

South east Queensland's landfill challenge



Operations at REMONDIS' Swanbank landfill in Queensland.

Landfill disposal accounts for about 40% of total waste management in Australia.

There are 11 landfills in south east Queensland which receive nearly 4 million tonnes of household rubbish, commercial and industrial waste, and construction and demolition waste a year.

The biggest waste management issue for south east Queensland councils has been the low cost of cheap landfill, which has resulted in no incentive to look for other waste management options.



Landfill:
40%
total waste
management



1.23m tonnes
household waste
per year



1.67m tonnes
construction and
demolition waste
per year



11 landfills
in south east
Queensland



1.06m tonnes
commercial and industrial
waste per year



Germany has been using waste to generate electricity since the early 1990s. Pictured is REMONDIS' Oberhausen plant.

The issue

A business as usual approach to refuse disposal and waste recycling may see most of south east Queensland's 11 landfills with no capacity by 2040.

The solution

Energy from Waste technology is used across the world, with countries including Germany, France, the UK, Japan, Denmark and Finland burning rubbish to generate electricity.

Diverting thousands of tonnes of suitable waste away from landfill and into a best-practice EfW plant will extend the life of south east Queensland's constrained landfills and also provide an additional, baseload electricity source for Queensland residents and businesses.

Queensland has the opportunity to benefit from successful European and UK experiences and incorporate Energy from Waste as part of the solution to sustainable, best practice waste management.



How the media has reported the capacity and dumping issue.