

Investigation into the Transport of Waste into Queensland

Submission no. 0021

Name Partially Confidential Veolia Environmental Services

Queensland Waste Investigation

26 September 2017

Queensland Waste Investigation
GPO Box 2454
Brisbane QLD 4001

Attention: The Honourable Tony Lyons QC

Dear Sir:

Investigation into the Transport of Waste into Queensland.

Veolia has prepared the following document to outline our waste management capabilities and practices in Queensland (QLD).

Veolia endeavours to utilise disposal options closest to the origin of waste material to reduce our truck movements and distance traveled, as well as our operation-related GHG emissions. From a logistical standpoint, this is also the most cost-effective and efficient manner to process residual waste. However, we acknowledge that a high waste levy in New South Wales (NSW) is the catalyst for the transportation of waste to Queensland by other industry operators seeking to minimise costs.

Bearing in mind that Veolia operates across all Australian states, it is our perspective that for this particular issue, the NSW Government should be heavily consulted for regulatory change, which will enable the issue to be tackled at the source, rather than at the end of the process.

We acknowledge that this issue has highlighted some major discrepancies in the QLD and NSW waste frameworks and as a national provider with over 40 years' local experience, we believe improved alignment across the two states' compliance measures and overall environmental management of resources will greatly benefit the industry. This action will result in higher and consistent standards, higher operational practices and higher safety and environmental performance across the entire region.

From an objective standpoint, the trade of goods and services across state borders is a constitutional right in accordance with current legislations and as such, there should be no differentiation in the treatment of material that is classified as waste. All materials, irrespective of composition, have significant economic value to the waste industry, despite the perception of those outside of the industry. Therefore, if waste presents itself at a facility that is licenced to accept the stream by law, the facility owner is operating under compliant conditions and as a result, should not be subject to any negative legal repercussions for doing what is required.

Above all, it is our belief that any adjustment to QLD levies and/or regulations should be implemented to benefit the state consumer, the state industries and the State Government, not as a reactive measure to resolve an interstate waste management issue.

Thus, Veolia believes a pragmatic, consultative approach in tackling this issue will require steering from both the NSW and QLD Governments. A solution found under this model will have a higher likelihood of success and will enhance and strengthen the long-term viability of the QLD/NSW waste management industry.

Waste Transportation

- b) *The type of waste that you transport from interstate to Queensland and any factors that affect the mix between different types of waste:*

Municipal Solid Waste from Councils (MSW)

- c) *Do you use road or rail and differences in routes and costs depending on the method.*

All material is transported by road.

- d) *The factors that affected your decision to transport waste to QLD, including the availability of facilities and the comparable fees.*

Material was transported to QLD as part of a contractual arrangement between ourselves and clients. The contract was awarded on the basis of disposal at our QLD facility.

- e) *The original source or location of the waste generated and then transported to QLD and the final destination disposal or recycling facility.*

MSW material from Council transfer stations and bulking up facilities in the Northern Rivers area.

Disposal and Recycling in Queensland

- f) *The number, location and capacity of your waste and recycling facilities in QLD*

1. Ti Tree Bioenergy Facility

Location - Willowbank

Site type - Landfill

Capacity - 32 million m3

2. Archerfield

Location - Archerfield

Site type - Waste Transfer Station

3. Wattle Glen (*operations ceased 2015*)

Location - Redbank Plains

Site type - Landfill

Capacity - Site is full, no capacity

We thank you for enabling us to provide a response to this inquiry.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Lyall,

General Manager - Resource Recovery, Queensland
Veolia Environmental Services