



Xmas Lunch a very entertaining afternoon

Shane Jacobson (pictured left), was the guest of honour at the VWMA’s annual Christmas lunch this year and he kept the audience quiet (no mean feat) for three quarters of an hour with the tale of how he got the ideas for his iconic movie Kenny, drawing on family characters and real life situations.

A full house enjoyed Shane’s laconic humorous delivery and afterwards, he generously took a number of questions staying and chatting.

Thanks once again to our wonderful sponsors, Bucher Municipal who made Shane’s presence possible. This is the 5th year that Bucher has supported the event.

Thanks to the Novotel St Kilda for the wonderful buffet and keeping the tables always supplied with drinks. Particular thanks to all members and guests who attended and made the afternoon so enjoyable.



City of Melbourne’s Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030

The City of Melbourne has commenced preparation of their Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy for the next decade.

The Strategy will set a vision, reduction targets and will include a 4 year implementation plan. It will examine waste generation from the residential, commercial, construction and demolition as well the City’s own waste operations.

The City of Melbourne is seeking input into the plan to ensure the wide range of services they provide are relevant and what new initiatives might be needed.

To have your say go to participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste-resource-strategy

New PIW Vehicle Permit process

From this week, the process for permitting a vehicle to transport prescribed industrial waste has been updated, which according to the EPA will make it easier to apply for vehicle permits.

The key changes are:

1. No longer the need to submit photographs with the application (but the onus is still on the vehicle owner to ensure the vehicle is “fit for purpose”).
2. Introduction of a relevant offence declaration. According to Section 20C of the EP Act, the Authority can take into account a person’s background to determine whether they are a “fit and proper” person. While this only applies to indictable offences (heard in higher courts and punishable if found guilty by more than 2 years gaol), it can also include summary offences under the Dangerous Goods Act or the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Note: In discussion with the EPA, they were at pains to stress that this requirement has always been in the Act. It is relevant to all permits, approvals and licence applications, however, its focus is really on indictable offences that show disregard for the environment.

3. Updated forms, permit conditions and guidance

- Forms can now be completed electronically
- Existing vehicle controls now incorporated into the standard conditions
- The guidelines have been expanded to provide clearer information
- There is a new online photo guide of vehicle features and fittings designed to assist with compliance.

The EPA says that the changes will:

- Provide clearer guidance and forms so that the EPA can receive a complete application first time. A lot of delays are due to the EPA having to follow up incomplete information,
- Remove photo checks and replacing this with a declaration by applicants that the vehicle is fit for purpose.

On the new forms, it states that:

“EPA will issue, or refuse to issue, a permit within 21 days after receiving a complete application and the relevant fee, or 21 days after receiving any additional information requested by us, whichever is that later.”

The EPA is currently working through a backlog, but hopefully the new forms, will see better processing times as long as applicants provide a complete application and pay the fee.

Note: new vehicle permit forms will be required from 18th December -

Queries? Ring the EPA Permit team on 1300 372 842.

Remember also that it is your responsibility to ensure the EPA registration is current on all vehicles that carry PIW. The EPA has recently fined a company for having an out of date PIW Rego sticker after a Vicroads/EPA vehicle inspection revealed the vehicle permit had not been renewed.

Changes at the VWMA

After 10 years as Executive Officer, I will be retiring at the end of December and a new appointment will shortly be announced to replace me.

It has been a privilege to have been your Executive Officer and represent the waste and recycling industries throughout a period of significant policy and regulatory changes including a doubling of the landfill levy back in 2009/10 and now the rewriting of the Environment Protection Act and the biggest overhaul in the EPA's history.

I would like to thank the current VWMA Executive, particularly Chris Ryan our President, and past Executive members who have, over the past 10 years, guided the VWMA's continued development and successes.

I would also like to thank the VTA particularly, the CEO, Peter Anderson and President Cameron Dunn, for their ongoing support and assistance.

Last but not least, I would like to pay my respects to all the VWMA members for your loyalty and commitment to the VWMA and your friendship over the past 10 years. To each and every one of you, a heartfelt thank you and best wishes for 2018.

Andrew Tytherleigh