



NEWSFLASH

TOXFREE KARRATHA NOW LICENSED FOR MERCURY WASTE STORAGE

The Oil & Gas Industry in Australia, which is mainly located in the North-West, produces some wastes which contain various levels of mercury. There is currently no recycling pathway for these waste types in Australia. As lawful disposal in Australia is currently also not possible, with very few exceptions (such as Mt Walton facility, which opens on an irregular basis). If a company has too much of this type of waste accumulated, the only pathway currently available for this material is to export for recycling/disposal to overseas destinations. This is a very costly procedure requiring a high amount of administration in order to comply with the Basel Convention and a number of other pieces of national and international legislation. These types of wastes are categorised as Dangerous Goods and Hazardous Waste.

Tox Free Australia Limited has now been licensed to store and consolidate such materials at its Karratha site. This is a first step for Toxfree to establish itself as a national provider for a solution for mercury containing wastes. As a next step Toxfree is pursuing approvals to build the storage facility.

Proposed Interim Solution

Toxfree, after undertaking extensive consultation with Dangerous Goods and Environmental Licensing consultants, together with Site Management, identified two locations at our Karratha site, which will enable suitable safe storage volume. Small scale storage will be available by 2016 inside self-bunded, fit-for-purpose sea containers which have been formally assessed as complying with the necessary Australian Standard. Meanwhile the infrastructure requirements for the safe storage of other production volumes will be established.

The storage facility for other production volumes is safely located away from sensitive receptors and provides the necessary footprint for safe storage.

Both stages of storage have been subjected to rigorous, third-party risk assessment in collaboration with Site Management and have been determined as suitable for licensing.

On 3 August 2015, Toxfree's license for Karratha was amended by the Department of Mines and Petroleum to allow for:

1. Minor storage: being 12t in DG sea containers; and
2. Major storage: being normal operational tonnes.

A solution for large amounts resulting from any catastrophic failure in a production process is an option that Toxfree continues to negotiate with DMP and Toxfree is currently testing DMP's perspective on the risk assessment.



Mercury contaminated soil



Pure mercury



Toxfree oily water treatment plant