

Industry & Market Report: Australian Waste Industry

Review by Dr. David Garman, Executive Director, CRC for Waste Management & Pollution Control

Is there really “... *money in muck*”, as the old saying confidently declares? And will the promising new technologies and practices really reshape the waste industry? This newly released report attempts to answer these questions. It explores the solid waste industry encompassing municipal, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition in some detail. It successfully attempts to capture the full complexity of the way this waste is managed in Australia but does not cover the hazardous and toxic wastes component. It also shows how impending changes are likely to impact on the waste management industry.

This Industry and Market Report is essential reading and a key reference for all parties involved in waste management and resource recovery be they practitioner, operator, regulator, consultant, academic, investor, or industry supplier.

The report comprises main three main parts. The first four chapters set the scene by describing the waste industry; structure, value chain, infrastructure, regulatory situations across the country and the interplay of participants. These chapters will be of greatest interest to readers seeking an understanding of the ways policy and management priorities differ between states.

The next three chapters cover the market; size and value by state and sector, forces shaping change, and potential outcomes in terms of market value by sector and segment. All readers should find this unique analysis informative and relevant.

The final part, in Chapter 8, describes the main business organisations in the waste industry; Corporate positioning and market share issues are discussed, along with employment levels and geographic spread.

The waste management industry is indeed in transition. Three related pressures have coincided to compel new ways of managing waste: production of waste has outstripped population growth, forcing communities to seek better ways of curbing waste generation; multiple environment and social pressures surround traditional means of disposing of waste; and innovative technologies and practices are emerging for treatment and beneficial use of some waste resources.

This report demonstrates how these pressures are acting in concert to force the adoption of new ways of managing waste. And it shows how these and other influences are leading to new opportunities and presenting complex new challenges.

A brief comparison with overseas practices and where Australia sits in the international field together with a more detailed look at R&D would have been a bonus. However this contribution has provided the context in which some future writer can maybe complete the picture.

WCS Market Intelligence has just released this comprehensive report on the Australian Waste Industry. It provides strategic information on market sectors in the industry and will equip readers with insights and ideas which they can use as inputs to corporate decisions. The report embodies analysis of market moves, and estimates of outcomes, based on a fundamental knowledge of the industry from the principals of Wright Corporate Strategy – Tony Wright and Paul Howlett.