

4 April 2016

ALOA's Position on 'Banning' specific recyclables from landfill

1. It should be recognized that many current landfill licenses have conditions that restrict the receipt of specific waste streams for environmental or safety reasons (examples: unwrapped asbestos, soluble chemicals, lead acid batteries and various other materials) and that these 'bans' are being successfully managed by landfill operators.
2. Bans on the receipt of other materials (specific waste bans) – especially recyclables – should only be introduced as a part of a clearly articulated and funded waste resource recovery strategy.
3. Specific waste bans should be state-wide (in order to avoid unnecessary transport and boundary disputes).
4. Specific waste bans should commence with a clear definition of the material to be banned (examples: white-goods, domestic electrical appliances, e-waste, tyres).
5. Specific waste bans should only apply to the receipt of 'whole' loads of material and should not apply to the receipt of individual items accepted in mixed loads.
6. Specific waste ban strategies should address:
 - Establish the business case for the introduction of each material;
 - The education program to be implemented to communicate the operation of each ban;
 - How the bans will be implemented with a lead time;
 - A schedule of practical lead times; and
 - Who will monitor and enforce the bans.
7. Landfill penalties for the receipt of banned wastes should be consistent with the current penalties for the receipt of materials banned for environmental/safety reasons.
8. Specific waste bans should be reviewed if the business case fails to ensure resource recovery is viable.