



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for the Environment

MC14-016080

Mr Jean-Claude Girardin
President of the Association
Sauvons Notre Futur
17 rue du Stade
38550 SABLONS
FRANCE

1 SEP 2014

Dear Mr Girardin

I refer to your letter of 18 July 2014 concerning Orica's export permit application to transport hazardous waste from Australia, for final destruction in France.

As you would be aware, the Basel Convention governs the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal. Under the Convention, the movement of hazardous wastes is allowed if the exporting country does not have the technical capacity and necessary facilities to dispose of the wastes in an environmentally sound and efficient manner.

Based on a robust technical assessment, Australia has determined that it does not have, nor is likely to in the future, the technical capacity and necessary facilities to dispose of the hexachlorobenzene (HCB) wastes in a safe and environmentally sound manner. This is principally due to the small size of Australia's chemical processing and heavy industries and the markets for these wastes. Australia produces insufficient amounts of these wastes to support a permanent destruction facility capable of destroying Orica's HCB wastes.

Orica's export application will be assessed under the stringent conditions established by the Australian *Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1989*. The assessment will also respect Australia's international obligations under the Basel Convention. I can assure you that all submissions received, including your correspondence, will be considered in this process.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt

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