

3. Southern Councils Group: Minutes of Meeting 8 May 2009

The Business Meeting of the Southern Councils Group was held on 8 May 2009, there are resolutions from this meeting that require Council consideration.

General Manager

BACKGROUND

The Southern Councils Group (SCG) held its Business Meeting in Moss Vale on 8 May 2009. A copy of the business paper and minutes has been circulated to Councillors separately.

Council needs to endorse the minutes of the meeting and in particular to consider endorsement of the resolution regarding Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme:

0.28 Resolved: *that SCG and each member Council lobby their local Federal Members of Parliament and Senators for the following changes to the waste section of the CPRS Exposure Bill.*

1. *Landfills to be treated similarly to other CPRS covered sectors and to therefore contain the following*
 - *Threshold for inclusion in the CPRS to be 25,000 tonnes Co₂e;*
 - *Commencement of any scheme liability to be the date the CPRS commences, namely 01 July 2011. Greenhouse gasses emitted from waste deposited between 01 July 2008 and 30 June 2011 should not be included;*
 - *Liability for emissions from legacy waste, that is any waste deposited before 01 July 2008, be removed from the schedule of liabilities.*
2. *That the Proposed System of Calculating Greenhouse Gas Emissions be removed and replaced with a fair, transparent and simple system developed in association with landfill operators.*

Issues

Waste Management has featured strongly at Southern Council Group board meetings. Recently Council received information from SCG that the proposed alternate waste technology (AWT) providing for transport of waste from the far south coast Councils to central facilities in Eurobodalla or Shoalhaven were economically and environmentally unsustainable. The land fill calculator and business plans are still being prepared for each council by SCG and will be utilised in the material published around the proposed Central Waste Facility.

Separately, SCG has made submission and lobbied state and federal government regarding the extension or imposition of the waste levy and the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme respectively. Should the far south coast Councils be caught up in the waste taxation systems aimed at metropolitan and large urban regional areas, then the cost and subsequent charging regimes of waste management would rise substantially.

40 While it is understood the CPRS levels for the Shire landfill will be well below the threshold, there is some conjecture over the calculation of the threshold and the application of the proximity rule.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the resolutions of the Southern Councils Group meeting held on 8 May 2009.
2. That Council lobby local members of State and Federal parliament to exclude Bega Valley Shire Council from any extension of the State waste levy and the application of the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.