



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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ENERGY FROM WASTE POLICY OPEN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today announced that a new draft Energy from Waste Policy which provides new options to convert waste to energy in NSW was now open for public consultation.

The Policy includes a two-tiered policy approach for the safe and sustainable recovery of energy from parts of the waste stream.

The first stream allows the use of nominated clean waste streams that are well suited to clean combustion for energy recovery including:

- biomass from agriculture
- uncontaminated wood waste
- recovered waste oil and tallow
- waste from virgin paper pulp activities
- landfill and biogas and;
- coal washing rejects

The second stream in the draft policy allows residual waste from recycling operations that would be otherwise sent to landfill to be used in purpose built energy recovery facilities," Ms Parker said.

"However some waste will remain ineligible from the Energy from Waste process and that includes wastes that are hazardous, contaminated soils and unprocessed and unsegregated waste intended for disposal rather than energy recovery."

The new draft Energy from Waste Policy also identifies treatment facilities excluded from the changes including incineration facilities for the destruction of waste, facilities for the thermal treatment of contaminated coal and facilities proposing the thermal treatment of hazardous waste

"The NSW Government recognises that a framework that facilitates a risk-based approach to the recovery of energy from waste will deliver certainty for industry and the community with the best environmental outcomes," Ms Parker said.

Ms Parker said that the policy would replace the existing *Guidance Note: Assessment of Non-Standard Fuels* to bring NSW in line with current international best practice for the recovery of energy from approved waste material.

“This draft Energy from Waste policy is a part of modern framework for waste management that is in line with international standards,” Ms Parker said.

“Its development was a key recommendation of the independent waste levy review undertaken by independent consultants last year. It provides a practical option for waste that has come to the end of its recycle or reuse stream.

“Not only are we keeping waste from going to landfill but we are also creating a viable source of green energy that can be used by NSW businesses and households.”

Ms Parker said that the policy will provide regulatory certainty for industry and the community, clearly delineating the regulatory standard that will apply to energy recovery.

“The draft policy aims to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to ensure energy from waste facilities in NSW are designed to best practice standards to minimise air emissions and complement, not compete with, recycling operations. These include tight controls around air monitoring and emission standards.

“This isn’t about finding an easy way out to deal with our waste issues, this is a legitimate waste management option that will maximise the recovery of energy and minimise harm to human health and the environment.”

The draft policy was developed by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in collaboration with representatives from the Total Environment Centre, the Local Government and Shires Association and the Waste Management Association of Australia.

The draft Energy from Waste Policy can be viewed at:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/20130107DtEfWpol.htm. Comments can be made by emailing energy.waste@epa.nsw.gov.au or online at: <http://www.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay> until 3 May, 2013.

More information about the Waste and Resource Recovery Initiative, including the KPMG Report, can be found here: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/wasteless.htm

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