
Briefing Note

Meeting with Adam Bandt MP

1:30 pm, 12 April 2016

The Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA) is an industry association representing landfill owners from across Australia. ALOA members include both commercial and local/state government members.

ALOA believes Australia should respond to the threat of climate change and prepared a submission for the Climate Change Authority's recent policy review. A copy of our submission is attached.

Landfill gas greenhouse emissions make up approximately 1.5% of Australia's total and landfills were covered by the Clean Energy Act legislation.

In our submission to the Authority we noted:

- Since 2000 landfills have reduced their greenhouse gas emission by 23%;
- This reduction has come by collecting and combusting methane emissions and diverting organic waste to other disposal options;
- Much of the methane combusted to date has been converted to electricity;
- Much of the diverted organic waste has been converted to compost that is now beginning to be used in agriculture; and
- ALOA believes that improved harmonization of 'state' landfill regulations will ensure the industry will, in the medium term, further increase in methane capture whilst promoting greater longer term organic waste diversion.

ALOA is aware that the Greens policy includes the introduction of a price on carbon and supports this approach as it believes further action must be taken to reach our international abatement commitments.

However, like the Australian Local Government Association, ALOA is strongly opposed to coverage of the waste sector (landfills and waste water facilities) under any new emission trading scheme.

ALOA holds this view as the waste sector is similar to agriculture, forestry and land in that:

1. Its emissions are determined by complex modelling rather than direct measurement;
2. Its emissions are not immediate (a tonne of waste landfilled in 2016 will generate methane for up to fifty years); and
3. There are over 600 landfills in Australia, of which only 10% have modelled emissions over the old 25,000 tonne CO₂-e threshold.

As a consequence, ALOA believes that if the waste sector should participate in any new pricing scheme, it should be through the generation of carbon credit rather than coverage by a cap and trade or baseline credit scheme.

The landfill industry has demonstrated over the past that it is a good innovator – initially with GGAS, then Greenhouse Friendly, then the Carbon Farming Initiative and now with the Emission Reduction Fund – and as a result ALOA calls on the Greens to provide an opportunity for Australian landfills to continue to cost effectively drive emissions lower.

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CEO

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