

Our Ref: 16448
Your Ref:
Inquiries: Sam Wilkinson, 9278 0930

4 March 2005

Dr Ross Field
Chair
Hazardous/Industrial Waste Precinct Co-ordinating Group
PO Box 6740 Hay Street
EAST PERTH WA 6892

Dear Dr Field

DEFINITION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

I am writing to advise you that the Core Consultative Committee on Waste (3C) has agreed on a classification for hazardous waste within a decision tree that identifies the fate of various wastes and to seek the Coordinating Group's endorsement for this.

The 3C have agreed to adopt the European Union's (EU's) classification of hazardous waste, including both the absolute and mirror entries. The decision tree(attached) shows how the 3C recommend that the classification be adopted within the existing waste management framework in this State.

The 3C's advice on this matter is in accordance with our advice to Cabinet on 2 August 2004 and as per action item 6 in the 'Principles' document as endorsed by the Ministerial Council for Health, Environment and Industry Sustainability on 22 November 2004. The Principles document stated that 'A definition be prepared by the 3C for consideration by the Coordinating Group on which wastes would need to be treated within a precinct.'

While the European Union's classification of hazardous waste has been agreed by the 3C, the 3C is continuing to refine its position on some of the detail in the decision tree. I will be pleased to discuss these details with you at the forthcoming Coordinating Group meeting..

If you have any queries regarding this please contact me on 9365 7514.

Yours sincerely



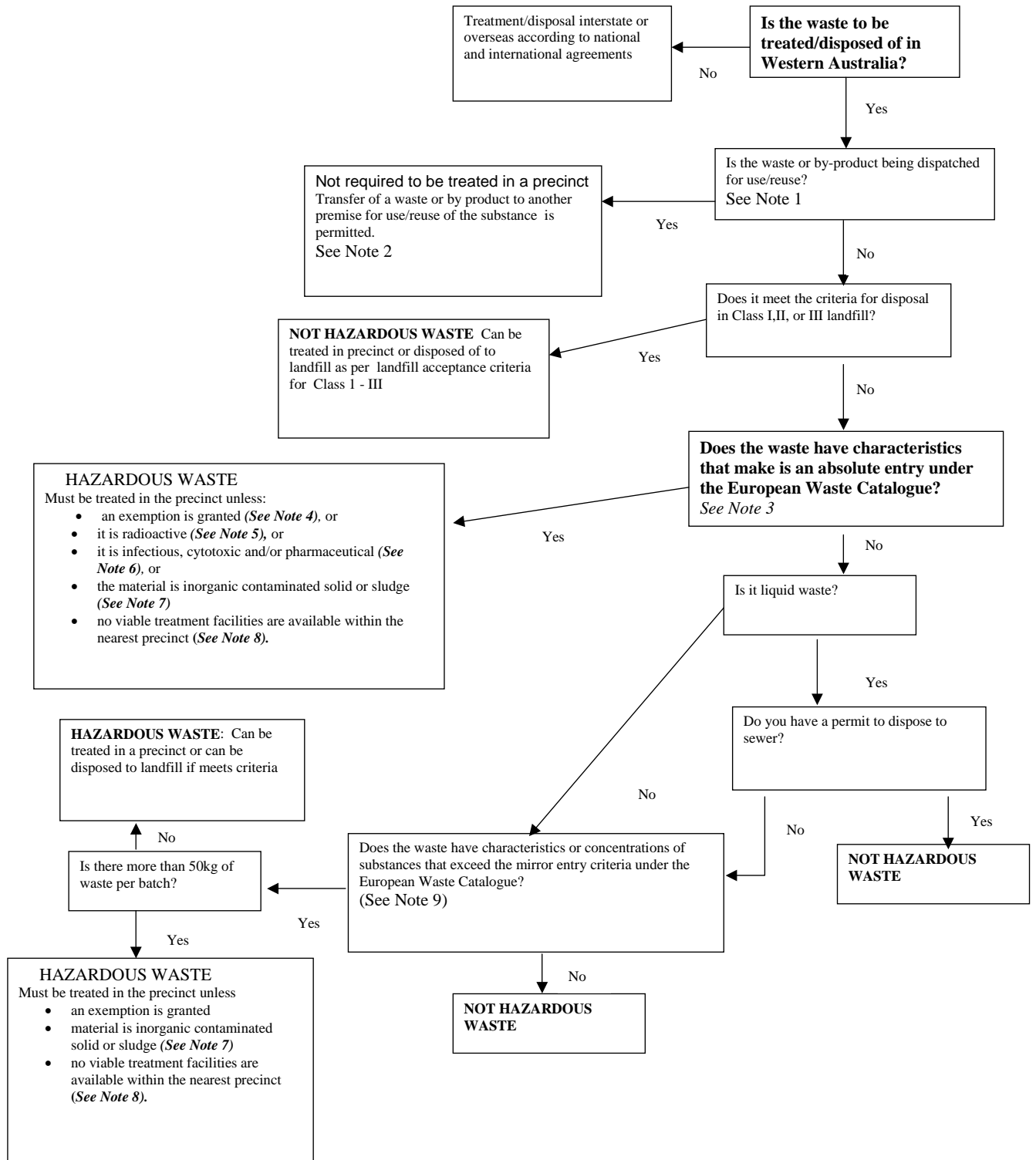
Mary Askey
Co-Chair
Core Consultative Committee on Waste

enc.

**Executive Office
PO Box 6740
Hay Street
PERTH WA 6892**



Decision Tree for Waste Treatment Options in Western Australia



Decision Tree for Waste Treatment Options in Waste Western Australia

NOTES

Note 1: Use/reuse applies to substances generated as a waste or by-product at one premises that are then transferred to another premises for use in the process at the second premises. Substances shall not be stockpiled prior to use/reuse for a period longer, or in a volume greater than that stipulated by the regulator (this will vary according to the material type).

Note 2: Wastes or by products that are being used/ reused in a second process with minimal treatment do not have to be sent to the precinct. Treatment of waste or by product (i.e. cleaning, scrubbing) to make it suitable for use / reuse is permitted at either premises.

Note 3: The European Waste Catalogue classifies certain waste streams (absolute entries) as hazardous – these wastes must be treated in the precinct unless they have an exemption, are radioactive, infectious, cytotoxic or pharmaceutical wastes, are inorganic contaminated solids or sludges or no viable treatment facilities are available at the nearest precinct.

Note 4: Exemptions from treatment in precinct can be obtained from/by*process for exemptions to be identified – 3C to recommend that the exemption process be drafted by DoE for consideration by the DoE Stakeholder Reference Group with recommendations to the 3C.*

Note 5: Dangerous Goods Class 7 wastes (low level radioactive) are disposed of in the Class V Mt Walton Intractable Waste Landfill facility.

Note 6: *Some of the Dangerous Goods Class 6 wastes (cytotoxic and pharmaceutical wastes) are disposed of by incineration under WA guidelines.*

Note 7: Inorganic contaminated sludges can be disposed of to landfill according to landfill acceptance criteria if no viable treatment options are available in the nearest precinct.

Note 8: There is a strong preference for all hazardous wastes to be treated in precincts. However, for some wastes no viable treatment options will exist within the nearest waste treatment precinct, these materials may be disposed to landfill as per the landfill acceptance criteria.

Note 9: The European Waste Catalogue mirror entries are those wastes which contain substances above threshold levels that classify them as hazardous or have characteristics that classify them as hazardous. Wastes that exceed mirror entry criteria must be treated in the precinct unless an exemption is granted, it is inorganic contaminated solid or sludge, no viable treatment facilities are available in the nearest precinct or the total mass of the waste per batch is less than 50kg.

Treatment of hazardous waste can occur on a generator's site – treating waste generated from that site or other sites operated by the generator.