

This response was sent to the Department of Infrastructure and Planning urgently requesting that Planning for Waste Management Infrastructure and Protection of the Industry's Assets be included in the terms of reference revision papers for the SEQ Regional Plan

The waste, recycling and secondary resource industry of Queensland has established a new state based association to represent it on issues pertinent to the sector in this state. The member's are representative of major international corporations, national operators and include many small family owned companies all who have invested in, operate and are based in Queensland.

Our investments in Queensland in waste management and secondary resource recovery assets are significant. Capital investment exceeds \$970 million, directly we employ more than 4,700 Queenslanders, recycle or reprocess more than 2 million tonnes of secondary products, and control collect, transport and dispose more than 5.8 million tonnes of waste and secondary products annually.

Since our formation less than a year ago WCRAQ has developed a very strong working relationship with a number of key Government departments including Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation, Main Roads, Transport, Trade Employment and Industrial Relations.

We wish to develop a similar key stakeholder role with the Department of Infrastructure and Planning.

A matter of fundamental neglect and deep concern to this industry is the fact that over the past 20 years the State Government has failed to acknowledge or provide for in any planning documents for the state, strategic corridors, zones or areas that identify new and protect the existing waste management, secondary resource recovery, waste transfer stations and other waste infrastructure.

Waste disposal of, solid, liquid and hazardous materials, including the management of sewerage sludge's, recyclables and secondary resource recovery is an essential service that underpins the basic fabric of a healthy community and safe living environment for sustaining life.

In not providing for, or acknowledging the need for these essential services to exist in the community, sustained economic, health and other basic living standards will be compromised in Queensland, and the state can expect future problems in managing these wastes that are generated by Queenslanders, as it has recently experienced with water and other essential services.

Queensland now remains the only state in Australia without a waste policy and strategic direction to manage this, despite a draft paper being produced in 1996 but this was never enacted. The association however is pleased to see that a policy is in the planning stage currently and WCRAQ is working closely with the state in this development.

The importance to the state of it acknowledging, providing for and protecting in all planning documents for the suitable location of these essential community assets be they public or privately owned ensures long term, sustainable options of managing waste and new investments will occur that safeguards the community and public health standards maintained.

As example, the significance of the issue and of the fundamental requirement of the state to provide strategic direction in acknowledging and protecting these assets and infrastructure is;

- The last date public funds were invested in any new waste management infrastructure in South East Queensland was by Brisbane City Council 20 years ago, in 1988.
- The Private sector has since invested in a new landfill and 2 new waste transfer facilities in Brisbane.
- Currently more than 80 % of the South East's waste is land filled or processed in the Ipswich Corridor. None of these assets are protected or identified in planning documents.
- Industry estimates that currently more than 1500 transport movements occur daily transporting solid waste, sewerage sludge's, liquid waste, recyclable and secondary products from across the state to these facilities.
- The state has not approved a new landfill or major new alternate waste processing plant to treat waste for more than 10 years in this state.
- Not one local government authority in the south east corner of the state or the state government itself has built, allocated land, or designated to build any new or provide for in major residential and industrial areas, waste management infrastructure.
- The Ministers own estimates of 1700 new residents moving to South East Queensland weekly, will result in the following occurring over the next 10 years, regardless of how much waste is recycled or diverted from landfill.
 - An additional 240 waste transport specialist vehicles to manage this waste from these residents and businesses will be registered in the South East of Queensland.
 - The above figure includes more than 100 additional Domestic Waste and Recycling vehicles excluding providing for the replacement of the existing asset base in the region as most contracts are due to expire in the next 2 years. Brisbane City Council alone requires a minimum of 100 new trucks in 2 years time just to service its domestic rate base and the Gold Coast a similar number.
 - Transport movements will increase by more than 44% to move this waste and recyclables to the Ipswich corridor assets.
 - The current transfer station infrastructure in the region cannot handle the expected increase in waste and is not located appropriate to future development approvals. This will result in the collection waste vehicles if the provision for new transfer stations are not planned for, having to travel longer distances on local roads to discharge loads. The number of trucks required providing basic community sanitation services in the region without adequate infrastructure private or public, therefore can be expected to double if this occurs over the above vehicle estimates.

Alternately waste will need to be collected 7 days a week, 18 hours a day just to service the domestic sector with a smaller fleet. These facts exclude waste services to the commercial and industrial and building and demolition sector.

- If the existing landfill locations are not protected from development, residential and commercial and that adequate buffers provided for in these expanding developments, assets in the South East will become compromised. If this occurs because of unplanned growth, the State will have major basic sanitation issues to manage and economic growth in the region will be compromised in the future.

The association seeks and requests that as a part of the review process of the regional plan and in fact all state plans, the state finally addresses and acknowledges that waste management, recycling and other sanitation assets are pivotal to economic growth, and sustained community health standards and that these assets will be identified and protected in the review process.

WCRAQ seeks and is willing to meet at any time with the committee of review and would appreciate future engagement and acknowledgement of the industry's concerns and we wish to express to the Department an offer to assist in constructively addressing and assisting in the information process.

We look to engaging with the department on a continual and proactive basis to the future.

Thanks and Regards

Yours faithfully

Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association - Queensland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Ralph', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Rick Ralph
Executive Director