



victorian  
waste management association

## E- News bulletin



November

### **EPA Chief Scientist at Breakfast**



***Dr Andrea Hinwood who has been in the post for 6 months, spoke about her charter to build on the EPA's capability in providing scientific advice.***

***Currently, the EPA provides over 2000 pieces of advice per annum ranging from works approvals and licence reviews, expert witness statements, pollution incident and waste reports, planning referral assessments and stakeholder communications.***

***Protecting human health from environmental impacts (such as air pollution) is also an important aspect of her work. Dr Hinwood talked about the crucial role of gathering evidence in order to make good decisions and used the example of the fire-fighting foam chemicals (PFOs) and the work that is currently going on in determining where they are in the environment and trying to understand their impacts on human health in order to make decisions about correct treatment methods. (In the meantime, an interim management system has been developed.)***

***Dr Hinwood is also currently working on an Applied Science Strategy for the Minister that will generate new data, information and research and translate that data to enhance the EPA's internal capability to support their decision making capability.***

***The VWMA President Chris Ryan thanked Dr Hinwood for her presentation.***

### **Turning Waste into Energy Discussion Paper**

The Victorian government has released a discussion paper on "Turning waste into energy" and asked for comments (until end December).

While the Discussion paper's Scope covers all processes and technologies that recover energy from waste through thermal, biological or mechanical processing of solid and liquid wastes, this paper is really about thermal destruction and energy recovery from municipal solid waste: biological processing to generate energy from methane, is already a successful and accepted technology.

The Government is seeking industry, intelligence on the challenges it sees to establishing a waste to energy sector.

Depending on feedback, the Government will develop a whole of government position on waste to energy to provide policy (and investment) certainty where waste to energy could work for Victoria.

Where this policy ends up, ie, if the Govt chooses to support thermal technologies, it might mean a change in direction toward a high tech, high cost approach to treating Victoria's residual waste.

There are a number of issues for both the waste and recycling sector and their future investment opportunities and a number of



questions for Government too, eg what impact might such a policy have on recycling recovery rates and market development? Could waste to energy undermine recovery and recycling objectives from MSW and reduce value adding opportunities in remanufactured products and investment in the sector?

Landfill development would be the loser out of such a policy shift. Is the market ready for, higher treatment costs? What would happen to the landfill levy? Should it be abolished if landfills are only needed to take residuals such as bottom ash from the facilities?

The World Energy Council says that while Waste 2 Energy plants are no longer a significant source of particulate emissions, they remain a costly option for waste disposal and energy generation and suffer from limited levels of resource availability.

**The Andrews Government is asking the waste industry to join the discussion through this paper. Members are encouraged to respond to what they see as advantages or disadvantages of pursuing waste to energy technologies. The paper is [HERE](#) and comments are welcome till end of December 2017.**

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## ***Domain Road Closure is affecting through traffic Routes***

Residents of Domain St South Yarra have contacted Melbourne City Council to report the movement of commercial waste trucks through their street in the early hours of the morning.

The closure of Domain Road at St Kilda Road for work on the Melbourne Metro and the re-routing of the No 8 tram along Toorak Rd West (on a raised track) would appear to have caused Domain St to have become the preferred route for trucks trying to get across to commercial premises around the Domain Interchange.

Members are advised that the MCC has posted No truck signs at both ends of Domain St and while it is unclear what the MCC's response will be, (we have contacted them to organise a meeting), residents' complaints have escalated recently (including the taking of photos).

The VWMA will press the MCC to meet and try and resolve this issue. Affected members will be advised of any discussions.

### **Xmas Lunch**

Friday 1 December

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Novotel St Kilda

Shane Jacobsen is our guest

It's going to be a great Friday afternoon.

Bookings on the website  
Online or hard copy

It will sell out this year, so hurry