

Summary of submissions received during consultation on the Draft Guideline for Stockpile Management: Waste and waste derived products for recycling and reuse

A total of 17 submissions were received during external consultation on the Draft Guideline for Stockpile Management. Below is a table representing the responses received relating to each Part of the guideline.

Submissions received on each Part of the Guideline

Part	No. of submissions in support	No. of submissions opposing	No. of submissions seeking clarification
General	5	-	-
Introduction	-	-	-
Application of the Guidelines	2	-	4
Potential Risks and Impacts	1	-	3
Assessment and Management Requirements	2	12	16
	See table below for breakdown		

Part 1 Introduction

Although no comments were received in relation to the Introduction, this was reworded to provide additional clarification.

Part 2 Application of the Guidelines

Five comments were received from four parties on the Application of the Guidelines.

Clarification has been included to address the legislative mechanism for requiring development approval or EPA licence for the storage or stockpiling of waste. This indicates that when the storage or stockpiling of waste occurs as part of a scheduled activity, development approval and EPA licensing is required.

Figure 1 has been modified to better present the considerations and legislative mechanisms for stockpile management.

The meaning of 'highest and safe' was questioned in relation to use in this guideline. 'Highest' means further up the waste hierarchy and safe means it will not cause harm. Although this point was sourced from the *EPA Board Waste to Resources Subcommittee Report (2007)*, it has been modified to be more easily understood.

This section has been modified to more clearly define the scope and show that the issues surrounding stockpiling should be considered irrespective of the need for an EPA licence.

Part 3 Potential Risks and Impacts

Some additional risks and factors including, mischievous or criminal vandalism, chemistry, leachability and dustiness, were incorporated in the wording in this section (for example,

chemical and physical characteristics of the materials being stockpiled) or added to Appendix 1.

Clarification has been added to the document to stipulate that it does apply to stockpiling relating to both the generator of waste and the receiving site. While the temporary storage of some wastes at the place at which it is produced, such as manure storage on a farm, are exempt from the need to have an EPA licence, the general environmental duty is still applicable. In all cases facilities need to take measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm. This information has been included in section 2.

Part 4 Assessment and Management Requirements

Section	No. of submissions in support	No. of submissions opposing	No. of submissions seeking clarification
(a) Storage	-	-	4
• Leachate	1	3	4
• Vermin	-	-	-
• Fire	-	1	-
(b) On site layout	-	1	-
(c) Stability	-	-	1
(d) Dimensions	-	2	1
(e) Time	-	3	6
(f) Materials Management	1	2	-
(g) Community Consultation	-	-	-

(a) Storage

Clarification has been added to indicate that this is a guideline and therefore allows for flexibility to consider site specific conditions when determining exact requirements for a site.

Clarification has been added to the scope section of the document to indicate that this guideline is focussed on solids waste and issues associated with the storage of liquid waste have not been included.

Leachate, odour, dust and litter

A section dealing specifically with waste temporarily stored on site has been added to provide clarification on the EPA’s expectations, particularly relating to bunding.

Definitions for Construction and Demolition Waste and Inert Waste have been included for clarification. Details on which waste types can be stored outside and which must be stored undercover has been clarified. In particular Construction and Demolition Waste (mixed) must be stored undercover while Construction and Demolition Waste (inert) may be stored in the open. Additional information on temporary storage has also been included.

Although the potential for leachate generation needs to be considered when determining storage requirements, no specific leachate testing is required. As such, no changes were made to the guideline in relation to leachate testing.

Vermin

No comments were received in relation to this section.

Fire

The statement, 'This spacing should be at least equal to the height of the stockpile' has been modified to indicate that the size and composition of the stockpile are the primary factors that need to be considered in relation to stockpile spacing as well as emergency vehicle access.

The document was modified to reflect that the section on limiting storage of flammable or combustible liquids and activities such as welding should be modified to account for size and composition of the stockpile.

(b) On-site layout

The relevance of segregating and signing waste types such as manure was clarified to reflect that this applies to licensed waste facilities, not farms.

(c) Stability

No submissions were received on this section specifically however to allow for all types of sites the requirements have been reviewed.

(d) Dimensions

The one size fits all approach for height restrictions and stockpile footprints was questioned. While there are site specific considerations, the default sizes provide guidance on the EPA's position on this issue.

Then need to allow emergency vehicles access between stockpiles of agricultural wastes was clarified by moving this to the subsection on fire and indicating that the requirement depends on the size and composition of the stockpile.

(e) Time

Additional guidance has been included on why the EPA has included restrictions on timeframes in particular the need for the storage to not be for speculative purposes. The 72-hour timeframe applies to the storage of specific wastes at licensed waste management sites. The six-month timeframe is a default value however there are exceptions to this as detailed in the guideline. This default was included to emphasise the aims of diversion of waste as requiring an available market rather than indefinite storage.

The guideline has also been modified to indicate that consideration will be given to factors such as distance and economies of scale when setting timeframes within licence conditions.

To clarify the applicability of the guideline to biosolids and animal manures, additional information was included to:

- clarify that stockpiling of biosolids should be done in accordance with the Biosolids Guidelines but that proponents should still consider the risks listed in this guideline
- indicate that longer timeframes may be suitable for some wastes to allow for stabilisation in accordance with available guidance and providing there are suitable pollution prevention controls.

Although no amendments were made in the guideline, the Biosolids Guideline is not applicable to water treatment solids and as such the Stockpiling Guideline is relevant.

(f) Materials management

One submission suggested that reporting of material flow and mass balance should be mandatory. Monitoring materials flow and mass balance is essential, but reporting of this to the EPA will not be mandatory.

General concerns/comments

Concern over the EPA releasing more guidelines to a waste industry already 'flooded' with guiding principles was raised with a suggestion that the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (EP Act) be amended rather than release guidelines to explain it. No changes were made to the guideline as the Act sets out broad legislative requirements and guidelines are to provide the detail on how to achieve these (which is not sensible to include in an Act of Parliament, nor their purpose) as part of EPA achieving the objects as specified in Section 10 of the EP Act. The stockpile guideline spells out what the EPA considers as general environmental duty and provides guidance on issues, concerns, expected outcomes and options. There was a recognised lack of guidance in the area of waste and resource recovery and activities that are of concern to the EPA and others in this regard. The EPA's Waste to Resources Board Subcommittee noted a need for further specific advice and guidance and standards to be set for waste and resource recovery, and hence the stockpiling guideline was drafted.

It was suggested that incentives need to be established to allow for alternate end uses for waste products so stockpiling can be minimised. There is no current plan to establish further incentives. However, in support of promotion of South Australia's Waste Strategy, the Objects of the EP Act, and implementation of the waste hierarchy, incentives do currently exist such as grant schemes run by ZWSA and the waste disposal levy to promote alternatives to disposal. In addition, in achieving the aims of the waste strategy, there are many examples of incentives that exist such as through resource efficiency and cleaner production projects to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle waste. Such initiatives can provide significant incentives for business including economic savings, sustainability and resource efficiency and providing good corporate image.

Appendix 1

The table has been amended to incorporate additional risks, impacts and factors. In addition it has been reformatted to differentiate between the factors affecting the risks and the suggest measures for minimising the impacts.

Appendix 2

A question was raised in relation to the definition of 'waste' however as this is set in the EP Act, no changes to the guideline were made.

Appendix 3

Additional references have been included.