



NEPC Report on the Implementation of the
Movement of Controlled Waste between
States and Territories NEPM

2005 – 2006

'The NEPM has ensured that waste moved between states and territories is properly identified, transported and handled using environmentally sound practices.'

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PART 1 — GENERAL INFORMATION

NEPM details

Title: National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure

Made by Council: 26 June 1998

Commencement date: 8 July 1998
(advertised in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* no. GN 27, 8 July 1998, p. 2212)

NEPM goal (or purpose)

The desired goal for the National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure is set out in clause 11 of the Measure as follows:

11. The national environment protection goal of this Measure is to assist in achieving the desired environmental outcomes set out in clause 12 by providing a basis for ensuring that controlled wastes which are to be moved between states and territories are properly identified, transported, and otherwise handled in ways which are consistent with environmentally sound practices for the management of these wastes.

Desired environmental outcomes

The desired environmental outcomes for the National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure is set out in clause 12 of the Measure as follows:

12. The desired environmental outcomes of this Measure are to minimise the potential for adverse impacts associated with the movement of controlled waste on the environment and human health.

Evaluation criteria

The assessment of the effectiveness of the National Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) Measure is based on the following criteria.

General criteria (specified in the NEPC Implementation Reporting Protocol):

- progress in implementing the NEPM
- compliance by parties bound by the NEPM with NEPM protocols and/or other NEPM reporting requirements
- progress towards achievement of the NEPM goal, the desired environmental outcomes and any NEPM standards
- issues arising that reflect on the efficiency and simplicity of NEPM administration.

Specific criteria

Clause 13(1) of the NEPM states that:

In order to facilitate reporting on the implementation and effectiveness of the NEPM, the relevant agency of each participating state and territory should provide collated summary information on the:

- (i) movement of controlled waste into each jurisdiction, indicating jurisdiction of origin, waste code and quantity of waste;
- (ii) level of discrepancies (e.g. non-arrival of a consignment) as a percentage of total authorised controlled waste movements; and
- (iii) benefits arising from the implementation of the Measure.



PART 2 — IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEPM, AND ANY SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This part provides a summary of jurisdictional reports on implementation, discussion of any issues of concern raised by jurisdictions, and Council's overall assessment of the implementation of the NEPM.

Legislative, regulatory and administrative framework

Table 5: Summary of implementation frameworks

Jurisdiction	Summary of implementation frameworks
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM is implemented through administrative arrangements. Relevant state and territory tracking and reporting systems are used to move Commonwealth controlled waste.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instruments are the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> and the <i>Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005</i>.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instruments are the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>, the <i>Environment Protection (Prescribed Waste) Regulations 1998</i>, and the <i>Industrial Waste Management Policy (Movement of Controlled Waste between States and Territories) 2001</i>.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instruments are the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and the <i>Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000</i>.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary legislative instrument is the <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulation 2004</i>.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NEPM operates as an <i>Environment Protection Policy</i> under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i> and is implemented through conditions of licences.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instruments are <i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993</i> and the <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>.
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instruments are the <i>Environment Protection Act 1997</i> and the <i>Environment Protection Regulation 2005</i>.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key legislative instruments are the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998</i> and the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control (Administration) Regulation</i>.

Council assessment of implementation frameworks

Jurisdictions continue to implement the NEPM through appropriate frameworks and are working together to develop a consistent approach to implementation.



Table 6: Summary of implementation activities

Jurisdiction	Summary of implementation activities
Commonwealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth agencies affected by the NEPM incorporated its requirements into their environment management systems and used contractors that operate under state and territory environmental licensing systems.
New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented an online tracking system. 85 011 tonnes of controlled waste was tracked into NSW in 5100 movements.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 520 new consignment authorisations were issued, involving 36 536 tonnes of controlled waste in 3195 movements.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 164 new consignment authorisations were issued, involving 17 959 tonnes of controlled waste in 1252 movements; 3 consignment applications were refused.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1490 tonnes of controlled waste was tracked into Western Australia in 34 movements.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 491 tonnes of controlled waste was tracked into South Australia in 504 movements.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 345 tonnes of controlled waste was tracked into Tasmania in 24 movements.
Australian Capital Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 new consignment authorisations were issued, involving 978 tonnes of controlled waste in 1044 movements.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Northern Territory is currently not a receiving jurisdiction for controlled waste but continues to track interstate movements.

Council evaluation and assessment of jurisdictional implementation activities

Jurisdictions continued to implement and progress the operation of the NEPM by improving tracking systems and streamlining administrative processes.

The Implementation Working Group, with membership from all jurisdictions, remains a valuable forum for communicating and discussing controlled waste management issues.

PART 3 — ASSESSMENT OF NEPM EFFECTIVENESS

The NEPM is providing an effective means of monitoring the movement of controlled waste. Jurisdictions are working cooperatively to administer the NEPM and ensure there is an efficient system for tracking controlled waste. Ongoing cooperation between the jurisdictions is essential for ensuring a consistent approach to implementing the NEPM. The Implementation Working Group has been active in addressing a number of issues raised by industry and other Agencies.

Industry compliance continues to be high as the NEPM provides clear guidelines on the transport of controlled waste across state and territory borders. The NEPM provides an effective means of transferring information between jurisdictions.

Some issues raised by jurisdictions include:

- unauthorised shipments of clinical and pharmaceutical waste have increased
- intrastate movement of used tyres are not monitored
- return rates of documentation from interstate treatment and disposal facilities are low.

The waste tracking documentation indicates a significant proportion of waste movements across jurisdictional boundaries are for reuse, recycling or energy recovery or destruction.

The NEPM has ensured that waste moved between states and territories is properly identified, transported and handled using environmentally sound practices.



PART 4 — REPORTING REQUIRED BY THE NEPM

The jurisdictional reports in Part 5 provide information from each state and territory. The tables below provide a national summary of the data for quantities of each waste category transported between states and territories; the waste classes group the 73 categories of waste streams and constituents listed in Schedule A of the NEPM into 15 broader types.



Table 7: Summary of total movements of controlled waste within Australia imports by states and territories for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

Code	Description	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
A	Plating & heat treatment	0.06	0.00	8.92	0.00	14.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.64
B	Acids	8479.50	390.09	171.99	0.00	14.49	3.53	0.00	0.00	9059.60
C	Alkalis	227.25	2104.46	142.72	0.00	20.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	2495.41
D	Inorganic chemicals	60923.64	18776.74	100.34	25.00	13842.26	195.85	0.00	0.00	93863.83
E	Reactive chemicals	0.21	10.42	0.00	0.00	2.12	0.02	0.00	0.00	12.77
F	Paints, resins, inks, organic sludges	1518.51	3894.00	321.60	1014.60	76.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	6824.96
G	Organic solvents	1288.23	1492.48	0.14	22.40	58.21	28.10	0.00	0.00	2889.56
H	Pesticides	964.80	362.46	17.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1344.52
J	Oils	3236.79	7429.20	5728.28	0.00	334.68	20.10	0.00	0.00	16749.05
K	Putrescible/organic waste	6395.01	71.66	4251.47	0.00	0.00	89.60	0.00	0.00	10807.74
L	Industrial washwater	0.00	777.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	777.67
M	Organic chemicals	169.80	744.57	966.25	60.92	9.50	0.00	712.55	0.00	2663.59
N	Soil/sludge	186.15	54.02	299.57	366.10	21.82	7.16	0.00	0.00	934.82
R	Clinical & pharmaceutical	1565.07	230.74	5918.80	0.00	94.97	0.00	265.16	0.00	8074.74
T	Misc.	56.18	15.48	31.47	0.00	0.89	0.26	0.00	0.00	104.28
Total (tonnes)		85011.20	36353.99	17958.81	1489.02	14490.83	344.61	977.71	0.00	156626.17

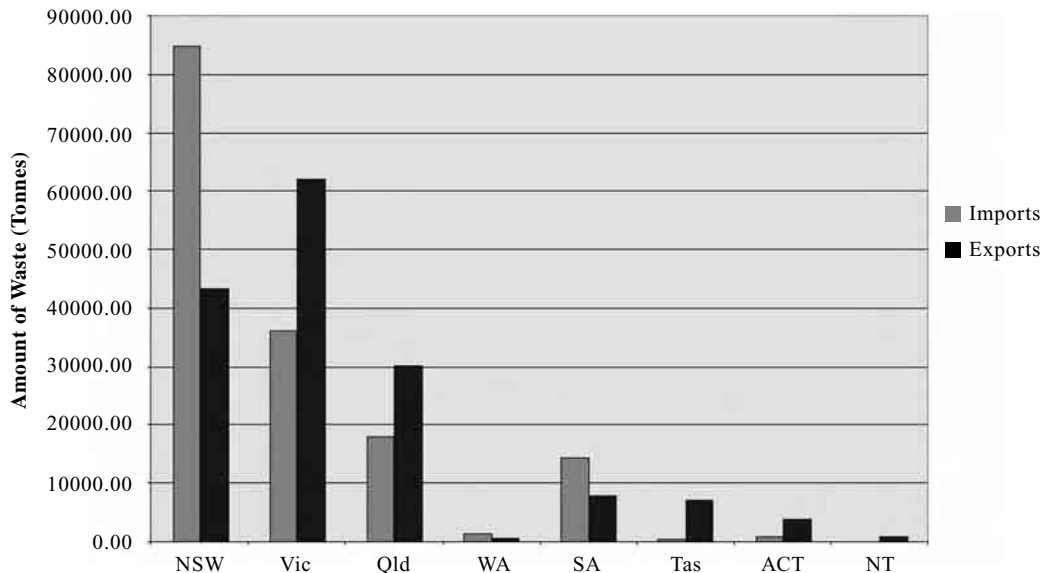
Table 8: Summary of total movements of controlled waste within Australia exports by states and territories for the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

Code	Description	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
A	Plating & heat treatment	23.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	23.64
B	Acids	517.96	8484.60	0.64	14.82	3.76	23.38	10.55	3.89	9059.60
C	Alkalis	123.64	0.00	0.34	10.00	2122.18	1.02	59.07	179.16	2495.41
D	Inorganic chemicals	17022.89	41370.35	23891.38	117.10	5259.94	6061.63	105.60	34.94	93863.83
E	Reactive chemicals	9.59	2.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.33	0.00	12.77
F	Paints, resins, inks, organic sludges	3571.27	430.65	1786.66	296.57	140.19	4.71	37.86	557.05	6824.96
G	Organic solvents	1025.67	461.80	719.80	37.05	231.58	329.19	68.71	15.76	2889.56
H	Pesticides	200.96	8.16	913.25	0.00	200.90	5.71	0.54	15.00	1344.52
J	Oils	12121.15	2567.86	1022.48	0.00	18.56	599.76	372.05	47.19	16749.05
K	Putrescible/organic waste	4323.13	2395.95	1988.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	2100.36	0.00	10807.74
L	Industrial washwater	732.67	0.00	0.00	45.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	777.67
M	Organic chemicals	2014.32	344.69	26.60	68.55	6.97	171.96	0.98	29.52	2663.59
N	Soil/sludge	607.43	20.52	76.39	30.00	72.00	4.00	123.66	0.82	934.82
R	Clinical & pharmaceutical	1098.51	5965.78	0.00	0.00	22.44	18.00	881.04	88.97	8074.74
T	Misc.	36.50	9.62	3.74	0.00	0.00	6.71	46.82	0.89	104.28
Total (tonnes)		43429.27	62062.10	30429.58	619.09	8078.52	7226.80	3807.62	973.19	156626.17





Figure 2: Movements of controlled waste within Australia



PART 5 — REPORTING ON IMPLEMENTATION BY JURISDICTIONS

The Annexes to this report are in Appendix 6:

- Annex 1: Commonwealth
- Annex 2: New South Wales
- Annex 3: Victoria
- Annex 4: Queensland
- Annex 5: Western Australia
- Annex 6: South Australia
- Annex 7: Tasmania
- Annex 8: Australian Capital Territory
- Annex 9: Northern Territory.