



▶ ADELAIDE BRIGHTON CEMENT

Refuse derived fuel – increase in plastics

Issued 1 August 2018

Adelaide Brighton Cement's manufacturing facility at Birkenhead in South Australia is currently licensed to use recycled construction and demolition wood waste. '[Refuse derived fuel](#)' harnesses the fuel content from waste, including non-recycled plastics.

This can have a positive benefit on the environment, reducing nitrogen oxide emissions with lower heavy metal inputs. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has developed a [standard](#) on the information and processes that are required to support resource efficiency and the beneficial recovery of energy from waste by the combustion of refuse derived fuel in an industrial process. All proposals for production and use of refuse derived fuel must be approved by the EPA.

The previous Adelaide Brighton Cement licence allowed recycled construction and demolition wood waste burning at a maximum of 15 tonnes an hour, with a maximum 10% plastics content. Successful trials at the Birkenhead facility were overseen by an independent air quality assessor from the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) and a [post-trial report](#) was submitted to the EPA detailing these outcomes.

Adelaide Brighton Cement then sought approval from the EPA for the plastic content of the alternative fuel 'refuse derived fuel' to be increased to 20%. Following these trials the EPA is satisfied that there are no adverse impacts from the increase in the plastic content based on the trial reports and modelling.



On 14 June 2018 the EPA approved the increase for plastic content in 'refuse derived fuel' to a maximum of 20%. This has been formalised by an amendment to licence conditions, and a revised licence has been issued to Adelaide Brighton Cement.

Environmental benefits are also likely as a result of using alternative fuels to complement the primary fuel source of natural gas. The benefits include a reduction in both nitrogen oxide emissions and overall carbon dioxide emissions. All other analytes, including dioxins, were well below the levels specified in the [Environment Protection \(Air Quality\) Policy 2016](#).



Community engagement

The application to increase the allowable plastics content of 'refuse derived fuel' from 10% to 20% was first released for public consultation to the adjacent community in late 2016.

A [fact sheet](#) published on the EPA website on 14 September 2017 and the proposal was discussed with attendees at an EPA community information session in October 2017, and at meetings of the Adelaide Brighton Cement Community liaison group during 2016-17.

A full copy of the report on the trial emissions is available from our website at www.epa.sa.gov.au (or phone 8204 2004 to ask for a copy to be sent to you).

You are invited to speak to our staff

The EPA has friendly staff available to answer questions and address any queries you might have about the proposal.

We warmly welcome all members from the local community to contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

Please contact us via the details below and ask to speak with a community engagement officer.



FURTHER INFORMATION

For further EPA information please contact:

Compliance Branch
Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: (08) 8204 2004

e: engage.epa@sa.gov.au

www.epa.sa.gov.au

(Follow the link at the bottom of our home page to Adelaide Brighton Cement license renewal).

For Adelaide Brighton Cement information please contact:

ABL Switchboard: (08) 8300 0300 8:30 am to 5pm weekdays

24 hr hotline for operational issues (on-site supervisors) or leave a message to be contacted the next business day:

Telephone: (08) 8300 0520

e: birkenheadcommunity@adbri.com.au

www.adelaidebrightoncommunity.com.au

(Follow the link to environment & community)

