



Consultation opens for waste management policy and review of guideline

The Victorian Government is committed to reducing the risk of fire.

In pursuit of that goal, the Interim Waste Management Policy (Resource Recovery Facilities) places requirements on sites that manage combustible recyclable and waste materials (CRWM). Compliance with the policy can be achieved either by following EPA Victoria's [Management and storage of combustible recyclable and waste materials](#) – guideline (publication 1667.1), or through an approach that minimises the risk of fire to an equivalent level.

Commencing in August 2017, this interim policy is set to expire in August 2018. The Victorian Government proposes to declare an ongoing [Waste Management Policy \(Combustible Recyclable and Waste Material\)](#) to take effect from 29 August 2018. As part of that process, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and EPA Victoria are seeking public feedback.

We have set up an [online forum](#) for public consultation and strongly encourage interested members of the community to contribute.

Update 1 summarises some of the public insights we have gathered so far.

Who we've spoken to

- Local councils in the North East, Goulburn Valley, Grampians Central West and Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group regions.
- Industry representatives and resource recovery facility operators via the Victorian Waste Management Association ([VWMA](#)).

What we've heard

- The guideline might be more appropriate for larger metropolitan resource recovery facilities and is less applicable for smaller operators and councils.
- There is uncertainty about whether car wrecking yards should be considered by the draft policy and guideline.
- The guideline should provide clear compliance requirements for indoor storage of CRWM.
- The purpose of the checklist in the guideline is unclear.
- The risk assessment guidelines are too subjective or open to interpretation.
- The end products of metal recycling shouldn't have to comply with the policy as they pose minimal risk compared to unprocessed waste or the shredder floc generated through processing.
- Information in the guideline on timeframes for storage of waste material needs to be consistent across all government agencies.
- Some aspects of the guideline may be difficult to meet in regional Victoria, for example, where water supplies are limited due to drought.

Get involved

- Email EPA's Resource Recovery Taskforce on taskforce@epa.vic.gov.au
- Email DELWP's Waste and Resource Recovery Team on wastepolicy@delwp.vic.gov.au