea)

**Table 2: Import permits granted in 2006–07**

Applicant	Quantity (tonnes)	Granted	Type of waste, disposal operation & destination
GHD Pty Ltd	13.3	04/05/2006	Pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyl contaminated oil & equipment transported from Micronesia Department of Health, Education and Social Services (Micronesia) to BCD Technologies Pty Ltd (Australia)
GHD Pty Ltd	3.4	14/08/2006	Pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls transported from Niue Health Department (Niue Island) to BCD Technologies Pty Ltd (Australia)
GHD Pty Ltd	1.5	08/12/2006	Pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls transported from Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Kiribati (Kiribati) to BCD Technologies Pty Ltd (Australia)
Stericorp Ltd	180	14/09/2006	Clinical and related waste. Waste solids containing toxic liquid transported from Stericorp Ltd (New Zealand) to Stericorp Ltd (Australia)
Oceania Maritime Services Pty Ltd	123 15,000 litres	20/12/2006	Solid and liquid waste transported from Antarctica from Institut Polaire Francais, Dumont Durville Station (French Antarctica) to Veolia Environmental Services Aust. Pty Ltd (Australia)
GHD Pty Ltd	14	13/02/2007	Pesticides and contaminated packaging, and polychlorinated biphenyl contaminated capacitors transported from Ministry for Forests, Environment and Conservation Solomon Islands (Solomon Islands) to BCD Technologies Pty Ltd (Australia)
Universal Metals Pty Ltd	125	15/03/2007	Crushed waste lamps and fluorescent tubes containing mercury transported from Medi Chem Waste Services Ltd (New Zealand) to Advanced Recycling Australasia Pty Ltd (Australia)
Australian Refined Alloys Pty Ltd	2,000	26/03/2007	Used lead acid batteries transported from Sims Pacific Metals Ltd (New Zealand) to Australian Refined Alloys Pty Ltd (Australia)
Recyclers Australia Pty Ltd	500	27/03/2007	Used lead acid batteries transported from Pago Pago (American Samoa) to Australian Refined Alloys Pty Ltd (Australia)
Holyman Shipping Services Pty Ltd T/A Patrick Defence Logistics	50	26/04/2007	Discharged military communication batteries (lithium batteries) transported from Holyman Shipping Services Pty Ltd (East Timor) to Thiess Services Pty Ltd (Australia)
Holyman Shipping Services Pty Ltd T/A Patrick Defence Logistics	50	12/06/2007	Discharged military communication batteries (lithium batteries) transported from Holyman Shipping Services Pty Ltd (Solomon Islands) to Thiess Services Pty Ltd (Australia)



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**Table 3: Transit permits granted in 2006–07**

Applicant	Quantity (tonnes)	Granted	Type of waste, disposal operation & destination
Seawings Shipping Pty Ltd	2,000	27/03/2007	Used lead acid batteries from Dominion Trading Company Ltd (New Zealand) to Sang Shin Metallic Co Ltd (Republic of Korea) via Brisbane, Singapore and Taiwan

**Table 4: Export applications received but not resolved by 30 June 2007**

Applicant	Quantity (tonnes)	Received	Type of waste, disposal operation & destination
Austrade Alliance Pty Ltd	10,800	17/07/2006	Used lead acid batteries from Total Auto Recyclers (Australia) to Sang Shin Metallic Co Ltd (Korea)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	600,000 litres	27/10/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to Bayer Industry Services GmbH and Co OHG, Leverkusen (Germany)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	4,000	27/10/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to SAVA GmbH (Germany)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	200	27/10/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to SAVA GmbH (Germany)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	3,000	27/10/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to Bayer Industry Services GmbH and Co OHG, Leverkusen (Germany)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	2,000	27/10/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to Bayer Industry Services GmbH and Co OHG, Dormagen (Germany)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	200	27/10/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to AGR Vertrieb GmbH (RZR) (Germany)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	4,000	27/10/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to AGR Vertrieb GmbH (RZR) (Germany)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	850	27/11/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to AGR Vertrieb GmbH (RZR) (Germany)
Orica Australia Pty Ltd	850	27/11/2006	Hexachlorobenzene and related waste from Orica Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to SAVA GmbH (Germany)
SAFT NIFE Power Systems Australia Pty Ltd	300	18/12/2006	Waste comprising nickel-cadmium batteries from SAFT NIFE Power Systems Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to SAFT NIFE AB (Sweden)
Powerhouse Batteries	10,000	16/01/2007	Used lead acid batteries from Powerhouse Batteries (Australia) to Korea Zinc (Korea)
Sims E-Recycling Pty Ltd	150	24/01/2007	Waste nickel cadmium batteries and nickel metal hydride batteries from Sims E-Recycling Pty Ltd (Australia) to S.N.A.M., Viviez (France)
Exide Australia Pty Ltd	12,000	07/02/2007	Waste comprising lead acid batteries and other lead scrap from Exide Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to Exide Technologies (New Zealand)

Table 4: Export applications received but not resolved by 30 June 2007 (continued)

Applicant	Quantity (tonnes)	Received	Type of waste, disposal operation & destination
Exide Australia Pty Ltd	36,000	07/02/2007	Waste comprising lead acid batteries and other lead scrap from Exide Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to Exide Technologies (New Zealand)
Consolidated Alloys	180	26/03/2007	Lead solder dross from Consolidated Alloys (Australia) to Hydrometal S.A. (Belgium)
Metalcorp Recyclers Pty Ltd	Pending	25/04/2007	Automobile shredder residue from Metalcorp Recyclers Pty Ltd (Australia) to Metal Tek Development (MTD) America Ltd (United States)
TIC Group (Third Party Services) Pty Ltd	Pending	27/05/2007	Cathode ray tube glass cullet from TIC Group (Third Party Services) Pty Ltd (Australia) to Young Chang Co. Ltd (Republic of Korea)
Fuji Xerox Asia Pacific Pte Ltd	2,500	05/06/2007	Used Xerox office equipment from Fuji Xerox Asia Pacific Pte Ltd (Australia) to Fuji Xerox Eco-manufacturing Co. Ltd (Thailand)

Table 5: Import applications received but not resolved by 30 June 2007

Applicant	Quantity (tonnes)	Received	Type of waste, disposal operation & destination
Simsmetal Ltd	300	14/03/2006	Drained lead acid batteries from Etablissement Metallurgiques Caledoniens (New Caledonia) to Australian Refined Alloys (Australia)
Recyclers Australia Pty Ltd	250	24/01/2007	Used lead acid batteries from Tarawa Materials Recovery Facility (Kiribati) to Australian Refined Alloys Pty Ltd (Australia)
Recyclers Australia Pty Ltd	500	08/06/2007	Used lead acid batteries from Pacific Recycles Co. (Samoa) to Australian Refined Alloys Pty Ltd (Australia)
Stericorp Ltd	60	16/06/2007	Waste solids containing toxic liquid not otherwise specified (clothes, sharps and vials contaminated with cytotoxic medicines) from United Environmental T/A Transpacific Technical Services (New Zealand) to Stericorp Ltd (Australia)
OK Tedi Mining Ltd	500,000 litres	19/06/2007	Contaminated transformer oil >50ppm polychlorinated biphenyls from OK Tedi Mining Ltd (Papua New Guinea) to BCD Technologies (Australia)
Ace Waste Group Pty Ltd	Pending	20/06/2007	Cytotoxic contaminated medical waste from International Waste Ltd (New Zealand) to Ace Waste Pty Ltd (Australia)

Table 6: Applications refused in 2006–07

Applicant	Quantity (tonnes)	Refusal date	Type of waste, disposal operation & destination
Exide Australia Pty Ltd	8,400	13/09/2006	Spent wet automotive and industrial lead sulfuric acid batteries from Exide Australia Pty Ltd (Australia) to Joong-il Metals Inc (Recycling Facility) (Republic of Korea)
Club Assist Pty Ltd	6,500	16/03/2007	Used lead acid batteries from Club Assist Pty Ltd (Australia) to Joong-II (Republic of Korea)



