

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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EPA moves to exempt Adelaide Hills from green bin requirement in rural areas

The Environment Protection Authority is moving to amend its Waste to Resources policy to exempt the rural properties within the Adelaide Hills Council area from a green bin requirement.

This change follows discussion with the Adelaide Hills Council which had raised concerns about the new policy requirements when they were announced last year.

The proposed amendment acknowledges that the Adelaide Hills Council is mostly rural and the provision of a separate 240-litre green waste bin to rural properties would provide very limited environmental benefit to those property owners.

EPA Acting Director of Strategy and Sustainability, Fiona Harvey, said the intent of the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010* introduced last year by the EPA was to achieve a landfill ban on green waste from September 2012.

To achieve this goal means that green waste across metropolitan Adelaide is separated by householders using the kerbside recycling system so that household waste destined for landfill is not mixed in with green waste, she said.

In formulating the policy, metropolitan Adelaide was the definition used where waste needs to be treated prior to disposal at landfill and under the *Development Act 1993*, large parts of the Adelaide Hills Council fall within the Adelaide's metropolitan boundary.

'The EPA recognises that for the Adelaide Hills Council, this new policy requires the establishment of a green waste service that extends to rural properties where alternative on-site management techniques are already in place by property owners (such as livestock fodder, firewood or on-site composting).

'This was not the intent of the policy and so the proposed amendment will exclude certain rural areas of the Adelaide Hills Council where the collection of green waste in a 240-litre bin is impractical and of limited benefit,' said Ms Harvey.

The policy will still require townships and urban areas to be provided with a green waste service to avoid further sorting of domestic waste.

The community has the opportunity to comment about the proposed amendment by visiting www.epa.sa.gov.au and filling in an online consultation document. The closing date for comments is Wednesday 31 August 2011. Alternatively, a hard copy of the consultation document can be obtained by phoning 8204 2105.

For further information contact EPA Media on 0434 609 394.