

Some Environmental Objectives for Australasian Tramway Museums

– Trevor Burling

Discussion

John Binns – LTMS – noted that wheelie bins that are used to store waste need to spread out and not concentrated in one location – spread out oily rags etc, can catch fire.

TB – In the paper, the Wheelie bins are used for spill kits, an ideal means of containing clean absorbent material for soaking up oil and other liquids that may be spilled. A wheelie bin can be moved easily and quickly to the spillage. More than one may be needed for separate buildings.

The most common agent for soaking up oil etc is atapaulgite or cat litter and a couple of bags of that should be in the wheelie bin along with damming booms or even a bag of sand to contain spillage. No contaminated material or oil soaked rags should be placed in the bin. It is not a rubbish bin. After a spillage, the used material must be disposed of immediately by placing in a plastic bag for appropriate disposal.

John Radcliffe – AETM – noted the problem of trade waste charges, and that water saving can backfire economically. The issue is the cost of water vs using less water and concentrating trade waste whose charges rise rapidly with increasing concentration. Trade waste disposal charges can be more expensive than using excess water.