



EXPORT BAN MEANS ITS TIME TO STOP WASTING OUR WASTE

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New research from Infrastructure Partnerships Australia shows our looming waste crisis is a once in a generation opportunity to embrace energy recovery as an effective way of managing waste and providing baseload power.

“With a major waste export ban coming into effect within weeks, time is running out for governments to avoid a waste crisis on our doorstep,” said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Chief Executive Officer, Adrian Dwyer.

“Greater energy recovery from waste could help divert 13.7 million tonnes of landfill each year by 2030 and reduce emissions by up to 5.2 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent each year.

“That’s the same as taking over a million cars off the road”, said Mr Dwyer.

The report, ***Putting waste to work: Developing a role for Energy From Waste***, outlines a series of key recommendations required to support the roll out of energy recovery facilities and unlock close to \$14 billion in private investment by 2030.

“Every year we throw away 52 MCGs of rubbish, and much of it goes to landfill – that’s a massive missed opportunity to do better.

“Energy from Waste has been used for decades around the world to divert non-recyclable waste from landfill, reduce emissions, and produce energy, yet Australia has been slow off the mark in harnessing a role for technology.

“Energy recovery is the missing piece in both the waste and energy puzzles, and it needs greater consideration by governments.

“A lack of scale, social licence and impetus for change has meant that Energy from Waste and other forms of advanced waste processing have been underutilised in Australia.

“As we emerge from the COVID crisis and look for ways to stimulate jobs and output, the energy from waste sector offers a major opportunity to reduce emissions and drive investment.”

“That’s why Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has developed ground-breaking research, in partnership with the industry, to guide development of Energy from Waste in Australia,” said Mr Dwyer.

The report calls on Australia’s governments to implement five main actions:





- **Recommendation 1:** Governments should define a role for Energy from Waste through their recycling and waste management plans and strategies. These documents should openly address energy recovery and the potential role it can play in improving waste management outcomes in Australia.
- **Recommendation 2:** Governments of all levels should help to establish social licence for Energy from Waste – broadly and locally – by engaging communities openly on the benefits of advanced forms of waste processing and addressing any concerns.
- **Recommendation 3:** Governments through the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) should develop nationally consistent guidelines for the development of Energy from Waste projects and other waste management technologies.
- **Recommendation 4:** Governments through NFRC should adopt EU emissions standards for Energy from Waste facilities, applied through nationally consistent regulation.
- **Recommendation 5:** Governments through NFRC should seek to establish a national market for Energy from Waste, including nationally consistent regulations in relation to feedstock, and development of market opportunities for by-products.

The ***Putting Waste to Work: Developing a Role for Energy from Waste*** report can be accessed [here](#).

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation's infrastructure think tank, providing independent policy research focused on excellence in social and economic infrastructure.

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