

NATIONAL OFFICE

18 July 2009

Waste Policy Taskforce
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Submitted via email: wastepolicy@environment.gov.au

DRAFT NATIONAL WASTE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Submission on the Discussion Paper

Further to our recent submission on the National Waste Policy Consultation Paper, Veolia Environmental Services welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft National Waste Policy Framework.

As one of Australia's largest waste management providers, and a member of the Veolia Environnement group of companies, we welcome the establishment of a National Waste Policy for Australia and believe that a national approach can lead to better economic and environmental outcomes from the management of Australia's waste streams.

General comments

We believe that the National Waste Policy Framework captures the main issues that relate to waste management on a national basis, and that the 'vision', 'key principles' and 'themes and directions' chosen are appropriate, with the exception that we believe that waste management decisions should be based on life cycle assessment rather than the less specific 'waste management hierarchy'.

Priority strategies and actions

Veolia is pleased that the Framework identifies the key issues we need to address if we are to move to an integrated and sustainable waste management service for all Australians. In particular we are pleased that waste reduction, product design and extended producer responsibility are listed alongside better market development and facilitation of investment opportunities for private investment in our industry.





Correction sought to figures in Section 6.5.3 Pursuing Sustainability

We are concerned that landfills have been disadvantaged by the erroneous statistics at the top of page 17, regarding the tonnages of waste landfilled in Australia.

We believe that the first two sentences of this paragraph should read:

“In 2006-07, approximately 21 million tonnes of waste (51% of total waste generated) was landfilled. Based on available data¹, over 60% of municipal waste, 53% of commercial and industrial waste, and 11% of construction and demolition waste is organic material.”

Further, we believe that the statement that landfill greenhouse emissions have increased in 2007 compared with 2006 is also incorrect, as significant new landfill gas collection infrastructure has been installed in the past two years.

It is unfortunate that these errors have been reported, as they project landfills in a negative light and undermine the important role landfills play as part of Australia's long-term integrated waste management infrastructure.

Veolia welcomes the opportunity for continued involvement in establishing a National Waste Policy. If you have any questions please contact Miriam Cumming on 02 8571 0118.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Dean
Managing Director
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¹ Revised National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Determination released June 2009.

