

The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP
Minister for Environment NSW
Mr Kevin Wilde
Mr Christian Dunk
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

DELAYED WASTE REFORMS NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED URGENTLY TO PREVENT FURTHER ROAD ACCIDENTS

Dear Minister Upton,

This letter pertains to the NSW EPA's publication - [New minimum standards for managing construction and demolition waste in NSW](#) - and our industry round table discussion of 27 September, 2017. We respectfully request that you take action to bring these standards into force, in order to protect worker and public safety, the environment and the recycling industry.

Minimum standards for C&D processing in NSW

While most construction and demolition (C&D) recyclers and landfill managers in NSW operate to high standards - a small number of substandard operators are undermining worker and public safety, the environment and the commercial viability recycling.

The National Waste and Recycling Industry Council believe the revised regulations published by Minister Speakman in 2016 - *New minimum standards for managing construction and demolition waste in NSW* - will go a long way to solving this issue. This view is shared by our colleagues at the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association (WCRA) of NSW and the Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA).

Therefore, the industry asks that you urgently adopt the new minimum standards, as per the NSW EPA's recommendation - "that the government make a number of changes to the waste regulatory framework in NSW to meet the objectives of the *POEO Act*."

We believe these new standards will improve public and worker safety, environmental protection and levy revenue by;

- Outlawing landfill mining,
- Clarifying the application of the levy to close loopholes,
- Improving standards for handling asbestos,
- Improving landfill standards,
- Promoting investment in new recycling facilities by ensuring that standards are up upheld.

A threat to public safety

One perverse outcome from poor enforcement is a large volume of waste moving from NSW to Queensland. As you are aware, the NSW EPA estimates that close to 700,000 tonnes per year are moving north unnecessarily. These new standards will reduce this volume by outlawing landfill mining, changing the way landfill levies are enforced and by ensuring landfills are not used as transfer stations.

October 26, 2017

Below this letter is an email to industry from NSW Police Chief Inspector Phillip Brooks, who is currently investigating the road hazard events related to unnecessary interstate waste transport.

In this email he reports the NSW police have recently responded to “a number of such events, particularly on the North Coast,” where trucks carrying waste north have been speeding and tipped over. We re-iterate the need for action on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Max Spedding
CEO - National Waste and
Recycling Industry Council
ceo@nwrlic.com.au
0400 880 677

Tony Khoury
Executive Director - Waste
Contractors and Recyclers
Association of NSW
tony@wcra.com.au
0414 937 046

Colin Sweet
CEO - Australian Landfill
Owners Association
colin@sweetenviro.com.au
0409 290 209

From: Phillip Brooks [<mailto:broo1phi@police.nsw.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 October 2017 15:55
Subject: Traffic & Highway Patrol Command - Compliance & Enforcement Update [DLM=Sensitive]

Stakeholders,

REFUSE HAULING - as below, we responded to a roll over event recently, which would appear to be exhumed waste being transported interstate. I pulled a truck up myself, pulling such a box, @ 124kph. Can I ask that if you have any information about such practices can you please contact me directly. We have responded to a number of such events, particularly in the North Coast.

Regards,



Chief Inspector Phillip Brooks
Stakeholder Manager
NSW Police Force
Traffic & Highway Patrol Command
11 Liberty Rd, Huntingwood NSW 2148
Ph: 02 88821451 / 64451 / 0428686706



NSW Police Force

<https://www.facebook.com/TrafficServicesNSWPF/>



