

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

LANDFILL INDUSTRY CONGRATULATES GOVERNMENT ON REMOVAL OF LEGACY WASTE FROM CPRS

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – Thursday, 14 May 2009: The Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA) today congratulated Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change, Greg Combet and the Australian Government on changes made to the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) legislation in relation to the waste sector, namely the complete removal of legacy emissions caused by landfills.

ALOA Chairman Colin Sweet said, “This is a fine example of Industry and Government working together to ensure positive outcomes for both the environment and the Australian people.”

Depending on climate conditions, organic material deposited in a landfill can take up to 50 years to fully decompose generating green house gas emissions throughout that period. Requiring the purchase of permits for emissions from waste landfilled before the commencement of the CPRS would have meant charging current landfill users for emissions produced by decades of previous users.

Under the revised legislation, released today, liability for landfill emissions under the Scheme will only cover emissions that emanate from waste that is deposited after the commencement of the Scheme on 1 July 2011.

Doug Dean, Managing Director of Veolia Environmental Services, one of Australia’s largest waste management companies said, “I am delighted with this outcome. This clarity will ensure that the waste management industry will continue to improve gas collection capabilities and we can move to improve standards across Australia.”

ALOA spokesman Max Spedding said, “ALOA was always confident that the Government would change its position once the industry had the opportunity to fully enunciate the reasons behind its opposition to the previous legislation. Thanks to the willingness of Mr Combet to engage in a consultative process we have been able to arrive at a positive agreement”

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About ALOA:

The Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA) is an incorporated entity representing and advocating on behalf of the interests of the landfill industry.

Members of the Association receive and manage over half of the total solid waste generated in Australia. They provide services in waste disposal, waste treatment and resource recovery and employ over 12,000 people.

ALOA members operate a vast number of landfills across Australia and receive over 12 million tonnes of solid waste. These landfills employ state of the art technology to minimise any environmental impacts and generally capture methane generated by the decomposing waste to produce renewable electricity.