

Circular to Members of the Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW

11th December 2015

WCRA was privileged to have the Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Mr Mark Speakman, MP attend the Association's Executive Meeting on Tuesday 8th December 2015. Also in attendance at this meeting was the EPA's Director of Waste & Resource Recovery Mr Steve Beaman.

The Minister expressed his thanks for the opportunity to attend and said he wanted to listen and better understand industry issues directly from the Members of the Executive. In particular the Minister stated that he is seeking ideas and initiatives from industry for a Waste Less Recycle More (version 2). In coming months WCRA will survey Members to develop ideas to support this positive request from the Minister.

In the weeks leading up to this Executive meeting, WCRA surveyed Members to establish a list of the top five waste management & environmental regulatory concerns in NSW. There was considerable dialogue between the Minister, his staff and the Executive around these key matters:-

- The NSW waste levy has many upsides and some unintended consequences. All parties agree that the unintended consequences should be minimised whilst maintaining the benefits of the waste levy;
- POEO 2014 Waste Regulatory Changes will require significant enforcement resources. Whilst this may be a perception held by industry, it was agreed that this is matter for the NSW government to review & address;
- Limitations of the Proximity Principal. It was agreed by the parties that some further work is required to be undertaken if the Proximity Principle is to deliver on the purposes that it was designed to achieve ;
- Proposed Financial Assurances and associated difficulties. It was agreed between the parties that a consultation session would be conducted by EPA at a breakfast briefing to be organised & promoted by WCRA in the first quarter of 2016 ; and
- Finalisation of the draft Asbestos Protocol for C&D recycling. It was agreed between the parties that some priority needs to be given to the finalisation of this protocol.

It was reinforced at the meeting that WCRA represents Members who own, operate or control an estimated 95% of waste and recycling collection vehicle across NSW and the ACT. Wherever a NSW or ACT Council contracts out its waste collection service, it does so to a WCRA Member. The waste & recycling transport sector is the only heavy vehicle transport sector that has direct visits to every household & every business, minimum once per week. Members are therefore the direct nexus between each waste generator and the ultimate disposal destination.

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