



POLICY P2.1.6

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

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Contact	Director, Assets & Infrastructure
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1 Purpose

- 1.1 Managing and disposing of waste presents risks to the environment. Impacts include odour, noise, dust, litter, dumping, greenhouse gas emissions, potential contamination of land and groundwater, and harm to flora and fauna. The risks to the environment rise as more waste is generated and are reduced by increased recycling.
- 1.2 This service standard provides guidance to NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) members on managing waste and maximising efficiency in the use of resources.
- 1.3 The NSW RFS seeks to comply with the:
 - a. *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*;
 - b. NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy; and
 - c. NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-21 (NSW EPA).

2 Definitions

- 2.1 For the purpose of this service standard the following definitions apply:
 - a. **Comingled material:** includes combinations of newspapers, magazines, cardboard, milk and juice cartons, plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, steel cans and aluminium cans;
 - b. **E-waste:** end-of-life electronic equipment such as televisions, computers, mobile phones, stereos and small electrical appliances (excluding whitegoods), which contain toxic and hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, cadmium and brominated fire retardants);
 - c. **Problem waste:** products and materials in the waste and recycling streams that pose potential harm to the environment and human health and/or make the recovery and recycling of other materials more difficult or uneconomic;

- d. **Recycling:** set of processes (including biological) for converting materials that would otherwise be disposed of as wastes into useful materials or products and put back into the economy (does not include energy recovered from waste);
- e. **Resource recovery:** the recycling of waste material; may also include extracting embodied energy from waste through thermal processes;
- f. **Waste diversion:** the alternative pathways (such as recycling and energy recovery) for materials to enter the waste system that avoid disposal to land fill;
- g. **Waste generation:** the sum of the tonnage of all materials sent to landfill plus materials diverted from landfill through a resource recovery processor.

3 Policy

- 3.1 The NSW RFS is responsible for supporting the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-21 (NSW EPA) through complementary policies and programs, including sustainable procurement, by incorporating resource recovery and waste reduction objectives in its operations and complying with relevant regulations.
- 3.2 The NSW RFS is required to report annually on waste management, against the NSW Government Resource Efficiency policy (GREP report). The three waste streams reported on are cardboard, paper and commingled recyclables.

Waste Management

- 3.3 NSW RFS will seek to continually improve its waste efficiency through:
 - a. Avoiding or reducing the generation of waste (for example, setting the default on printers to be double-sided/black and white);
 - b. Improving separation of recyclable materials (such as organics, and paper) out of general waste;
 - c. Recycling waste products where there is access to a suitable service;
 - d. Choosing recycled or sustainably sourced material options during the procurement process wherever possible and economically viable; and
 - e. Manage problem waste better, by using established drop-off facilities/processes wherever available to dispose of problem waste such as batteries, paint, oil or smoke detectors, or e-waste.

Energy

- 3.4 As part of the procurement process, the NSW RFS will take into account:
 - a. The star ratings under the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) when purchasing new appliances and equipment such as refrigerators, dishwashers, air conditioners, and televisions; and
 - b. The efficiency rating under ENERGY STAR for equipment such as computers, printers, and photocopiers.

Water

- 3.5 The NSW RFS will take into account the star ratings under the Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) when purchasing new appliances and equipment such as showerheads, toilets, dishwashers and taps.

4 Related documents

- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001*
- NSW Government Resource Efficiency Policy
- NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-21
- NSW Energy Efficiency Action Plan
- NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan

5 Amendments

AMENDMENT DATE	VERSION NO	DESCRIPTION
4 May 2017	1.0	Initial release