



**THE HON GREG COMBET AM MP**  
**Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**COVERAGE OF LANDFILL WASTE UNDER THE CPRS**

Greg Combet, Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change, today announced that the Government has removed legacy emissions caused by waste landfills from the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

Mr Combet said the removal of legacy emissions from the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme was reflected in the Scheme legislation introduced to the House of Representatives today.

“The removal of legacy waste emissions from the Scheme will reduce administrative costs to small local councils and landfill operators, and therefore their customers, while retaining a strong incentive for these operators to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions,” said Mr Combet.

“During the consultation period on the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme draft legislation, many submissions and representations were received from local governments and landfill operators which made it clear that there was a deep concern about the equity of imposing a liability on emissions from previously deposited waste, or so called „legacy emissions“.”

“This was a particular concern for local government facilities and there was a high potential for ratepayers to suffer increased domestic waste costs to cover liability arising from waste that had been deposited in some cases decades ago.”

“The Government has listened to those concerns and the legislation released today reflects that legacy emissions from waste will be excluded from the Scheme. Liability for landfill emissions under the Scheme will now only apply to emissions that come from waste that is deposited after the commencement of the Scheme on 1 July 2011.”

“The delay in the commencement of the Scheme announced last week provides an extra year for the industry and local councils to prepare for the Scheme. It will also allow these parties to investigate abatement opportunities for reducing their emissions and implement measurement approaches that are best suited to their circumstances,” said Mr Combet.

“The Government has worked closely with the waste industry and local councils in making the decision to remove legacy emissions from the Scheme and I particularly would like to thank the Australian Local Government Association, the Australian Landfill Owners Association and the Australian Industry Group for their contributions.”

The attached fact sheet gives more details on the coverage of the Waste Sector under the CPRS.

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