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Waste Reform Project – consultation response

Please find below industry feedback on the *Waste Reform Project - proposed approaches for legislative reform* publication, as it applies to our current circumstances on a large infrastructure project, funded by both the state and federal governments.

Overall, the recommended approach would provide for a better outcome in diversion goals for the state, apart from potentially capturing Development Sites as landfills. This would reduce diversion from landfill as it would no longer be of cost benefit to spoil generating construction projects to dispose of excess spoil via developers.

If the proposed landfill category description includes Development Sites, it would not be consistent with the Waste Avoidance Strategy and diversion of spoil. Please note that major infrastructure projects registered with the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia to achieve a rating generally aim for diversion rate of 100% by volume of spoil, being uncontaminated excavated clay, gravel, sand, soil or rock.

The publication is still lacking in provision of clarification to industry as to what spoil would be considered a waste product versus clean fill, as the publication does not cover the end-of-waste framework.

The end-of-waste framework was a set of guideline documents that somewhat clarified when waste-derived-materials ceased to be 'waste' and were eligible for beneficial reuse. With the suspension of the framework, this avenue of certainty is removed.

The publication also lacks definition of a suitable 'reuse' and 'recycling' process or end destination, which may provide further clarity to industry.

The Salini Impregilo – NRW Joint Venture would welcome further conversations with the department on the issue.

Kind regards

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