

12th December 2014

Statement by waste management and recycling Associations in relation to the NSW Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014

The waste management, recycling and resource recovery industry welcomes and supports the revision of the NSW Protection of the Environment (Waste) Regulation. The revised Regulation will increase the level of protection for our environment, restrict the potential for irresponsible practices and foster industry investment in resource recovery in New South Wales.

The New South Wales Waste Levy is designed to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and encourage recycling and resource recovery. New South Wales has the highest Waste Levy in Australia and in recent years we have seen significant Levy funds re-invested back into improved resource recovery projects and better waste management initiatives. Under the revised Regulation, New South Wales will have a waste levy system which is more equitable, less complicated to administer, and ensures the cost of waste is taken into account. The changes to licensing of waste management facilities will also make it harder for dishonest operators to operate outside the regulations.

The Regulation also seeks to ensure waste is managed where it is generated. The unnecessary transportation of waste over long distances puts more trucks on our roads, increases the carbon footprint of waste disposal and poses risk for truck accidents, spills and contamination. The changes within the Regulation will protect our environment and human health.

The changes will also ensure the landfill levy is collected and invested in recycling initiatives that will create job opportunities within our state.

We believe the changes will deliver better environmental and economic outcomes, and help create a level playing field for waste and recycling operators.

All of our associations look forward to continuing to work with the NSW Government and the EPA to improve waste management in New South Wales.

Waste Management Association of Australia
Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association of NSW
Australian Organics Recycling Association
Australian Landfill Owners Association
Australian Council of Recycling