

# Asian Network Workshop

## Australian update



# Australian legislation for hazardous waste

- Hazardous Waste Act implements obligations under Basel Convention and Article 11 arrangements
  - Permit scheme under the Act for exports, imports and transits of hazardous wastes
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# Permit scheme

- Permit is required for transboundary movement of hazardous waste as defined in the legislation
  - Definition follows Basel Convention
    - material destined for disposal operations
    - wastes in Annex I; classified by party
  - In practice, can be difficult to determine whether material is waste/hazardous
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# Classifying hazardous waste

- No “formal” standards in place to classify whether wastes are hazardous
  - Currently using state-based landfill criteria - total concentration and TCLP values to define hazard status
  - Plan is to develop formal guidance
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# Permit process

- Thorough permit application assessment process – many criteria
  - Requirement to consider domestic processing capacity for export permit applications – contentious!
  - Australia has limited processing capacity due to low volumes of waste
  - Exports may involve multiple transits – can extend timeframes
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# Australian imports/exports

- Importer – of wastes from Pacific Island Countries and New Zealand for ESM
  - Exporter – for recovery operations at specialised facilities
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# Hazardous waste statistics

Statistics by permits granted between the 2012/2013 – 2014/2015 FYs

Statistics by permits granted between the 2012/2013 – 2014/2015 FYs			
<b>Top Destination/Origin</b>	<b>Export Destinations</b>		<b>Import Origins</b>
1.	The Republic of Korea	27	Papua New Guinea
2.	Belgium	10	New Zealand
3.	Canada	6	New Caledonia
<b>Top waste types</b>	<b>Exports</b>		<b>Imports</b>
1.	Batteries	17	Oil
2.	Catalyst	12	Batteries
2.	E-waste	12	E-waste
<b>Total tonnage</b>	<b>Exports</b>		<b>Imports</b>
	156593.2 tonnes		14303.16 tonnes

# Preventing Illegal Traffic

- DoE works closely with ABF (Customs)
  - ABF alerts DoE to “suspicious” shipments (tail-gate inspection/supply x-rays, photos)
  - DoE can advise ABF to hold shipment until further notice
  - DoE works with goods owner to ensure any issue is addressed before shipment is released for export, e.g.
    - hazardous waste removed
    - UEEE packed correctly
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# Challenges in border control of wastes

- 75% of potential breaches of HW Act detected at border relate to e-waste
  - Claimed to be for “direct reuse”
  - Difficulty in distinguishing between waste and non-waste for used EEE
  - Similar problems in determining waste/non-waste status of used lubricating oil claimed to be a product
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# Other issues in managing TBM

- Out of date legislation impeding efficient and effective regulation of transboundary movements
  - Permit scheme involves many manual steps for applicants and department
  - Permit assessments can be controversial and time consuming
  - Inadequate technical guidance manuals and procedures – waste status, ESM
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# Response to issues

- Staged legislative reform process to enhance regulatory framework, including compliance and enforcement powers
  - Development of online permit application and workflow tool to streamline processes
  - Communication outreach to stakeholders
    - improved guidance manuals and information
    - targeted engagement with Customs officers, goods owners, shipping agents, permit applicants
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# Workshop benefits to Australia

- Significant flows of hazardous waste and UEEE from Australia to Asia for recovery / treatment operations
  - Opportunity to develop and maintain productive relationships to assist with BC implementation in the region
  - Keen to discuss existing and proposed controls on UEEE
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# Thank you!

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