

WORKCOVER NSW AND WASTE CONTRACTORS AND RECYCLERS ASSOCIATION OF NSW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

WorkCover NSW is responsible for the administration of occupational health and safety and workers compensation legislation in New South Wales. WorkCover NSW is committed to working in partnership with the NSW community to achieve safer workplaces, effective recovery, return to work and security for injured workers.

The Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW (WCRA) has 130 members, which represents approximately 90% of waste contractors and recycling businesses across NSW. It is dedicated to ensuring its members are fully conversant with their legislative and regulatory obligations to ensure a safe workplace and safe workplace practices as well as building a work-safe culture in the waste and recycling industry in this State.

Statement of intent

WorkCover NSW and WCRA will work together to advance the development of practical and effective approaches to occupational health and safety (OHS) and injury management (IM), in the waste and recycling industry. Central to this commitment are the following principles:

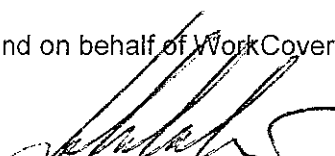
- Communication and consultation between WorkCover NSW and WCRA that focuses on improved OHS and IM outcomes in the waste and recycling industry
- Industry leadership, which promotes and values improved OHS and IM performance, and the importance of effective workplace consultation
- Genuine cooperation between WorkCover NSW and WCRA to help industry develop practical, cost effective solutions that delivers sustainable OHS and IM outcomes.

Commitment to agreement

The parties agree to work with each other to achieve improvements in occupational health and safety and injury management within the waste and recycling sector based on cooperation, communication, and the desire to develop practical, cost effective solutions for industry.

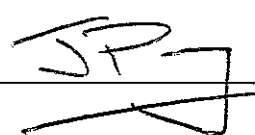
(Specific initiatives are detailed in Attachment A)

Signed for and on behalf of WorkCover NSW



this 8th day of December 2009

Signed for and on behalf of Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW



this 8th day of December 2009

Facilitation of agreement

Consistent with Nationally agreed targets the NSW Government is committed to reducing workplace fatalities by at least 20% by 30 June 2012 and reducing the incidence of workplace injury by at least 40% by 30 June 2012. As part of this process WorkCover is committed to supporting WCRA to achieve high standards in OHS and IM, and thereby reach these targets as a minimum.

WCRA and WorkCover NSW agree to facilitate the intent of the partnership by:

- WorkCover NSW providing a key contact from the Retail, Wholesale, Consumer and Business Services Team who will attend meetings, focus groups and discussion forums to help build industry capability to secure appropriate injury and illness prevention and management outcomes
- WorkCover NSW providing key management contacts to assist with the timely resolution of contentious issues arising from workplace compliance activity
- WorkCover NSW management meeting with WCRA management on a regular basis to engage in constructive and open discussion on OHS and IM issues affecting the waste and recycling industry
- WCRA providing key contacts in the policy and operational areas to enable appropriate discussion on issues and initiatives arising from this agreement
- WCRA taking a visible leadership role on OHS and IM, and promoting performance improvements to the industry and its membership.

Nothing in this partnership agreement will limit the role of WorkCover NSW in the administration of the NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000, the Workers Compensation Act 1987, the Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998, associated regulations and codes of practice. WorkCover may exercise this role at any time. The law relating to partnership does not apply to this Agreement or to the signatory parties to this Agreement, and nothing in this Agreement is to be taken to create a relationship of a partnership to which the Partnership Act 1892 applies.

Review of agreement

WCRA and WorkCover NSW agree that the intent and facilitation of this partnership agreement is subject to review on an annual basis.

ATTACHMENT A

WorkCover NSW recognises the work undertaken to date by WCRA, funded through WorkCover's Grants Scheme. They have included:

- \$38,000 Education and Training Grant in 2006 for a training video and training to ensure that operators of vacuum equipped trucks used in the collection of liquid wastes have a complete understanding of the operating standards and safety issues associated with the equipment
- \$86,458 Applied Research Grant in 2007 that investigates how manual handling is currently managed in the domestic waste collection sector and the safety and risk perceptions of operators. Findings will inform the development of a risk management intervention to be trialed in three representative organisations.

WorkCover also recognises the value of the partnership that already exists between both organisations as exemplified by:

- WCRA actively participating in the initial development and the on-going promotion of the *Code of Practice for the Collection of Domestic Waste* with other industry stakeholders.

WorkCover also recognises the work that is being done by WCRA as exemplified by:

- WCRA's ongoing promotion of training programs across the waste and recycling industry in NSW such as: Industry based OHS induction training through the Blue Card (based on the Federal Unit of Competency TDTF197B Follow OH&S Procedures); Fatigue Management Training (to Drivers & Supervisors); and Working Safely Near Overhead Wires
- WCRA's agreement with ALLIANZ to develop and promote an industry wide workers compensation program for the waste and recycling industry in NSW. Through Work Options this also extends to a dedicated OHS and Injury Management Advice Line for Members.

These initiatives have helped improve its OHS and IM performance outcomes however participation in the partnership agreement is a further demonstration of the intention to make a major contribution to further lifting the standard of OHS and IM within the industry.