



NSW BRANCH:
Suite 4D, Level 4
5 Belmore Street
BURWOOD NSW 2134
T 02 8746 5000
F 02 9701 0199
E enquiries@wmaa.asn.au
W www.wmaa.asn.au

March 3 2007

Media Release

Waste announcements by Labor & Liberal parties welcomed by recycling industry

The Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) today welcomed the comments made by the Hon. Bob Debus, Minister for the Environment, that resource recovery and recycling should be included in a carbon trading scheme.

The Minister was asked at this morning's Green Capital Forum, if he agreed to the proposition that recycling and resource recovery were important carbon abatement technologies. The Minister confirmed, in principle, there was no reason why recycling could not be included in a carbon trading regime.

Mr Mike Ritchie, NSW Branch President, WMAA said that the waste industry could reduce Australia's carbon emissions by 7-9%, or around 35 million tonnes, by capturing the embodied energy of recycled materials, capturing gas from landfill and reducing the amount of biodegradable material sent to landfills, particularly those without gas capture.

"Including recycling in a carbon trading scheme would be a significant step forward, but further work needs to be done on getting the market for recycling right and the relevant infrastructure, in place" Mr Ritchie said.

In this regard Mr Ritchie welcomed the announcement by Michael Richardson, Shadow Minister for the Environment, of a \$20million per year, 4-year funding program for recycling infrastructure in New South Wales.

"To meet the State recycling targets, Sydney alone needs to collect and process an additional 6 million tonnes per year of recyclables. That will require almost \$500million of private sector investment. We estimate this will create between 2000-3000 new jobs and be a significant economic stimulus for NSW" Mr Ritchie said.

"Whilst the waste levy will progressively improve the economics of recycling over the next five years the injection of \$20million will provide a significant short-term boost for infrastructure development."

Mr Ritchie called for a matching \$20million per year commitment from the Government for an infrastructure seeding program.

"The Governments targets and economic policies are appropriate but they need to accelerate the development of recycling infrastructure, particularly for waste generated by the commercial sector" Mr Ritchie said.

For further information contact:

Mike Ritchie
WMAA
NSW Branch President
Mobile: 0401 980 391

WMAA is the representative industry body for companies, agencies and individuals involved in the recycling and waste management sector.