

ATT: Energy from Waste Submission
Regulatory Reform Projects
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RE- Consultation Draft EPA Position Statement: Thermal Energy from Waste Activities

Dear Whom It May Concern,

Conservation SA is an independent, non-profit and strictly non-party political peak body organisation representing more than 60 of South Australia's environment and conservation organisations. Conservation SA has been a strong advocate for the protection of nature and biodiversity, and the promotion and uptake of sustainable practices in South Australia since 1971.

The Conservation Council of South Australia (CCSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed *Position Statement on Thermal energy from waste (EfW) activities* that follows the EfW Discussion Paper and Summary of Submissions document.

The Position Statement sets out clearly and concisely the EPA's proposed procedures for managing applications for EfW facilities, should they arise, and the relationship to current EPA legislation, policies and other Position Statements.

The following comments are provided for consideration by the EPA and follow the structure of the document, rather than any order of importance.

1. Reference is made to the Position Statement being 'consistent' with the current Waste Strategy 2015-2020. Presumably this document is currently under review to produce a new Strategy for the next five year period and that EfW will be more precisely incorporated into the new Strategy.
2. In the section on development assessment, reference is made to Schedule 1 of the EP Act triggering a referral. In fact, it is Schedule 22 of the Regulations under the *Development Act 1993* that is the trigger for referral to the EPA. It is presumed that these regulations will be rolled over to the new *Planning*,

Development and Infrastructure Act (PD&I Act) 2016 when they are developed.

3. The section on Community Consultation is somewhat vague by not clarifying what is required under the EP Act and the Development Act/PD&I Act. The consultation required under the Development Act has, over time, been restricted, according to the type of development, with appeal rights also limited. Impact assessed development procedures under the PD&I Act are currently being developed. As the EPA has the power to refuse development approval for Schedule 22 activities, it may be appropriate for the EPA to require genuine community engagement as a part of initial discussions on the proposed EfW development.
4. Table 1 and the related discussion states that a 3-bin collection system must be in place. How does this apply to a council (e.g. Adelaide Hills) that has a 3-bin system in parts of its area (Stirling), but not in other areas?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me on craig.wilkins@conservationsa.org.au or (08) 8223 5155 should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Wilkins

Chief Executive