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| Submission Date | 9/22/2019 5:57:00 PM |
| Name | Colin Sweet |
| Role or organisation | CEO, Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA) |

Question 1 - What are the key issues facing the NSW waste system?

Key issues are: 1) Uncertainty on planning matters around waste management facilities. 2) Projected shortfall in putrescible waste disposal capacity. 3) Consumption of putrescible landfill disposal space since 2002 when the last such landfill was approved for Sydney waste. 4) Lack of recognition for the role landfills play in the overall waste management system.

Question 2 - What are the main barriers to improving the NSW waste system?

The risk associated with investing in a new putrescible landfill site and the uncertainty of being unable to obtain a planning approval. Technically there is an adequate number of potential sites. Difficulty is faced obtaining the necessary approvals.

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

Convince consumers to consume less - the modern challenge is to reverse the trend where waste production rates seem to increase with improved living standards.

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

The recycling industry has suffered from a lack of certainty, for the last 20 years, in relation to the revenue it derives from recycling facilities. It may be more prudent for Councils, as the providers of municipal recycling services, to bear this risk.

Question 5 - What are the main opportunities for improving the NSW waste system?

Develop a strategy to encourage the development of new waste management facilities and identify geographical locations for such developments.

Question 6 - Any other information that you would like to contribute to the waste strategy initiative?

ALOA refers to our Waste Levy Policy

1. Waste levies should only be introduced when they are part of a clearly articulated waste strategy and should be put in place for at least five years.
2. Waste levies should only be varied as part of a waste strategy review and not without at least six months' notice.
3. Waste levies should not be differentiated by waste type (other than for hazardous waste where identification can be supported by accompanying documentation) or waste origin.
4. Waste levies should be statewide (in order to avoid boundary disputes).
5. Waste levies should be reduced in direct proportion (by weight) for all waste genuinely recycled (for clarity this also means producing a product for sale or use in the landfill - e.g. daily cover - and includes creation of electricity or a heat supply landfill gas to a power station or brickworks.)
6. Waste levies should not be due on waste subject to a bad debt.
7. Waste levies should be noted on invoices (in order to convey the extent of the levy to the waste generator)
8. Waste levies should not be utilised to fund landfill infrastructure (in order that early initiators are not disadvantaged).