



Profile

Ben Heard

Ben Heard is director of ThinkClimate Consulting, a strategic advisory firm in climate change and sustainability. He consults to a wide range of government and industry clients and gets most enjoyment from collaborating with them to turn robust research and analysis into strategy.

What was your first job in waste and how did you get it? I was part of a team advising an unpopular landfill on a new approach to dealing with their stakeholders. We gave our advice. They ignored it. Then they were closed.

The best part of your job? The variety of challenges, and the chance to apply creative thinking to sustainability problems.

The worst part? Seeing the easy stuff made hard, which stops us from getting to the hard stuff!

Strangest thing you've done in the line of duty? Host Graeme Pearman, a science hero of mine, over dinner. It was strange in a great way.

Complete this sentence: Zero waste is... a technology challenge, specifically plasma torch recycling.

How will your current job change in the next five years? More than ever it will be about the business case. Political capital locally will be in a strong ebbing phase, while leaders in my space will begin embracing a different paradigm of sustainability that is more pro-human, pro-technology and optimistic.

Do you have a role model or mentor? Professor Barry Brook at Adelaide University, though he insists I call him a friend.

Best advice? It's better to be roughly right than precisely wrong.

EPA issues coal ash exemption

THE New South Wales Environmental Protection Agency has issued an exemption for the land application of coal ash, creating a diversion option for a very significant waste stream.

With NSW consuming around 30 million tonnes of coal per annum, the exemption will create an avenue for what has previously been a very large volume of material sent to landfill.

The coal ash exemption, which

commenced on April 22, provides conditions that enable coal combustion products, fly ash or furnace bottom ash from burning NSW black coal to be beneficially reused.

Reuse options include cementitious mixes such as concrete, and in non-cementitious mixes such as an engineered fill, stabiliser, filter or drainage material or as a sand substitute.



More than 70,000 tonnes a year of contaminated soil, plus industrial waste, will be treated by Renex.

Renex to shake up Vic market?

NEW entrant into the market Renex is spending close to \$50 million to build a hazardous waste treatment facility in Melbourne.

Under construction at Dandenong South, outside Melbourne, the facility is targeting contaminated soil and other prescribed industrial wastes for treatment, energy recovery and reuse.

"This will be the first large-scale permanent hazardous waste thermal treatment facility in Victoria and Australia," said CEO Peter Mirkov.

He reported that Renex had received positive responses from early discussions with environmental consultancy firms and industrial clients that were seeking treatment options for contaminated soil as alternatives to current landfilling practices.

"We've pitched our prices at a discount to current landfill gate fees," he said, adding that without the EPA landfill levy the project "would unlikely have become feasible".

While landfill gate fees vary, the levy is \$70 per tonne for Category C waste and \$250 per tonne for Category B. Category A waste is banned from landfill disposal.

The facility will be able to treat in excess of 70,000 tonnes a year of contaminated soil of all categories, as well as 3000 tonnes of prescribed industrial wastes such as tyres,

shredder floc, PCB oils and other solid and liquid prescribed industrial wastes. However, "the primary focus for us is contaminated soil," said Mirkov.

Renex believes Victorian landfills have received between 250,000-350,000 tonnes of contaminated soil per annum in recent years.

When fully operational in 2014, Renex hopes the facility will reduce the volume of contaminated soils to landfill by about 20%.

The company has been issued with the approvals to commence construction of the facility. These include a works approval from EPA Victoria and a planning permit for the site in Dandenong South.

The new plant will use pyrolysis technology, comprising an indirectly heated rotary kiln, to gently heat waste material.

The facility will also employ best practice waste-to-energy principles to maximise energy efficiency and heat recovery, eliminating the need for external energy to power the plant once heated to operating temperature.

"Renex expects to receive EPA approval to commence receiving and storing wastes in July," said Mirkov.

"Commissioning of our treatment plant is expected to be completed within the first quarter of 2014, at which time we will be fully operational."

Our force gives you momentum.

JUPITER
Primary-Shredder

POWER KOMET
Secondary-Shredder

Centrifugal mass – a force that takes effect.

JUPITER and POWER KOMET:

Low energy consumption,
high efficiency and lower costs.

Excellence in shredding.



Australasian Agents



KogaRecyclingtech
Phone: +61 3 9555 8121
Mobile: 0419 558 600
Email: info@koga.com.au
Web: www.koga.com.au