



Institute of
Public Works
Engineering
Australia
(NSW Division)



IPWEA (NSW) ROADS & TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

NSW Local Roads & Transport Congress

The 2012 NSW Local Roads & Transport Congress will be held at the Novotel Pacific Bay Hotel – Coffs Harbour on Tuesday 8th May 2012. The Congress will again be held in conjunction with the IPWEA Annual Conference and Excellence Awards Dinner.

This year's theme is: **Regional Transport Planning – Sustainable Local Roads**

Please note that the Roads & Transport Directorate Management Committee has resolved that any Councillor attending the Congress with a paying Council staff member will be exempt from the Congress registration charge. Keep an eye on the website for further details.

OH&S for Recycled Glass

Safety concerns have been raised as a possible issue for acceptance of RCG as a civil construction material. These concerns are based on the potential abrasive properties of RCG, and the possibility that exposure to the dust may have long term health problems, based on perceptions of its alleged silica content.

Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council has now engaged Professor Chris Winder, Consultant in Toxicology and Occupational Health, AusTox CCS Pty Ltd to prepare a report titled *Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (OHSE) Risk Assessment: Use of Recovered Crushed Glass in Civil Construction Applications*.

The terms of reference for this project are:

- Identify potential Occupational Health Safety and Environmental (OHSE) issues relating to the proposed use of RCG;
- Conduct an OHSE risk assessment for RCGs, based on the newer materials now being manufactured (preferably using a risk matrix);
- Develop a simplified method of risk scoring for individuals and organisations considering using RCG, and for those already using this product;
- Assess OHSE risks and recommend suitable controls for proposed uses;
- Prepare a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on RCG for users;
- Make suggestions on how RCG can be better promoted from an OHSE perspective

The conclusions of the study include:

- A comparison of the workplace safety aspects of using RCG as a replacement for sand indicate that if the right particle size is supplied (that is, in the range of ~ 3 mm), the potential abrasion hazards to respiratory system, eyes and skin are comparable to those of sand.
- A comparison of the workplace safety aspects of using RCG as a replacement for sand indicate that while the risk of silicosis and lung cancer for exposure to the respirable crystalline silica in sand is low, the risk from exposure from respirable dusts of RCG is qualitatively much lower.

Any members wanting further information on the report should contact the Roads & Transport Directorate.

Route Assessment Guidelines for Restricted Access Vehicles – Consultation

Roads and Maritime Services has invited the Roads & Transport Directorate and Councils in NSW to comment on the updated guidelines by 26th March 2012. The RMS invitation advises:

The NSW Route Assessment Guideline for Restricted Access Vehicles (Guideline) enables applications for access by restricted

access vehicles on roads to be consistently managed and assessed by local councils and the Roads and Maritime Services.

The last edition of the Guideline was released in 2002 and has provided consistent guidance for road managers to assess route applications. However, new types of freight vehicle combinations now require access to NSW roads. These include vehicles operating at higher mass limits (HML), and

high productivity freight vehicles such as AB and B-triples and innovative vehicles under the national Performance Based Standards scheme.

Revision of the Guideline has been undertaken as part of a broad review of heavy vehicle access. We consulted with a number of stakeholders when developing a revised Guideline. They included the Centre for Road Safety, Local Government and

Shires Associations, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia, Livestock and Bulk Carriers Association and NatRoad.

The background and procedures for applicants and assessment are in the revised Guideline while the assessment criteria for the roads is in a second document titled *Freight Route Investigation Levels for Restricted Access Vehicles*.

We now invite comment on both documents from the broader community and stakeholders. Further copies of the Guideline can be downloaded from the Roads and Maritime Services website <http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/index.html> and follow the link "New RAV Guideline available for public comment" located in the middle of this page.

The Roads & Transport Directorate would appreciate copies of any comments prior to the closing date for submissions.

Waste and Environment Levy Review

The Minister for the Environment has announced the commencement of the review of the waste and environment levy (waste levy). The review has been identified as a priority action for Government under Goal 23 in NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one.

The Minister's invitation states:

The waste levy has been effective in increasing recycling by making it more financially attractive to recover waste than to send it to landfill. In 2008/09, NSW residents and businesses recycled around 9.5 million tonnes of waste, which is nearly 60 per cent of waste generated. This is up from a recycling rate of just 45 per cent in 2002/03.

There are strong and diverse opinions among stakeholders about the operations of the waste levy and this independent review will ensure that all those views are heard. The review will include:

- *the impact of the waste levy on the recycling industry*
- *the impact of the waste levy on households*
- *funding arrangements to facilitate greater investment in infrastructure with local councils and industry*
- *the impact on illegal dumping, including the proper disposal of asbestos.*

I have appointed an independent consultancy, KPMG, to lead the review of the waste levy. KPMG is an internationally recognised consultancy with expertise in economics, infrastructure and policy, and extensive experience in stakeholder engagement.

The terms of reference for the review and supporting information can be found on the Office of Environment and Heritage's (OEH) website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au.

Again, the Roads & Transport Directorate would appreciate copies of any comments prior to the closing date for submissions.

POEO (Waste) Regulation General Exemptions – Roadworks

Following extensive lobbying by Local Government over the past few years general exemptions covering the recycling of road materials is nearing fruition. One exemption has been implemented and a second has been distributed for consultation.

The reclaimed asphalt pavement exemption 2012

This exemption commenced on 16th January 2012 and is available at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/waste/ex12reclaimedasphalt pavement.pdf>

It covers:

- 7.1. The reclaimed asphalt pavement can only be:
 - 7.1.1. Applied to land for road related activities including road construction or road maintenance activities, being:
 - (a) use as a road base and sub base,
 - (b) applied as a surface layer on road shoulders and unsealed roads, and
 - (c) use as an engineering fill material.
 - 7.1.2. Used as an alternative raw material in the manufacture of asphalt

The excavated public road material exemption 2012

This proposed exemption has been distributed to Councils for comment by 10th February, 2012. It Provides:

7. This Notice of Exemption is subject to the following conditions:
 - 7.1. The excavated public road material can only be applied to land within the road corridor for public road related activities including road construction, maintenance and installation of road infrastructure facilities. This exemption does not apply to the land application of excavated public road material on any land outside the road corridor.
 - 7.2. The consumer must land apply the relevant waste within a reasonable period of time.

It is noted that neither exemption provides for the use of recycled road materials outside the road reserve.

FEEDBACK

Your comments or reactions to any of the above issues are welcomed. Please email me at: msavage@ipwea.org.au

Mick Savage Manager, Roads & Transport Directorate

IPWEA (NSW) ROADS & TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

ACN: 093 562 602

ABN: 35 093 562 602

www.roadsdirectorate.org.au

Level 12, 447 Kent Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Ph: (02) 8267 3000

Fax: (02) 9283 5255