



## Collaborating on Climate Change

The City of Melbourne has recently convened a diverse group of businesses, government and industry to find ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the City.

The MCC sees the waste industry as being a key part of the solution and has invited the VWMA to take part in the discussions.

As part of the VWMA's Take 2 commitments to share information and encourage the waste and resource recovery industry to provide leadership on climate change, it is participating in these round table discussions and will share the outcomes with members.

One of the agreed discussion points from the first meeting was that consumers, be they businesses, local governments or communities are all looking for ways to reduce their carbon footprint, be it for example, the separation of organics, or cardboard from waste streams, managing logistics to improve performance or increasing the amount of green energy the purchase.



At the meeting there was a commitment to at least try and improve.

So how can the waste industry assist their customers?

Sharing information about how their source separation improves their carbon footprint. Several businesses asked about reporting – Can we obtain figures about our waste streams, percentage recycled/recovered? Rewarding your customers' efforts by providing feedback, gives them arguments to convince Boards to make changes that might in turn benefit your business with more custom.

If any member is interested in the Victorian Government's Take 2 Climate Change which is Victoria's collective climate change pledge initiative to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and keep the global temperature rise to under 2 degrees, details are available at

<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/services-and-advice/community/take2>

### Landfill Levies left in the Bank

The Victorian Government has allocated \$30.4 million from the Sustainability fund for waste and resource recovery programs in the 2017/18 Budget. The annual collection of the Landfill levy was around \$200million in 2016/17 according to reports.

Half of the funds will assist council collection and storage facilities for e-waste. Another \$7.6million has been allocated for the Resource Recovery Grants program and a total of \$3.0million for energy to waste.

The Sustainability Fund which collects the levy has according to reports, approx \$500m in it.

## **EPA Victoria clarifies PIW exemption for small packages of liquid food waste**

VWMA Members Russell Kennedy and Merton Consulting have published some advice following a clarification by the EPA on consumer foodstuffs in small packages. The clarification by the EPA now deem the waste foodstuffs not to be Prescribed Industrial Wastes, but industrial wastes.

The Industrial Waste Regulations written in 2009 originally classified food waste as an industrial waste, not a PIW but in an Addendum issued in late 2015, said that the classification only applied to solid foodstuffs and the liquids were still PIW.

The issue arose in 2016 following a business that had been receiving and treating off spec consumer foodstuffs from food manufacturers and whether they required a Works Approval licence or not for the operation.

The clarification which the EPA will publish shortly will establish that small packaged liquid commercial food waste are is a prescribed industrial waste. The clarification will not apply to larger packages such as drums or IBCs which will still be classified as PIW.

Thanks to Russell Kennedy and Merton Consulting for providing an update on this issue.

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### **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to the following companies for their recent membership of the VWMA.

SPEEDIE WASTE

DJR ENVIRONMENTAL

ENVIROSTORE CHEMICAL CONSULTING

GLOBAL RESOURCE RECOVERY

## **VWMA Seminar – Tuesday 20th June**

Just over two weeks till the Annual Seminar, at the RACV Club in Healesville.

The program this year is again a mix of Government and industry presenting on the key issues affecting the industry.

Sustainability Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group will present on the Organics Strategy, the E-Waste ban and the resource recovery market development strategy.

Local Government member the City of Monash will also present on some of their waste issues and initiatives.

Liquid waste is a focus this conference and four of the VWMA's liquid waste members will discuss the development of treatments and how government policies and subsequent investment have shaped the market.

And a couple of inspirational talks from people in the industry where sustainability is part of their everyday life.

And what would a seminar be without contributions from our key stakeholders Worksafe, Vicroads the EPA and a last word from a considered industry viewpoint, to round off the afternoon.

And after the sun goes down, it will be time for a few drinks and dinner. The booking form is on the website, so hope you can join us.