



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

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MEDIA RELEASE

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INVESTMENT SOUGHT FOR NEW ENERGY FROM WASTE FACILITIES

A new policy that will allow for the recovery of energy and resources from the thermal processing of waste and deliver positive outcomes for the community and the environment has been announced today by Environment Minister Robyn Parker.

“This policy is a practical solution for waste that would otherwise end up in landfill and will encourage innovation and investment in new and upgraded energy from waste facilities,” Ms Parker said.

Ms Parker said the Energy from Waste policy will allow the recovery of energy from low-risk wastes that have a high energy value and pose a minimal risk of harm to the environment and human health when used as fuels.

“Not only are we avoiding waste going to landfill, we are also creating a viable source of energy that can be used by NSW businesses and households.

“A clear framework for the assessment of facilities that can recover energy from waste adopts international best practice standards and criteria for energy recovery facilities.

“This policy will provide regulatory certainty for industry and confidence to the community that only genuine energy recovery opportunities with minimal risk to human health or the environment will be able to operate.

“It includes strict controls on the types of waste that can be used in the process and ensures that best available environmental control technologies are required for energy recovery facilities.

“This includes requirements for operators to meet stringent emissions limits consistent with international best practice and conduct continuous air monitoring with the provision of data to the EPA and weekly public summaries.”

The Policy applies to all technologies thermally treating waste for energy recovery purposes and outlines a two-tier framework that delineates the requirements for low risk waste fuels from all other waste feedstock.

The first tier maintains the current approach for the use of only clean waste streams in existing facilities that do not have appropriate pollution control technologies to manage emissions to air from the variable waste stream

The second tier enables the use of all other wastes, which would otherwise end up in landfill, in purpose-built facilities with strict emission control technologies in place to manage the risk of combusting a variable waste stream.

Wastes that are strictly ineligible from the energy from waste process include those that are hazardous, contaminated, unprocessed and unsegregated or intended for disposal rather than energy recovery.

Grant Musgrove, CEO of the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR) the peak industrial body for resource recovery, said that the energy from waste policy was a win for business, the recycling sector and the environment.

“Not all products can be recycled and the option of sending them to landfill causes harm to the environment and human health, and is of significant cost to business.

“This Energy from Waste policy is a great alternative and I congratulate the NSW Government on a sensible policy that will be of benefit to NSW.”

The policy was developed by the EPA in collaboration with a committee comprising representatives from industry, the Local Government Association, the Waste Management Association of Australia, the Australian Council of Recyclers and the Total Environment Centre.

The policy statement is available on the EPA website at:
<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/140056enfromwasteps.htm>