



Council of Mayors
South East Queensland

LGIS - UK Trade Mission

13-18 September 2009



Purpose of the Mission

To look at waste management in the UK, in particular waste to energy facilities.

To learn lessons from our UK counterparts.



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Who attended?



Where did we go – who did we meet with?

- London
 - Consultants, Industry, Government Officials
- Birmingham
 - Veolia Incinerator (waste to energy)
- Stafford
 - Biomass Power (wood waste)
- Isle of Wight
 - Energos Gasification Plant
- Southampton
 - Veolia Incinerator (waste to energy)



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Birmingham Veolia Incinerator





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Eccleshall Biomass





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Isle of Wight Energos Gasification



Southampton Veolia Incinerator



Observations in the UK

- Incineration has improved in the past 10 years.
- Process & environmental controls are better.
- Public expectations have also gone up.
- Incineration has been in the UK for a long time.
- Only waste in sacks (MSW) goes to W2E plants.
- Best practice landfills still needed.
- Incinerators – constant supply of waste.
- Waste is highest form of renewable energy in the UK (including landfill gas collection).

Advice Provided from the UK

- EU Directives and regulations are the key drivers.
- Regional collaboration common.
- Send residual waste to a variety of treatment facilities.
- No silver bullet.
- Investigate the best technology for Australia.
- Get independent experts to assess.

Major Lesson Learned

AWT can be appropriate under the right circumstances:

- High pressure/demand/cost for land.
- The cost of producing a ‘product’ from AWT is competitive.
- You have the right legislative environment.
- You have sufficient volumes of the ‘right type’ of waste.
- You have best practice landfills for the residual waste.

Steps forward for SEQ?

- Open up the debate.
- Engage stakeholders.
- Assess our current waste management infrastructure.
- Put the waste hierarchy first.
- Continue to improve waste reduction, recycling and recovery. Proven technologies.
- Consider the carbon footprint and life cycle.
- Ensure sufficient regional best practice landfills.
- Further investigate AWT and seek international advice from independent advisors.
- Set aside sites for future waste facilities.

Regional Waste Management Programme

What are we doing to help move SEQ forward?

- Enabling economies of scale & sharing of knowledge and information.
- Encouraging collaboration between Councils, the State, and Industry.
- Undertaking a series of projects as a region.

Final Thoughts

Given our current situation:

- Sufficient space for landfills in SEQ;
- The current risks associated with AWT;
- A lack of legislative backing / incentives;
- No ‘first mover advantage’ for individual Councils in SEQ;

Perhaps we should wait until AWT is simply referred to as WT?

And then move forward as a region.