



5 March 20

Mr Mark Rossiter
Mr Nick Huggett
Director
Regulatory Capability, Engagement & Legal

Via email: Mark.Rossiter@epa.vic.gov.au; Nick.Huggett@epa.vic.gov.au;

WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY DETERMINATIONS

Dear Mark,

The Victorian Waste Management Association (VWMA) is a not-for-profit association representing Victorian waste recycling businesses. The VWMA operates as a subsidiary of the Victorian Transport Association. The VWMA has 150 business members, ranging from small, family owned and operated companies to multinational corporations. The VWMA represents;

- Waste collection specialists, operating more than 5,000 waste trucks on Victorian roads.
- More than 10,000 sanitation and recycling workers,
- A membership with a total member turnover in excess of \$2 billion.

VWMA members commit to protect Victorian communities, workers and the environment. The Association welcome the opportunity to comment on the new *Waste and resource recovery determinations*.

The VWMA understands the proposed waste determinations are a legislative instrument which specifies the quality for processed waste in order to meet the requirement for lawful place disposal under the Declaration of Use (DoU). This commentary pertains to the EPA set DoUs specified in the waste determinations.

The association supports best practices for the recovery of waste into resources. However, we believe prescriptive standards do not have sufficient flexibility to allow for innovation in the market. Instead, the association is arguing for risk-based standards that ensure all practical and reasonable measures have been taken to protect human health and the environment.

For example, in the case of recovered soil, we suggest an EPA determination that states; 'Contamination in the final soil must be reduced to a value where these contaminants no longer present a reasonable risk of harm to the environment or human health - including physical, biological and chemical contamination.'

In some instances, it may be useful for the EPA to specify levels of key chemical or physical contaminants. The VWMA objects to any presence-based approach to contamination, especially asbestos, as some environmental toxins are ubiquitous in the environment. Testing regimes must be reasonable and practical in their frequency, accuracy and accessibility.

This approach will allow industry to create bespoke and innovative solutions to the problem of removing contamination, rather than taking a 'one-size-fits all' approach that does not allow for innovation.

We believe this approach should be taken for all materials specified in the determinations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Serpo". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical blue line.

Alex Serpo

**Executive Officer
Victorian Waste Management Association (VWMA)**

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