

## NSW Environment Protection Authority Response to Questions on Notice: Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Planning and Environment – Energy from Waste Technology

### Question 1, Page 5:

The CHAIR: Are you able to give the Committee, say, the grants for the past five years out of those figures?

Mr BEAMAN: Yes.

The CHAIR: In total of what has been collected and what has gone to environmental initiatives?

Mr BEAMAN: Yes.

### Response:

The table below sets out the waste and environmental levy revenues, and expenditures on environmental programs, for the past five years.

Item/Program (\$m)	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17 (unaudited)
<b>Revenue:</b>					
Total Waste Revenues	\$483.3	\$503.6	\$568.5	\$692.1	\$659.5
<b>Program Expenditure:</b>					
Waste and Regulatory programs	\$61.7	\$76.9	\$111.1	\$100.0	\$91.0
Other Environmental programs	\$61.5	\$90.0	\$95.9	\$90.1	\$88.8
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	\$123.2	\$166.9	\$207.0	\$190.1	\$179.9

### Question 2, Page 6

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: The proponent of this facility has a poor track record of compliance with other environmental regulations in other locations. Are you able to supply to the Committee the number of compliance breaches that have been lodged and all complaints associated with the proponent and his companies?

Mr BEAMAN: Yes, we can. I will have to take that on notice.

The Hon. PENNY SHARPE: You will be able to provide all of those at all facilities?

Mr BEAMAN: Yes.

Response:

The Proponent of the Energy from Waste facility is The Next Generation (NSW) Pty Ltd ABN 57 166 368 869. This is a newly formed company which does not yet operate any waste facility and as such, does not have any compliance breaches or complaints associated with it. However, the sole Director of The Next Generation is Mr Ian Malouf and the EPA has issued several environment protection licenses to other companies of which he was (at the time of the compliance action) or is a Director.

A summary of compliance action taken against companies of which Mr Malouf was (at the time of the compliance action) or is a Director is at Attachment 1 to this document.

A summary of complaints lodged with the EPA against companies of which Mr Malouf was (at the time of the complaint) or is a Director is at Attachment 2 to this document.

### Question 3, Page 8

The CHAIR: On that list can you also tell us what the benefits are of Queensland taking all that waste rather than New South Wales? Are there some benefits?

Mr BEAMAN: I am not sure.

Response:

Mr Beaman responded to this question later in the hearing, at page 8:

Mr BEAMAN: For material that is recycled and goes back into the economy—whether it is overseas or into the Queensland economy—that is a benefit. But for material that goes straight to landfill, I think that is a loss.

### Question 4, Page 8

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: The amount you estimate that is missing out of the levy, I do not think that question was asked previously.

Dr MEHREEN FARUQI: Could you take it on notice and give us an answer?

Mr BEAMAN: I could take it on notice, yes.

Response:

The table below sets out the tonnages transported to Queensland from the Metropolitan Levy Area ([MLA](#)). The waste transported to Queensland for recycling does not constitute “lost levy”, as no levy would have been payable on it in NSW. Based on the calculations below, the total potential “lost” revenues from waste transported outside NSW for disposal is \$83.5 million over two years.

Financial Year	Waste Treatment	Tonnes	Levy rate	Potential lost revenue
2015-16	Landfill and Other	240,000	\$133.10	\$31,900,000
2015-16	Recycling	170,000		
2016-17	Landfill and Other	380,000	\$135.70	\$51,600,000
2016-17	Recycling	310,000		

### Question 5, Page 8:

The CHAIR: We talked about a particular provider and breaches. Are you able to give us breaches from other providers so we are comparing apples with apples? Are there breaches across industry by certain groups that we should be aware of that so we are not just looking at one person and his or her practices?

Mr BEAMAN: That might be a bit hard to do without any specific lists.

The CHAIR: I do not want names; I want to say industry A, B, C in the same sort of grouping and the breaches they would have incurred. It would be unfair for the Committee to look at one group with breaches and say that there are breaches across the industry.

Response:

This question is very broad. The EPA requests the Committee to provide further detail on what is required.

### Question 6, Page 11

The Hon. LOU AMATO: You can take this question on notice. What process do you have to dispose of liquids such as paints, thinners and glues? I understand that there are waste oil recycling centres to recycle waste oil, but what about paints and other toxic liquids?

Mr BEAMAN: As part of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative, in our waste strategy we had a target of 86 community recycling centres. I am pleased to advise we have funded local councils for 101 around the State and you can go to those places and drop off paint.

The Hon. LOU AMATO: I understand that. My question is what happens after that process? How it is disposed of or recycled?

Mr BEAMAN: There are a couple of large waste operators in New South Wales that treat those materials. There is a couple of treatment facilities. There is the Homebush Bay Liquid Treatment Plant. Toxfree has a facility out at Western Sydney. Waste oil gets reprocessed and cleaned and separated. That is pretty straightforward. I will take that question on notice and come back with that information.

The CHAIR: We are interested in the end-of-life process.

Response:

A wide range of potentially harmful products used in households cannot be disposed of in kerbside bins. This 'problem waste' includes leftover or unwanted cleaners, paints, pool and garden products and hobby chemicals. The EPA provides NSW householders with two convenient collection systems to safely and easily dispose of household problem waste:

- I. **Community Recycling Centres** are a network of permanent drop-off facilities for people to recycle or safely dispose of higher volume, lower toxicity household problem wastes. These materials include paint, gas bottles and fire extinguishers, car and household batteries, smoke detectors, fluoro globes and tubes, and motor oils.
- II. **Household Chemical CleanOut** events provide temporary opportunities for people to recycle or safely dispose of lower volume, higher toxicity household problem wastes. These include paint, gas bottles, household cleaners and solvents, pool and hobby chemicals, pesticides and poisons.

There are multiple processing pathways used by the EPA's contractor, Toxfree, for materials collected through these two programs. These pathways are dependent on the material:

- a. **Paints** are mixed with other waste solvents and used as an alternative to fuel in cement kilns. The metal containers are recycled. Processing occurs at the Toxfree (Daniels) Silverwater and/or Geocycle facility.
- b. **Used oils** are processed to become a lubricant or used for waste to energy. Processing occurs at the Toxfree Windsor facility.
- c. **Toxics** undergo chemical and physical treatment at the Toxfree Laverton facility.
- d. **Household chemicals** are de-packaged using a HazPak facility and then used for waste to energy or alternate fuel. Processing occurs at the Toxfree (Daniels) Silverwater and/or Geocycle facility.
- e. **Pesticides – general liquids** are used for waste to energy or alternate fuel. Processing occurs at the Toxfree (Daniels) Silverwater and/or Geocycle facility.
- f. **Pesticides – organochlorine liquids** undergo thermal destruction (Plascon). Processing occurs at the Toxfree Narangba facility.
- g. **Inert liquids** are reused or disposed. Processing occurs at the Toxfree Windsor facility.
- h. **Acids and Alkalis based products** undergo de-packing and are neutralised (ToxShield). Processing occurs at the Toxfree Windsor facility.
- i. **Lead and acid batteries** are sent to recyclers where the lead, acid and plastic are recovered and recycled. Processing occurs at the Orbitas Wagga Wagga facility.
- j. **Gas cylinders** have any remaining gas recovered, and the steel is sent for recycling. Many cylinders are retested and recycled into the hire market. Processing occurs at the BOC, Linde or Coregas facilities.
- k. **Fluorescent tubes** and globes contain mercury. Tube recycling involves crushing the tubes to separate the phosphor powder from the glass. The powder is fed through receiving containers with a filtering process to capture any fugitive mercury emissions. The mercury is then processed for separation by distillation and sold for a range of industrial uses. The glass and metals remaining from the process are also recycled. Processing occurs at the Toxfree St Marys facility.
- l. **Gas bottles** have any residual gas captured for reuse. Undamaged bottles are retested, restamped and entered into the hire industry. Damaged bottles are punctured and recycled as scrap metal. Processing occurs at the BOC, Linde or Coregas facilities.