



for

Tabled, by leave, Mr Buttigieg  
Grant  
Clerk of the Parliaments  
17 / 10 / 2023  
(AUTHORISED TRANSACTION)

**WASTE RECYCLING AND PROCESSING CORPORATION (AMENDMENT BILL 2023)**

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Need: Why is the policy needed based on factual evidence and stakeholder input?**

The purpose of the Bill is to ensure that the Waste Assets Management Corporation (WAMC) is able to manage or remediate or manage certain contaminated land where the contamination poses risks to the environment of human health and to provide specialist contracting and consulting services to other agencies in connection with the management of contaminated land.

Presently, there is no one agency with responsibility, capability or expertise to identify, manage and appropriately develop contaminated land resulting in inconsistent, incomplete and inefficient contaminated land management practices. This Bill capitalises on the specialisation, expertise and experience of WAMC to establish a centralised agency for contaminated land management.

**Objectives: What is the policy's objective couched in terms of the public interest?**

The consolidation of the management of contaminated lands in the Waste Assets Management Corporation (WAMC) provides an opportunity to capitalise on the specialist skills and experience of the existing agency, providing greater efficiency and a reduction in costs that might otherwise arise from inexperienced agencies undertaking or obtaining unnecessary or inappropriate works to remediate or manage contaminated lands. It also creates an opportunity for NSW Government to focus on contaminated land and provide resolution to members of the public that are impacted by contamination.

**Options: What alternative policies and mechanisms were considered in advance of the Bill?**

The alternatives considered were a "do nothing approach" which relies on the individual agencies to identify and manage contaminated land within their portfolio.

**Analysis: What were the pros/cons and benefits/costs of each option considered?**

This approach relies on each agency to develop specialist skill sets to manage contaminated land, which results in a duplication of the government's workforce. In addition, many agencies with property portfolios are not focussed on identifying or managing contaminated land and as a result any action becomes a reactive process which invariably increases costs due to media exposure, increased contaminant migration and prescribed timeframes.

**Pathway: What are the steps for the policy's rollout and who will administer it?**

WAMC remains responsible for the management and development of existing WSN Assets. From the commencement of this amendment, WAMC will be able to work with NSW Government agencies to identify and agree on land that is appropriate for transfer to WAMC for control and management. WAMC will remain responsible for the contaminated land so long as the contamination of the land continues to pose a risk to the environment or public health.

**Consultation: Were the views of affected stakeholders sought and considered in making the policy?**



Key stakeholders consulted include agencies currently dealing with contaminated land such as Planning Ministerial Corporation, Transport for NSW, Environmental Protection Authority, Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation, Crown Lands and NSW Health. Positive support was received from each agency consulted and multiple opportunities have been identified for WAMC to work with various agencies in the event the Bill is supported.