Landfill Owners Concerned with CPRS Decision Media Release 17 December 2008

ALOA members are disappointed that the Government has not responded to their concerns regarding lack of measurement techniques for the sector and have included the waste sector in the Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) without a measurement scheme that is fair and robust.

The development of sufficiently accurate and repeatable measurement techniques for landfill gas emissions is an essential element if the CPRS is to operate fairly across the waste sector. At present the world's best practice techniques for measuring the amount of gas emanating from a landfill still has a margin of error of at least 30% and remain subject to significant debate. Not to have a reliable measurement technique in place before CPRS coverage will create an unacceptably high margin of error for all landfill owners above the emission threshold.

ALOA is committed to continuing to collaborate with the Government to develop and refine new emission measurement techniques but believes that CPRS coverage of the waste sector should be deferred until at least July 2012 to allow the new techniques to be properly vetted before use under the scheme.

Members also called for legacy waste emissions to be fully excluded from the scheme rather than partially excluded as proposed. All ALOA members believe that 'grandfathering' of legacy waste for only ten years will still cause market distortions and call on the Government to extend grandfathering for at least fifteen years.

ALOA members are committed to working with the Government to reduce landfill emissions and are the only industry which has recorded drop in carbon emissions over the past 10 years. Currently emissions from the waste sector as a whole account for only 3% of Australia's national emissions annually

ALOA is a newly formed advocacy group representing major landfill owners across Australia.

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