

Friday, 7 November, 2008

GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN ON WASTE GOING TO LANDFILL

The State Government will crack down on the amount of waste going to landfill and creating harmful greenhouse gases by moving to ban certain types of waste from being dumped.

Environment and Conservation Minister Jay Weatherill today will release the State Government's draft Waste to Resources policy ahead of a meeting of the nation's environment ministers in Adelaide.

Under the policy, products such as light globes, computer monitors, television screens and whitegoods would be banned from going to landfill and diverted to a system of recovery, reuse and recycling of materials and energy.

Mr Weatherill said the policy could be the first step in establishing "product stewardship" schemes for some of these types of wastes – where manufacturers and the community take responsibility for the recycling and proper disposal of their products.

"Our strong preference is for a national approach to product stewardship – and that's what I'll be pushing for at the ministers' meeting today," Mr Weatherill said.

"But if we don't get that, we will again go it alone on a crucial environmental issue.

"Product stewardship and extended producer responsibility has proven successful overseas in driving significant reductions in waste going to landfill.

"Almost 900,000 tonnes of waste goes to landfill from metropolitan Adelaide each year.

"This generates greenhouse gases, degrades the land and wastes resources that could otherwise be reused.

"The State Government is committed to reducing these harmful impacts by aiming for a 25 per cent reduction in waste to landfill by 2014 in the South Australian Strategic Plan.

"The Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy I am releasing today will support achieving that target."

The policy includes:

PROHIBITING the disposal of certain waste types to landfill

PROHIBITING the unlawful disposal or stockpiling of waste, with fines up to \$250,000

PENALTIES of up to \$30,000 in fines for dumping illegal waste to landfill

STANDARDS required to be met by all waste transporters

REQUIREMENTS that waste produced in metropolitan Adelaide not be disposed of to landfill unless it has first been subject to resource recovery

ADDITIONAL obligations relating to medical waste

INDUSTRY codes of practice on environmental duty

MANAGEMENT plans for hazardous wastes when determining environmental authorisations or development applications.

“This policy will improve resource recovery levels and reduce the amount of waste disposed of to landfill, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, water use and pollution and reducing our demand for natural resources,” Mr Weatherill said.

The Environment Protection (Waste to Resources Policy) is being put out to public consultation until February 2009.

It will be available from the Environment Protection Authority website www.epa.sa.gov.au and a public information session is being held at noon on Monday, 8 December at the Pilgrim Centre, 14 Flinders Street, Adelaide.