

Submission

To Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

From Colin Sweet, CEO - ALOA

Date September 19, 2017

Subject Queensland Investigation into interstate waste transportation – ALOA's Response

Background

The Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA) was formed in late 2008. It is an incorporated entity with members from across Australia.

Modern landfills are an essential element in today's integrated waste management infrastructure as landfills:

- Offer cost effective and reliable disposal of recycling and processing residues and unsorted wastes;
- Manage greenhouse gas emission by methane collection and combustion;
- Provide a source of renewable energy;
- Have the flexibility to accept variable waste volumes; and
- Are reliable last resorts for the acceptance of large volumes of 'disaster' waste.
- Member landfills provide services to the public, local government, industry, property developers, mining and agriculture.

ALOA members receive and safely manage the disposal of almost three quarters of the waste landfilled in Australia.

Since its inception ALOA has defended the interests of its members in national and state issues. In particular, ALOA campaigned for fairer treatment under the 'carbon' tax and worked closely with the Australian Local Government Associate (ALGA) to develop the Voluntary Waste Industry Protocol to utilise collected carbon tax monies.

ALOA is governed by a 'national' board and has state 'chapters' in each of the mainland states.

Response

Premier Palaszczuk announced that the inquiry will in the Transport of Waste will:

- examine the incentives for the transport of waste between states and how to neutralise them; and
- examine any evidence of illegal practices in the industry, the need for regulatory reform, and the role of other states and the federal government.

ALOA makes the following points in relation to the above:

ALOA supports interstate harmonisation of environmental management legislation.

We strongly believe that all waste that is landfilled should be directed to well managed and environmentally compliant facilities

ALOA is supportive of the efforts of the EPA to implement uniform regulatory compliance across the entire waste management industry using the existing regulatory framework

We re-iterate the role that appropriately managed, environmentally compliant and properly licenced landfills perform within a broad waste management system serving a modern society.

Landfills of this type are key pieces of essential infrastructure serving a vital role in the safe and efficient disposal of a wide range of wastes. They receive materials from domestic and commercial residual waste bins as well as the residual waste produced by waste recycling and recovery operations.

ALOA supports the activities of all Regulators in the waste management industry and will continue to engage with the Regulators' endeavours to improve all environmental outcomes in an even-handed manner.