

INSIDE WASTE WEEKLY 03/03/2009

Industry calls for CPRS delay suits landfillers

Tuesday, 3 March 2009

The Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA) has found a high-profile ally in its battle to keep landfills out of any emission trading scheme, at least until measurement issues are overcome. It has backed last week's calls by the powerful Australian Industry Group for the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme to be suspended until 2012.

ALOA secretary Max Spedding says current world's best practice techniques for measuring the amount of gas emanating from landfills has a significant margin of error.

"Experts within the landfill industry believe it will take at least three years until measurement techniques are refined to a point where that margin of error can be driven down," he says.

"By 2012 we will better understand the reliability of current the greenhouse gas modeling techniques from landfills."

"But until new technology is proven there is no way of accurately knowing whether modeling estimates are too high or too low and potentially unfairly penalising the waste management sector and its customers."

"ALOA is working with government to develop and refine more sophisticated measurement techniques but more time is needed if mistakes are to be avoided," says Spedding.

ALOA has also continued to call for legacy waste emissions to be fully excluded from the scheme, rather than partially excluded (up until 2018) as proposed in the CPRS White Paper.