



BUSINESS PLAN 2017–18

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A. INTRODUCTION

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act) establishes the Waste Authority to provide advice to the Minister for Environment and administer the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account (WARR Account).

The WARR Act requires the Waste Authority to prepare a draft annual business plan for the approval of the Minister for Environment. WARR Account moneys may only be applied to programs and activities authorised under the approved business plan or as otherwise approved by the Minister for Environment.

Section 36 of the WARR Act prescribes that the business plan must set out:

- the Waste Authority's objectives and priorities for the next five financial years;
- financial projections for that period;
- the Waste Authority's budget for the next financial year;
- the services and facilities that are reasonably necessary to be provided or used under section 16 for the next financial year in order to enable the Waste Authority to perform its functions;
- what the Waste Authority intends to do over the next financial year;
- the Waste Authority's policy for the application of moneys from the WARR Account for the next financial year;
- a priority statement with respect to extended producer responsibility schemes in accordance with section 47; and
- any other matters that the Minister requires in writing.

The Waste Authority applies funds from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account (WARR Account) to implement programs consistent with the annual business plan.

Further information about the programs and projects administered by the Waste Authority can be found at www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au.

B. WASTE AUTHORITY OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Objectives

The Waste Authority's objectives are aligned with the objectives of the Western Australian Waste Strategy: *Creating the Right Environment* (the Strategy).

The Strategy establishes five strategic objectives to support a coordinated approach to waste and sets waste diversion targets as primary approaches to drive the change towards a low waste society.

The Strategy's success is measured against its effectiveness in reducing the amount of waste generated, increasing the proportion of material recovered from the waste stream and reducing the proportion of waste destined for landfill.

The amount of waste being recovered in Western Australia has been increasing steadily for a number of years and there is evidence that increases in the landfill levy have accelerated this trend. However, when benchmarked against other mainland states, Western Australia's performance is still poor and requires a significant boost if the targets are to be achieved by 2020.

The targets in the Strategy are based on ambitious but achievable improvements in current diversion, avoidance and recovery rates.

Targets in the Western Australian Waste Strategy: *Creating the right environment*

Waste stream	Target 2014-15	Performance 2015-16	Target 2019-20
Municipal solid waste - metropolitan	50%	36%	65%
Municipal solid waste - major regional centres	30%	31%*	50%
Commercial and industrial	55%	56%	70%
Construction and demolition	60%	57%	75%

Data sourced from the *Recycling Activity Review 2015-16*

Five year objectives and priorities

The Waste Authority's priorities are based on contributing to sustainability, and the protection of human health and the environment. An important focus will be avoiding the creation of waste in the first place by encouraging everyone to adopt smarter waste management practices in the home, in businesses and in public open spaces.

Improved recycling and recovery is good for the environment as it can reduce the use of raw materials and energy, while at the same time bringing positive economic benefits, including more jobs and supporting a circular economy.

Therefore, the Waste Authority will continue to initiate and implement programs targeted at supporting the community, local government, regional councils, businesses and industry to improve their recycling performance and management of waste and the attitude towards acceptance of the use of recovered resources.

To give effect to these priorities the Waste Authority will focus its efforts in the areas of planning, engagement and communications. It will focus its actions on food waste and construction and demolition waste which are two of the most significant waste streams where identified recycling and recovery options already exist and can be more widely adopted.

Waste strategy review

The WARR Act requires that the Western Australian waste strategy: *Creating the Right Environment* be reviewed not later than five years after it was last approved by the Minister for Environment.

The review of the waste strategy will be a priority for the Waste Authority in 2017-18. The revised strategy will provide strategic direction for waste management in Western Australia and inform the Waste Authority's objectives and priorities for the next five years.

As a result of the preliminary review undertaken by the Waste Authority during 2016-17, the Waste Authority advised the Minister that it considers that some aspects of the waste strategy need amendment and/or revision.

As approved by the Minister for Environment, the Waste Authority will prepare a revised draft waste strategy having particular regard to:

- including priority areas in the strategy to provide greater focus for Waste Authority, government and stakeholder action;
- setting new targets for 2025 and 2030, and establishing specific targets for priority areas;
- reframing the current waste strategy's five strategic objectives as key policy tools that can be applied to the identified priority areas; and
- placing emphasis on the linkages between the waste strategy and other government strategies and priorities.

The process for revising the waste strategy, including consultation, will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the WARR Act.

C. FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account

A levy on waste disposed of to landfill in the Perth metropolitan region and on waste generated in the Perth metropolitan region and disposed of elsewhere in the state is imposed under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007* (WARR Levy Act).

Scheduled increases in the waste levy rate

Period	Putrescible rate/tonne	Approx. inert rate/tonne*	Inert rate/m ³
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	\$60	\$50	\$75
1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018	\$65	\$60	\$90
1 July 2018 onwards	\$70	\$70	\$105

* One cubic metre of inert waste in situ within the landfill is treated as equivalent to 1.5 tonnes.

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* requires that not less than 25 per cent of the forecast levy amount for the financial year is paid into the WARR Account.

It is forecast that waste levy revenue will be \$76 million and the expenditure limit imposed on the WARR Account is expected to be \$19 million in each of the next five years.

Estimated revenue and expenditure from the WARR Account 2017-18 to 2021-22

Description	2017-18 Forward Estimate \$'000	2018-19 Forward Estimate \$'000	2019-20 Forward Estimate \$'000	2020-21 Forward Estimate \$'000	2021-22 Forward Estimate \$'000
Receipts					
Interest received	750	750	750	750	750
Waste levy revenue	76,000	76,000	76,000	76,000	76,000
Total receipts	76,750	76,750	76,750	76,750	76,750
Waste levy rate	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%
Payments					
Expenditure	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
Total expenditure limit	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000

Levy rate review

The last scheduled increase in the levy rate is set for 1 July 2018.

The Waste Authority may provide advice to the Minister for Environment on further changes to the levy rate beyond this period, in accordance with section 4 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007*.

D. BUDGET FOR 2017-18

Business plan activity area	2017-18 \$
Waste Authority programs (further detail on page 11)	
New initiatives	
Food waste initiatives	150,000
Illegal dumping community education campaign	120,000
Statutory review of the waste strategy	100,000
Review of the Waste Wise Schools program	100,000
Methodology for approved manner for the provision of data	50,000
Drop off and vergeside service trials	50,000
Recycled products policy	50,000
Governance framework	30,000
Events	20,000
Ongoing initiatives	
Better bins kerbside collection	2,090,000
Household hazardous waste program	1,600,000
Community and industry engagement program	1,000,000
Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA	832,000
Waste Wise Schools	711,000
Recycled construction products program	700,000
Support for testing recycled construction and demolition products	400,000
Right bin communications toolkit and evaluation	300,000
Community grants scheme	250,000
Charitable recycling organisation rebate	250,000
Engagement in action	197,500
Local government waste plans	50,000
Charitable recycler dumping reduction program	50,000
Clean communities	5,000
Household hazardous waste review	
Data strategy	
Funding principles	
Advice to support the planning authority's consideration of waste management and infrastructure planning	
SUB TOTAL	9,105,500

Business plan activity area	2017-18 \$
Services provided under section 16 (further detail on page 9)	
Strategic, policy and program development, implementation, management and data monitoring	3,236,000
Administration and overheads	1,551,500
Levy inspection, compliance and enforcement	1,126,000
Waste Authority support	833,000
Illegal dumping	749,000
Ministerial and Director General support	712,000
Communications	352,000
SUB TOTAL	8,559,500
Functions funded under section 80 (further detail on page 10)	
Container deposit scheme	660,000
Single use lightweight plastic bag ban	500,000
Economic analysis of waste levy	150,000
National initiatives	25,000
SUB TOTAL	1,335,000
TOTAL	19,000,000

E. SECTION 16 SERVICES

Section 16 of the WARR Act provides that the Minister must ensure that the Waste Authority is provided with such services and facilities as are reasonably necessary to enable it to perform its functions. These services are provided through the department in line with a memorandum of understanding (dated 23 September 2009) and a draft service level agreement between the two parties.

Strategic, policy and program development, implementation, management and data monitoring

- Delivery of **strategic policy** including policies to increase diversion from landfill, development of regulatory and legislative amendments to waste-related legislation and national policy.
- Services to ensure that WARR Account funded activities are planned, implemented and evaluated effectively and in accordance with the WARR legislation, *Financial Management Act 2006* and State Supply Commission policy.
- Collecting and reporting data through the **annual review of recycling activity** of industry participants and the **annual census** of waste and recycling services provided to households and commercial premises by local government and regional councils.

Compliance and enforcement activities

- **Levy collection, compliance and enforcement** activities for landfill premises. The department provides environmental investigative capability and single-point accountability for regulatory complaints to achieve state-wide enforcement outcomes in line with the WARR legislation and the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
- A dedicated six person **illegal dumping** team will deliver state-wide capacity to detect, investigate and prosecute offenders responsible for illegal dumping offences, and educate the community, industry and government to understand the impacts, and reduce the incidence, of illegal dumping. Ensuring that illegal dumping is detected, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted provides for the integrity of the waste levy as an economic driver to diversion.

Support for the Waste Authority

- This includes development and review of the waste strategy, development of the annual business plan and annual report, governance and meeting administration, and members' sitting fees, travel and accommodation expenses.

Support for the Minister for Environment and the Director General

- This work is required to meet portfolio responsibilities in relation to waste matters.

Administration and overheads

- Including the costs associated with finance and administration, business systems, human resources and accommodation provided by the department.

Communications

- Communications services including drafting media statements, responses to media enquiries and media monitoring, graphic design of publications, website maintenance and drafting the Waste Authority newsletter, as well as support for events such as the Local Government Convention and the Waste and Recycle Conference.

F. FUNCTIONS FUNDED UNDER SECTION 80

Section 80 of the WARR Act provides that moneys held in the WARR Account can be applied as approved by the Minister to fund a range of activities including:

Container deposit scheme

- WARR Account funds will be applied to support the department to develop the state government's commitment to deliver **container deposit scheme** to prevent litter and promote recycling.

Single use lightweight plastic bag ban

- WARR Account funds will be applied to support the department to develop the state government's commitment to deliver a **single use lightweight plastic bag ban**.

Economic analysis of waste levy

- An economic analysis will be undertaken to inform a **review of the waste levy**.

National initiatives

- WARR Account funds will be applied to support Western Australia's contribution to **national initiatives** such as the Australian Packaging Covenant, the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme, Paintback and tyre recycling.

G. WASTE AUTHORITY PROGRAMS - 2017-18

Appendix A contains further detail on Waste Authority programs.

New initiatives

- Fund **food waste** initiatives including:
 - projects that target food waste minimisation through the community grants scheme and community and industry engagement programs;
 - Waste Wise Schools for trials of key food waste behaviour change strategies in schools and to conduct and evaluate those trials; and
 - a consultant to undertake research into the options to increase diversion of household food waste from landfill through the Better Bins program.
- Develop and implement an **illegal dumping community education campaign** to reduce illegal dumping and raise awareness of its impacts.
- Undertake a **statutory review of the waste strategy**.
- **Review the Waste Wise Schools program** to inform decision making regarding its future development and enhance ongoing delivery.
- Undertake consultation to support the development of a **methodology for approved manner for the provision of data**
- Undertake trials of improved **drop off and vergeside services** to provide data to support the development of better practice guidelines, inform performance benchmarks and ensure the guidelines are relevant in the Western Australian context.
- Work with other state government agencies to identify and evaluate the needs, opportunities and requirements of a **recycled products policy**.
- Develop a **governance framework** to help clarify the roles and responsibilities and undertake an assessment of the Waste Authority's strategic risks.

Ongoing initiatives

- Provide funding to local governments to implement better practice kerbside collection services to support higher recovery and the achievement of the state government's 2020 municipal solid waste targets through the **better bins** program.
- Provide funding to local governments and regional councils to assist with the collection, storage and disposal of **hazardous household wastes**.
- Fund the development and implementation of waste management projects and initiatives that promote the diversion of waste from landfill and events, including the Infinity Awards, through the **community and industry engagement program**.
- Provide an incentive to metropolitan local governments, regional councils, state government and private sector entities to use recycled construction and demolition products in civil construction through the **recycled construction products program**.
- Fund the **Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA** to deliver specific litter prevention and recycling programs, in line with the Waste Strategy and *Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia* and other strategic priorities.
- Provide resources and support for primary and secondary schools to plan, implement and maintain waste minimising projects to change attitudes and behaviour through **Waste Wise Schools**.
- **Support the producers of recycled construction and demolition products** with the cost of sampling, testing and independent audit to complement the recycled construction products program.
- Develop and evaluate the effectiveness of a **toolkit of communication and engagement materials** to be used by Better Bins participants.
- Assist community groups to reduce waste generation, recover resources, and reduce the impact of waste on the environment through the **community grants scheme**.
- Provide a **rebate to charitable recyclers** for the cost of the waste levy that is passed on to them when disposing of waste to landfill.
- Promote waste avoidance and reuse messages through the **engagement in action** program.

- Assist local government in the review, development and implementation of **waste plans** to align them more closely with implementation of the Waste Strategy and state planning initiatives.
- Provide funds to charitable recyclers to pilot, evaluate and implement measures to reduce illegal dumping through the **charitable recycler dumping reduction program**.
- Provide community groups and individuals with coloured collection bags to separate waste allow it to be diverted from landfill through the **clean communities** program.
- Implement the recommendations of the **review of the household hazardous waste** program.
- Continue the development of a **data strategy** to guide enhancements to existing data collection and reporting mechanisms, as well as data storage and reporting frameworks.
- Implement **funding principles** to guide the application of funds and support decisions about the appropriate mechanism to achieve desired program outcomes.
- Provide policy and waste sector advice to the state government to support the consideration of **waste management and waste infrastructure planning** by relevant planning authorities to improve waste outcomes.

H. FUNDING PRINCIPLES

The WARR Act requires that moneys held in the WARR Account are to be applied to support waste management activities and the diversion of waste from landfill through the recycling and recovery of waste. To support this aim, the Waste Authority has developed funding principles that confirm the need for a clear link between funds provided from the WARR Account and these activities.

The application of funds from the WARR Account is focussed on encouraging investment in infrastructure and by creating the demand environment where infrastructure investments are more likely to be made. Funds are also applied to the development and delivery of a range of initiatives to promote waste avoidance, reuse and recycling which support attitude and behaviour change to enhance waste avoidance and resource recovery.

FUNDING OBJECTIVES

- Promote the most efficient use of resources and prioritise the avoidance of waste, followed by its reuse, reprocessing, recycling and energy recovery, over disposal.
- Reduce environmental harm, including pollution through waste.
- Be consistent with the principles set out in section 4A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

OUTCOME PRINCIPLES

Deliver benefits

Funded activities should result in a reduction in waste generation or an increase in landfill diversion against Waste Strategy targets.

Address market failures

Funded activities should target and address a pre-identified market failure.

PROCESS PRINCIPLES

Be efficient and effective

Funded activities should be cost-effective, efficient and deliver a net benefit to the State.

Integrity and accountability

Funded activities should be conducted in a manner that exhibits integrity and accountability and adheres to appropriate funding and governance processes.

Be collaborative

Funded activities should involve collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders where it is likely to lead to an outcome that is associated with greater benefits for the state and/or deliver outcomes more efficiently.

Be informed

Funded activities should be developed and evaluated using an evidence-based approach informed by the collection and reporting of relevant data and information.

Stakeholder engagement

Funded activities should be informed by stakeholder engagement and designed and implemented in a way that is supported by relevant stakeholders.

Manage risk

Funded activities should be designed and implemented with appropriate identification, evaluation and management of risk.

I. EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY SCHEMES

Container deposit scheme

The state government has committed to implementing a container deposit scheme, which is an example of an extended producer responsibility scheme.

The container deposit scheme will involve consumers paying an additional amount as part of the product's purchase price. Those moneys will be used to pay refunds on empty containers and fund a collection system.

WARR Account funds will be applied to support the department to develop a container deposit scheme.

National initiatives

The Waste Authority also places priority on participating in national activities such as the Australian Packaging Covenant, the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme and developing Paintback and tyre recycling initiatives.

WARR Account funds will be applied to support these schemes.

J. OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY THE MINISTER

The Minister does not require the Waste Authority to include any other matters in the 2017-18 business plan.

APPENDIX A

WASTE AUTHORITY PROGRAMS

NEW PROGRAMS

FOCUS ON FOOD WASTE

Project background

The state government's 2020 target for landfill diversion of municipal solid waste (MSW) is 65 per cent for the metropolitan region and 50 per cent for major regional centres. In 2015 a diversion rate of 40 per cent was achieved in the metropolitan region.

Although food waste is generated across all stages of the food supply chain, a substantial proportion of food waste occurs at the household level. Up to 60 per cent of household waste thrown away is food and garden organics. Food is the single largest component of the household waste bin, approximately 35 per cent by weight. Research indicates that the average Australian household throws away more than \$1,000 worth of groceries each year.

Minimising food and other organic waste will help deliver the Waste Strategy targets. Food waste issues can be addressed by avoiding food waste and by diverting waste food from landfill.

A number of existing WARR Account funded programs have scope to include a specific focus on food waste reduction initiatives. Additional funding will be allocated across four programs (Better Bins, Community Grants Scheme, Community and Industry Engagement, and Waste Wise Schools) to deliver food waste reduction projects.

Project description and approach

Additional, specific purpose funds will be allocated to four programs to fund food waste initiatives:

- *Better Bins* - further promotion of the diversion of food waste from landfill may be achieved through home composting or by expanding the scope of materials collected in kerbside green waste services to include food waste (often referred to as food and garden organics (FOGO)). Best practice kerbside systems that collect food waste can achieve up to 65 per cent recovery, the same rate as the 2020 landfill diversion target for MSW in the metropolitan area. Additional funding will be allocated to Better Bins to engage a consultant to undertake research into the options to increase diversion of household food waste from landfill.
- *Community grants scheme* - provides grants of up to community groups for projects that support the Waste Strategy. Some projects have already been funded to address food waste, for example, household and community food composting projects. Additional funding will be allocated to CGS for projects that target food waste minimisation.
- *Community and industry engagement* - recent CIE funding rounds prioritised initiatives that improve the use of construction and demolition materials; promote local government's engagement with the Better Bins program and its objectives; and support waste planning within and between local governments. Additional funding will be allocated to CIE for projects that target food waste minimisation.
- *Waste Wise Schools (WWS)* - additional funding of specific purpose funding be allocated to WWS for trials of key food waste behaviour change strategies in schools and to conduct and evaluate those trials.

The governance arrangements in place for each program will govern the manner in which the additional funding is expended.

Benefits

Food waste is a significant issue. Specific purpose funding through existing programs will encourage activities to reduce food waste and thereby reduce MSW and commercial and industrial waste, helping to achieve the state's landfill diversion targets.

ILLEGAL DUMPING COMMUNITY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Background

The unauthorised discharge or abandonment of waste, generally referred to as illegal dumping, is an offence under s.49A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The offence is serious and presents a risk to the environment and human health. The department investigates and prosecutes incidences of illegal dumping.

There has been a steady increase in reported illegal dumping since 2010. Nonetheless, feedback from the department's Illegal Dumping team and Pollution Response hotline, and local governments and regional councils suggests that only a small proportion of offences are reported. Ongoing increases in the waste levy combined with urban expansion may increase the incidence of illegal dumping.

Project description and approach

A community engagement and education campaign will be developed to reduce illegal dumping and raise awareness of its impacts. This will include consultation with key stakeholders, including the department's Illegal Dumping team, local governments and regional councils to determine current levels of illegal dumping and related consequences in order to inform the campaign.

It is intended that the successful respondent will develop a campaign, including a prioritised and costed implementation plan, as part of this work.

It is proposed that a contractor be engaged through a competitive procurement process to:

- research the prevalence of illegal dumping in metropolitan and regional areas, including types of material and hotspots;
- gather feedback from key stakeholders on the impact of illegal dumping, including remediation costs;
- develop an education campaign, including designing materials and identifying channels; and
- propose a prioritised implementation plan across relevant platforms.

Benefits

A community education campaign on the impacts of illegal dumping will raise public awareness of the impact of illegal dumping. It will support the efforts of the department's Illegal Dumping team, local governments and regional councils to reduce illegal dumping and encourage the community to report it.

STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE WASTE STRATEGY

Background

The WARR Act requires that a waste strategy be developed, the purpose of which is to set out for the whole of the state:

- a) a long term strategy for continuous improvement of waste services, waste avoidance and resource recovery, benchmarked against best practice; and
- b) targets for waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill disposal.

The first Waste Strategy was approved by the then Minister in March 2012.

Section 33 of the WARR Act requires the Waste Authority to review the waste strategy to determine the extent to which it requires amendment or revision not later than five years after the Minister last approved it. The Waste Authority provided written advice on the findings of its s. 33 review to the Minister in March 2017.

The WARR Act further prescribes the consultation process that must be undertaken before the existing strategy is revised for the Minister's consideration. This includes at least 12 weeks for the public to make submissions on the draft waste strategy. Following the Waste Authority's consideration of input, the draft waste strategy, modified as the Waste Authority thinks fit, must be referred to entities that made submissions to allow them to request further variations to the draft (28 day period). The Waste Authority must consider the submissions received and submit a draft waste strategy, along with a copy of all the submissions and requests it received and its report on them, to the Minister for consideration.

Description of proposed project

A consultant will be engaged to manage the Waste Authority's statutory obligation to consult on its proposed amendments to the waste strategy.

It is proposed that the contractor will be engaged through a competitive procurement process to:

- develop a consultation plan;
- undertake the required consultation;
- analyse the feedback received; and
- provide a report on that feedback to the Waste Authority.

Benefits

Stakeholder commitment to delivery of the waste strategy is important to its successful implementation.

Robust consultation is key to securing the level of stakeholder support of the new waste strategy required to achieve its objectives and outcomes.

The consultation process is likely to be more effective if delivered by an independent and experienced consultant. An independent consultant will be well placed to engage with stakeholders to gather information. This will allow the draft waste strategy to be updated to incorporate stakeholder feedback which will help garner stakeholder support.

This approach will ensure the strategy is relevant to stakeholders and that they have a sense of ownership for it and support its direction.

REVIEW OF THE WASTE WISE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Background

Waste Wise Schools has been in place since 2002. The program, which is based on best practice community based social marketing and environmental education theory, aims to achieve behaviour change to minimise waste in schools and the wider school community.

It delivers staff training and curriculum materials and other resources, student activities and infrastructure funding to develop positive environmental attitudes and behaviours to reduce waste to landfill by reducing, reusing and recycling. To date, 865 schools of the 1,100 schools (78.5 per cent) in Western Australia have participated in the program, 398 (36 per cent) of which are accredited Waste Wise Schools.

Project description and approach

The review of the Waste Wise Schools program will analyse the program's effectiveness in meeting its objectives, identify any gaps in service delivery and make recommendations for improvement.

The review will include consultation with key stakeholders including state government, local governments, regional councils, not-for-profit organisations and schools, as well as consideration of similar programs elsewhere.

Benefits

The outcomes of the review will inform decision making regarding the further development of the Waste Wise Schools program to enhance ongoing delivery of its school based behaviour change programs.

METHODOLOGY FOR APPROVED MANNER FOR THE PROVISION OF DATA

Background

Waste and recycling data are collected annually from local government and industry to assess Western Australia's performance against the waste strategy targets and to report key performance indicators.

The department collects data on metropolitan waste disposed of to landfill through its administration of the waste levy. On behalf of the Waste Authority, the department also collects data which is provided on a voluntary basis through the annual Local Government Waste and Recycling Census and the Recycling Activity in Western Australia report.

In mid-2016, the former department released proposed amendments to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008 to require record-keeping and annual reporting of waste and recycling data for consultation. The amendments are intended to improve the completeness and accuracy of data. Consultation undertaken in 2016 indicated that stakeholders are broadly supportive of the proposed amendments.

Liable entities cannot report in line with the proposed amendments until an 'approved manner' has been approved by the CEO.

Project description and approach

This project will deliver an approved manner for the recording and reporting of waste data that will support proposed amendments to the WARR Regulations. The approved manner will include reporting requirements, forms and guidance.

A draft approved manner will be developed and stakeholders will be consulted to confirm its suitability. It is proposed that the consultation process be led by a contractor engaged through a competitive process.

Departmental staff will use the results of the contractor's work to finalise the draft approved manner for the CEO's consideration and approval.

Benefits

Voluntary reporting has resulted in incomplete data due to variable response rates and reporting entities have a reduced incentive to provide accurate data. As a result, significant government resources are required to ensure adequate reporting rates and data quality. The proposed regulatory amendments will address this.

It is intended that, following stakeholder consultation, the approved manner will form the basis of the CEO's notification to stakeholders in June 2018 of the requirement to report their 2019-20 data.

BETTER PRACTICE VERGESIDE AND DROP-OFF TRIALS

Background

The Waste Strategy includes landfill diversion targets for municipal solid waste (MSW), most of which is collected by kerbside, vergeside and drop off services. Better practice approaches are relevant to each of these collection services.

Research on local government vergeside and drop-off services used locally and elsewhere identified a range of services and approaches that are likely to contribute to higher resource recovery. However, there is a lack of reliable data, particularly recovery data, to enable conclusions about best practice services and recovery performance. Trials of improved drop-off and vergeside services will provide data to inform the development of guidance material and performance benchmarks.

Project description and approach

A selection of improvements to local government vergeside and drop off services will be trialled to provide data to underpin the development of best practice guidelines and performance benchmarks which will be used to drive better practice services. A competitive process will be used to select local government projects to be trialled.

Proposed projects will be assessed against selection criteria including:

- extent to which the proposed trial will provide relevant information on the performance of existing or new approaches to vergeside or drop-off collections;
- extent to which the proposed trial can be implemented between 2017-18 and 2019-20;
- number of households covered by the proposed trial; and
- proportion of local governments that the proposal could be applied to in the future.

The request for proposals will be submitted to the Waste Authority for endorsement prior to advertising. Ministerial approval will be sought prior to awarding contracts for the implementation of proposals.

Benefits

The MSW sector has been slow to respond to landfill levy increases. Vergeside and drop-off services collect significant volumes of MSW. High performance in vergeside and drop-off services will complement improvements in kerbside services (through Better Bins) and support higher overall recovery rates.

While there is significant data in relation to kerbside services and performance, there is limited data, in relation to vergeside and drop off services.

Trials are a relatively low cost, low risk way to obtain the data required to confirm better practice services and performance, and to identify the service models that represent better practice.

Evidence based guidelines and performance benchmarks will provide a stronger case for the Waste Authority to promote better practice and reduce the likelihood of the guidance and benchmarks being disputed.

RECYCLED PRODUCTS POLICY

Background

The state government is a significant purchaser of goods and services. In 2013-2014 total state government expenditure on goods and services was over \$23 billion, two thirds of which was expended by government agencies (nearly \$14 billion). Since 2009-10, building and construction has been the largest expenditure category (with expenditure of nearly \$5 billion in 2014-15).

With its considerable purchasing power, the state government can have a significant influence in the market through procurement policy. Through requiring consideration of broader objectives such as economic development and environment in its procurement policies, government can achieve secondary objectives as well as the best value for money outcome.

Strategic objective 5c of the Waste Strategy advocates:

support [for] the development and delivery of green procurement programs that drive better outcomes for waste management.

The Auditor General's 2016 report, *Western Australian Waste Strategy: Rethinking Waste* recommended that the Waste Authority, with departmental support, should assess the need for the state government to adopt a policy of using recycled products as a way of encouraging community use of recycled products. Preliminary research indicates that the New South Wales and Victorian state governments have sustainable procurement policies, which include waste minimisation.

Project description and approach

A consultant will be engaged through a competitive procurement process to work with other state government agencies to identify and evaluate the opportunities to implement procurement policies that support the objectives of the waste strategy and identify the benefits of doing so.

The scoping study will determine the needs, opportunities and requirements of a recycled products policy. This will include working closely with key departments such as Finance (State Supply Commission), Main Roads, Local Government and Planning, Lands and Heritage to align the state government's waste policies with other relevant policy areas.

The contractor will:

- document existing procurement practices and policies in state government departments and agencies;
- categorise state government departments and agencies for the purpose of understanding the most significant, immediate or viable options for decreasing the generation of waste or increasing its recovery; and
- provide advice on the nature of approaches that would be required to change existing, or introduce new, procurement practices or policies in the state government agencies identified in the scoping study.

Benefits

The Auditor General has recommended that this work be undertaken, highlighting that it will be a way to encourage community use of recycled products. Potential benefits include:

- improving state government knowledge of the benefits of avoiding consumption and reuse of materials rather than using new products;
- large scale government use of recycled products will reduce the amount of waste disposed of to landfill by government, potentially impacting on cost and the environment; and
- through setting an example, state government use of recycled products may influence local government, industry and the community to decrease the volume of waste it disposes of to landfill.

GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Background

Governance is the systems and structures by which an organisation is directed, controlled and operated and the mechanisms by which it and the people within it are held to account.

In his 2016 report on the performance of the waste strategy, the Auditor General recommended that the department and the Waste Authority finalise a governance framework based on the Public Sector Commission's *Good Governance Guide for Public Sector Agencies* to help clarify each party's roles and responsibilities.

Project description and approach

The department has worked with the Waste Authority to draft a governance framework to guide the manner in which the Waste Authority achieves good governance.

The current draft governance framework is based on the:

- functions, roles and responsibilities of the Minister for Environment, the Chief Executive Officer of the department and the Waste Authority established in the WARR Act;
- overarching public sector accountability framework that underpins the work of all public sector bodies¹; and
- Public Sector Commission's seven good governance principles for Western Australian boards and committees².

In addition to the governance framework document, the Waste Authority members' website contains a range of governance documents including the WARR Act, code of conduct, communications agreement with the Minister, the Charter, the conflict of interest policy and relevant disclosure forms (disclosure of interest, contact with lobbyists and attendance at events).

The Waste Authority will engage an external provider in accordance with State Supply Commission policy and the *Guidelines for the Undertaking of Legal Services for the State of Western Australia* to review the draft governance framework including:

- the interpretation of the WARR Act which underpins the draft framework;
- the alignment of the governance framework, the 2009 memorandum of understanding and the draft service level agreement; and
- the provision of recommendations for any changes and improvements to the framework, including alignment with comparable documents used by other statutory authorities.

Benefits

Approval of this specific purpose funding will provide the Waste Authority with external advice on the governance framework.

¹ Including the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*, *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, Premier's Circulars, Public Sector Commissioner's Instructions, Circulars and Guides, *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*, *Financial Management Act 2006*, *Auditor General Act 2006*, *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*, State Supply Commission policies and procedures and *State Records Act 2000*.

² publicsector.wa.gov.au/public-administration/public-sector-governance/good-governance-wa-boards-and-committees/good-governance-principles-wa-boards-and-committees

EVENTS

Background

The WARR Act provides that the Waste Authority can present information to the public on matters related to the business plan. Further, strategic objective 5 of the Waste Strategy aims to communicate messages for behaviour change and promote its adoption.

Major state waste sector conventions and conferences provide an opportunity for the Waste Authority to promote its programs and activities to key stakeholders. In Western Australia, the two key annual events are the:

- Local Government Convention, which is a networking and educational event for local government council representatives from across Western Australia, takes place in August; and
- Waste and Recycle Conference, which is a networking and educational event for the waste and recycling industry and its stakeholders, takes place in September.

In addition, from time to time there may be benefit in the Waste Authority hosting events to promote specific programs to key audiences. For example, inviting local government elected officials and senior officers to a breakfast to learn about key programs such as Better Bins, and share stories of their successful implementation in WA may increase participation in the program.

Project description and approach

It is proposed that the Waste Authority will purchase a display booth at the Local Government Convention and Waste and Recycle Conference. Materials on WARR Account funded programs will be produced to display on the booth.

It is also proposed that up to two events will be delivered to highlight the benefits of key programs such as Better Bins and the Recycled Construction Products Program to target audiences including local governments, regional councils and industry.

Benefits

Approval of this specific purpose funding will allow for timely and efficient planning and delivery of these activities.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

BETTER BINS KERBSIDE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Background

The Waste Strategy sets landfill diversion targets, including 2020 municipal solid waste (MSW) targets of 65 per cent in the Perth metropolitan region and 50 per cent in major regional centres. In 2015-16, approximately 1.65 million tonnes of MSW was generated in Western Australia of which 1.5 million tonnes was from domestic sources.

MSW recovery rates are well below the Waste Strategy's targets. As around 67 per cent of domestic waste is collected by kerbside services, it is critical that kerbside collection services achieve higher recovery to support the achievement of MSW targets.

Local governments use a range of kerbside collection systems, predominantly two bin services for general waste and co-mingled recycling, most of which achieve recovery rates well below the target. Experience elsewhere shows that source separated three bin services can recover 50 per cent of materials or substantially more if food waste is collected.

Project description and approach

Better Bins provides an incentive for local governments to introduce best practice kerbside waste and recycling services to increase resource recovery and support the achievement of landfill diversion targets.

The program encourages the use of a three bin system (general waste, co-mingled recycling and organic/green waste) to support greater source separation and higher recovery. It offers up to \$30 per household for local governments that introduce better practice services.

The Better Bins Kerbside Collection Guidelines contain information on infrastructure (including bin types, colours and collection frequencies), performance benchmarks and complementary measures.

Better Bins has a total budget of \$20 million.

Benefits

Better Bins supports local governments:

- to increase resource recovery from kerbside collection services;
- to increase the number of households with access to best practice kerbside collection services;
- with the cost of implementing best practice kerbside collection services;
- to limit their exposure to increasing landfill costs; and
- to implement complementary measures to ensure the community understands the benefit of the kerbside collection service and how to use it effectively.

Better Bins will also support more consistent kerbside collection systems, particularly across the metropolitan region, which will support more consistent communications and messaging to the community.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Background

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program provides local governments with funding to assist with the collection, storage and disposal of hazardous waste generated by households.

The program, which commenced in 2008, provides multiple functions including removing hazardous waste from the MSW stream to minimise harm to staff and equipment, and to reduce the environmental impacts at disposal sites. In addition, removing hazardous waste from the general waste stream is important for improving the performance of mixed waste treatment facilities and quality of outputs (that is, compost).

Project description and approach

Under the current arrangements, an agreement between the Waste Authority on behalf of the State of Western Australia and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) establishes a framework for the provision of the HHW program. Under the agreement, WALGA:

- enters into contracts with service providers to deliver services at participating local government sites; and
- procures services on the open market through a competitive tender process.

Local government participants enter a memorandum of understanding with WALGA for the delivery of household hazardous waste services but do not have direct contracts with service providers.

A review of the program is currently being finalised.

Benefits

The program provides a safe disposal pathway for hazardous wastes generated by households which present a significant risk to human health and the environment.

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Background

The Waste Strategy's 2020 target for the commercial and industrial sector (C&I) is 70 per cent, for the construction and demolition sector (C&D) it is 75 per cent, and for the municipal solid waste sector (MSW) it is 65 per cent. The 2014-15 data show that C&I diversion was 52 per cent, C&D diversion was 42 per cent and MSW diversion was 40 per cent.

The waste levy, the application of WARR Account funds and the delivery of programs will drive the achievement of these targets. To maximise the return on government and industry investment in waste management programs, the residential and business community needs to:

- be well-informed about the best waste management options available to them;
- understand that their decisions and actions make a difference to the social, environmental and/or business bottom line; and
- engage in behaviours that result in wastes being managed for improved resource recovery and landfill diversion.

Engagement through industry and community organisations will influence specific behaviours and can greatly assist the achievement of best practice waste management, to contribute over time to the diversion of waste from landfill. By leveraging the expertise and networks of peak and specialist bodies, the Waste Authority can facilitate the delivery of its functions.

The program aligns with the Waste Strategy strategic objective 5:

Communicate messages for behaviour change and promote its adoption, and acknowledge the success of individuals and organisations that act in accordance with the aims and principles in the Strategy and assist in its implementation.

Project description and approach

The Community and Industry Engagement program is based on a transparent, competitive and open selection process. Following a thorough assessment process by a panel with relevant skills and experience, the Waste Authority makes a recommendation to the Minister for the allocation of grants. CIE grants are allocated to support projects and events delivered by organisations that demonstrate that they are well positioned to deliver effective industry and community engagement and education activities.

Funding is allocated for the achievement of deliverables that directly contribute to behaviour change towards the diversion of waste from landfill and the attainment of the Waste Strategy targets. Funded bodies are held accountable for the delivery of specified outcomes. Funding targets organisations that work with industry and community groups that generate a high volume of waste, have a high impact on the environment and promote education and training on better waste management practices. Organisations are required to demonstrate that they are a trusted source of information, well-placed to drive behaviour change in their area of operation and operate in a priority area.

Benefits

This program leverages the expertise and networks of industry and community organisations to engage more specifically and broadly with targeted groups.

It develops better informed waste stakeholder networks, valuable insights into particular waste sector communities, more effective and efficient programs through direct access to existing industry and local government contacts and capabilities.

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL

Project background

The Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) receives WARR Account funds for the implementation of litter prevention programs in Western Australia, in line with the *Litter Prevention Strategy 2015-2020* (the Litter Strategy) and in support of the Waste Strategy.

Project description and approach

A funding agreement between the Waste Authority on behalf of the State of Western Australia and the KABC establishes the roles and responsibilities and specifies the deliverables to be provided. The current agreement covers the period of 2017-18 to 2019-20.

WARR Account funding and corresponding activities and projects are reviewed annually. KABC provides quarterly reports to the Waste Authority on the progress of the projects specified in the agreement.

The 2016-17 agreement specifies the following programs and projects for delivery:

1. Research and data – litter auditing and evaluation essential to understand the extent of the litter issue and assess litter prevention and management initiatives.
2. Education, awareness and training – undertaking proactive measures aimed at preventing the creation of litter and achieving long-term, positive behavioural change from the community.
3. Incentives – encouraging and supporting those who are actively participating in positive disposal activities to reward and enforce positive behaviour.
4. Partnerships – litter is a community wide issue and requires involvement and cooperation between stakeholders from government, business and industry as well as the community.
5. Administration – overseeing of all activities related to the above.

Benefits

Programs delivered under the funding agreement with KABC support the objectives of the Waste Strategy.

Litter prevention initiatives contribute to behaviour change and public's management of waste.

WASTE WISE SCHOOLS

Project background

The Waste Wise Schools program educates children on better waste management behaviours and practices. Behaviour change research indicates that this is of benefit because the earlier children are engaged in developing positive waste management behaviours the sooner good habits and sound knowledge and attitudes are established.

The program contributes to students' development as responsible citizens that care about their environment and understand how they must act to ensure that better waste management practices become the social norm.

The program contributes to the objectives of the Western Australian curriculum priority of education for sustainability as a contributor to the Department of Education's Sustainable Schools Alliance. It provides resource and program support to schools in implementing components of the Western Australian curriculum.

The program supports strategic objective 5 of the Waste Strategy 'communicate messages for behaviour change and promote its adoption'.

Project description and approach

Waste Wise Schools offers resources and support for schools to plan, implement and maintain waste minimising projects such as recycling, composting and worm farming. It provides educational strategies for reducing waste to landfill by implementing the 3Rs: reduce; reuse and recycle.

The program is provided free of charge and is available to all schools in Western Australia, it helps schools to set up infrastructure and provides resources aimed at changing attitudes and behaviour in regard to sustainable waste management.

Waste Wise Schools offers workshops to schools to provide information on the program. It funds teacher relief payments (aligned with the Department of Education's teacher relief rates) for attendance at these workshops.

Schools enrol in the program by attending an introductory workshop or webinar. These workshops develop teachers' skills in running curriculum activities, setting up a committee, running a waste audit and implementing projects that reduce waste across the schools' facilities.

Waste Wise accreditation

Following attendance at a Waste Wise School workshop, schools are encouraged to apply for accreditation. The accreditation process supports whole school adoption of waste management reduction principles. It requires schools to undertake a waste audit (provided by the program), and develop and implement plans and policies to reduce waste to landfill for assessment. Waste Wise accredited schools renew their accreditation annually by completing a survey which requires them to report on their achievements and outline their plans.

Waste Wise grants

Accredited schools can apply for Waste Wise Schools grants to develop and implement waste minimisation projects. Schools can apply for grants under three-tiers. Funding rounds are open four times a year. A panel comprised of Waste Authority Services staff assesses and prioritises each application against the approved criteria. The panel makes recommendations to the Waste Authority for endorsement. Successful applicants are announced by the Minister for Environment through a media release.

Partnerships

Waste Wise Schools engages with local governments, regional councils and external organisations to support the program through scheduled school visits, educational waste audits and teacher support. This is achieved through specific purpose grant agreements, identified through opportunities and areas of need. Agreements are currently in place with the Mindarie Regional Council, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Care Group, the Regional Rivers Council and the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Special projects

Waste Wise Schools conducts research through schools on waste related topics and issues, including approaches to reducing food waste. The results are shared with schools and inform Waste Wise Schools' curriculum development and resource production. Research on reducing the use of bottled water led to the development of the *Message in a plastic bottle* curriculum and teacher resources.

Benefits

- Waste Wise Schools supports Western Australian primary and secondary schools to plan, implement and maintain waste minimising projects, and provides funds for infrastructure to educate and engage young children in good waste behaviours and practices.
- The program connects schools, students, parents and the whole school community with the Waste Strategy.
- Waste Wise accredited schools report that students demonstrate waste reduction behaviours at school after their Waste Wise learning experiences.
- Thirty-six per cent of Waste Wise accredited schools report that waste education of students influenced behaviours in the home.

RECYCLED CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS PROGRAM

Background

The Waste Strategy aims to move Western Australia to a low waste society. It contains a target to divert 75 per cent of construction and demolition (C&D) waste from landfill by 2020. In 2014-15, over three million tonnes of C&D waste was generated in Western Australia with only 42 per cent being diverted from landfill, which is significantly lower than most other states and below the 2020 target.

Recyclers of C&D waste have reported an increase in waste materials received and processed stockpiles at their sites in response to the increases in the waste levy and the low take up of recycled C&D waste products, in particular, road base.

The barriers to purchasing recycled C&D products in the local government sector reportedly relate to a lack of accurate information about the suitability and performance of recycled C&D products; a view that they are more expensive than raw materials; uncertainty as to whether local governments permit the use of recycled C&D products in developments; and general unfamiliarity with different operational techniques that may be required when using recycled C&D products.

The Recycled Construction Products Program (RCPP) encourages the use of recycled C&D products in standard civil applications, such as road construction, by providing incentives to local government and private entities that use these products.

The program allocates \$10 million across two funding streams over four funding periods.

Project description and approach

Stream A notionally allocates up to \$8 million to metropolitan local governments that use recycled C&D products in local government projects. Funding is pre-allocated on a non-competitive basis to each local government. Stream A also provides an incentive for local governments to develop and implement a policy which permits and promotes the use of recycled C&D products in private sector projects.

Stream B allocates at least \$2 million, plus any funds redirected from Stream A, over four funding periods through a series of open competitive funding rounds to be held approximately every six months (based on availability of funding and demand).

Benefits

The program is expected to:

- increase the amount of recycled C&D products used in construction projects
- increase the number of local governments using recycled C&D products
- promote the use of recycled C&D products across a range of applications and demonstrate the benefits of those uses; and
- increase acceptance of recycled C&D products to transition the market to a point where they are readily accepted or preferred to new products over the longer term.

SUPPORT FOR TESTING RECYCLED CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION PRODUCTS

Project background

The Recycled Construction Products Program provides an incentive to use recycled construction and demolition (C&D) products in civil construction such as road construction where those products meet relevant product specifications.

In implementing the Recycled Construction Products Program, the Waste Authority requires assurance that recycled C&D products funded by the program meet relevant specifications. This requires:

- A product specification for materials in scope of the Recycled Construction Products Program.
- Recyclers to produce C&D product that meets the product specifications.
- A mechanism to confirm products are compliant with the product specifications.

Project description and approach

To be eligible for Recycled Construction Products Program payments, applicants must demonstrate that the recycled C&D product used meets the Recycled Construction Products Program Appendix 1 specification. This sampling and testing activity may require considerable investment.

It is also important that C&D material producers are provided with an incentive to invest in practices and procedures (including sampling and testing) to generate product to specification over the longer term.

WARR Account funds will support C&D material producers to develop a sampling and testing plan that is consistent with the requirements of the product specification. It will also subsidise the cost of product sampling and testing to determine whether or not recycled products meet the requirement of the product specification.

Funding will also be applied to provide for third party auditing of product to provide the Waste Authority with independent verification of the results of producers' sampling and testing processes and advice whether the material meets product specifications.

Benefits

The program will improve market confidence in product suitability; provide a clear understanding to the industry of the cost of maintaining an independent accreditation mechanism.

It will provide appropriate mechanisms to ensure that WARR Account funds are being applied to support the development of long term markets for recycled C&D products that do not involve unacceptable risks to the environment.

It also has the potential to lead to significant improvements in the rate of diversion of demolition waste from landfill and contribute to the achievement of the Waste Strategy's C&D targets.

RIGHT BIN COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT AND EVALUATION

Background

Through the Better Bins program, the Western Australian Government is investing \$20 million over five years to encourage local governments to provide improved kerbside collection systems for increased recycling and landfill diversion. High quality, meaningful communication by local governments with their communities about how to separate and recycle waste correctly at source will maximise the return on the state's investment in waste collection infrastructure and contribute towards the achievement of landfill reduction targets.

The Right Bin - Communications toolkit and evaluation will assist local governments that are participating in the Better Bins program to communicate key messages to drive household behaviour change, in line with strategic objective 5 of the Waste Strategy. The program has two elements:

- *Part A communications toolkit* – the development of template materials that promote clear, consistent community messaging that can be adapted for local governments to support the delivery of waste minimisation, source separation and the behaviour change messages to support the Better Bins Program. Through a competitive procurement process, a service provider has been engaged to deliver this work.
- *Part B evaluation* – the evaluation of the effectiveness of the overall communications toolkit in order to inform future toolkit design. A service provider will be engaged to deliver this work through a competitive procurement process.

Project description and approach

An evidence based, comprehensive communication and engagement toolkit for local governments participating in the Better Bins program is being developed. A variety of engagement templates and initiatives will be developed for local governments to communicate with their householders about source separation to reduce contamination, maximise resource recovery and reduce landfill.

It is anticipated that the toolkit will include:

- print media templates (for example, bin stickers, fridge magnets, flyers, truck signage, bin signage, bus backs, and billboards);
- media kits (for example, radio and television scripts and feature articles for local newspapers); and
- interactive tools (for example, a website and smartphone application).

Residents in Better Bins local government areas will be surveyed on their current attitudes and behaviours to establish baseline data against which the effectiveness of the communication toolkit can be evaluated. A number of local governments are also implementing bin audits to determine contamination and recycling rates.

Benefits

Research and experience elsewhere suggests that communications will support Better Bins and lead to increased diversion rates through improved source separation.

COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

Project background

The Waste Strategy's 2020 target for landfill diversion of MSW is 65 per cent for the metropolitan region and 50 per cent for major regional centres. In 2015 a diversion rate of 40 per cent was achieved in the metropolitan region.

Community groups can play an important role in developing and raising awareness of projects that divert waste from landfill. Community-led waste reduction projects can engage individuals and organisations and enable them to contribute to the objectives of the Waste Strategy.

The Community Grants Scheme is a response to the need for a simple scheme that encourages community waste projects. The Scheme has operated since 2004.

Project description and approach

The Community Grants Scheme allows community-based organisations to apply for grants for waste-related projects. It supports a range of community initiatives that reflect the varied ways in which communities manage waste.

Projects are generally part-funded from the WARR Account, and applicants are expected to contribute to the cost of the project. Relatively small investments have been successful in leveraging significant co-contributions in terms of volunteer time and in-kind resources for projects that have an 'on-ground' context.

Grants are offered through two funding rounds each year. Rounds are advertised in local newspapers, social media, on radio and on the Waste Authority website. Subscribers to the Waste Authority's newsletter receive email alerts on grant funding rounds.

A panel comprised of departmental staff assesses and prioritises each application against the approved criteria. The panel makes recommendations to the Waste Authority, and if supported, these are submitted to the Minister for Environment for approval. Successful applicants are announced by the Minister.

Benefits

The Community Grants Scheme is well-received by the community and stakeholders, and connects the Waste Strategy with the wider community.

Community Grants Scheme projects contribute to behaviour change and public's management of waste.

The provision of grant funding leverages valuable support from the community and the outcomes of funded projects have promoted the messages of the Waste Strategy.

CHARITABLE RECYCLING ORGANISATION REBATE

Project background

Western Australian charitable recycling organisations routinely dispose of material that is illegally dumped at their facilities (at donation bins or shopfronts). This material cannot be recycled or reused. Charitable recyclers operate on a not-for-profit basis providing community services to Western Australians in need. The cost of disposing of illegally dumped waste has escalated as a result of the increase of the waste levy, which diverts funds from charities' core business.

The Charitable Recyclers Rebate program, which was introduced in 2016, supports charitable recyclers with the cost of managing illegal dumping at their premises by providing a rebate equivalent to the waste levy amount paid to dispose of illegally dumped materials.

The program supports the delivery of strategic objective 4 of the Waste Strategy:

Use existing economic instruments to support the financial viability of actions that divert waste from landfill and recover it as a resource.

Project description and approach

Charitable organisations operate clothing and other goods recycling services. The goods which they process are left by members of the public at drop-off centres located in places such as schools and shopping centres. Disposing of the waste arising from this activity is costly for charity groups.

Even at the increased rates, the waste levy is about 25 per cent of the total waste disposal charges paid by charitable groups. The underlying cost of landfill (that is, excluding the levy) has been increasing for some time and is expected to continue to do so. Charitable groups are facing both an increasing volume of material going to landfill and the associated costs, and increases in the waste levy.

This program assists by reducing the cost to charitable organisations associated with managing and disposing of illegally dumped waste that cannot be recycled or reused.

Eligibility criteria for the Charitable Recyclers Rebate program require that charitable recyclers are a licensed charity under the *Western Australian Charitable Collections Act 1946* and have deductible gift recipient status from the Australian Tax Office. They must collect or receive donated goods at public drop-off or donation points such as charity bins or shopfronts in the Perth metropolitan region, in accordance with a community service or activity that benefits the community. The collections must be undertaken on a voluntary or not-for-profit basis with no commercial interest and to support the charitable purposes of the organisation.

Eligible charities submit claims quarterly, providing details of the quantities of waste disposed of to landfill in the Perth metropolitan region from their collections. Copies of invoices and, in most cases, weighbridge records are provided to document and support each claim.

Benefits

The program supports charitable recyclers to divert waste from landfill in line with the Waste Strategy.

It enables increased funding to be directed by charities to their charitable objectives for the benefit of the Western Australian community.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Background

The Waste Strategy sets targets for the recovery of municipal solid waste of 50 per cent by 2015 and 65 per cent by 2020 in the metropolitan area. *Recycling Activity in Western Australia 2013-14* shows that 40 per cent recovery was achieved in 2014-15 and that the kilograms of waste diverted per person has risen only marginally since 2011-12.

To improve these results, the Waste Authority seeks to guide the Western Australian community to perceive unwanted materials as resources that can be reused rather than waste. This relies on people changing their decisions about what to do with unwanted materials, and believing that their decisions and actions will make a difference. While social research undertaken by the Waste Authority in 2013 found that 90 per cent of the community reported concern about the amount of waste being generated, behavioural science and the data show that there can be a considerable gap between attitudes and actual behaviour change.

Behavioural science shows that encouraging people to trial a specific behaviour can remove the barriers to change. The research shows that communications can help to increase people's sense that their actions make a difference³.

Project description and approach

A service provider will be engaged through a competitive process to deliver a state-wide evidence based initiative that seeks to change the Western Australian community's behaviour in regard to waste avoidance and the reuse of materials.

The initiative will involve the promotion of the waste avoidance and reuse messages through an event or events, offered across the State, which attracts significant publicity of the following key messages:

- **Your actions make a difference:** Everyone can choose to do the right thing and adopt smarter waste management practices in the home, business and public open spaces.
- **Accept and take responsibility:** It is time for everyone to accept and take responsibility for their waste, as it is a valuable resource that can be recovered and recycled to reduce the use of raw materials and protect our environment.
- **Waste recycling has true value:** Recycling is good for the environment and has positive economic benefits including creating more jobs than landfill.

As part of the project, a survey instrument will be developed to measure changing attitudes and behaviours regarding waste avoidance and materials reuse.

Benefits

The Waste Strategy recognises the importance of engaging with the wider community in understanding the links between high rates of consumption and waste generation, and the role individuals can play in reducing their waste.

The initiative will encourage waste avoidance and reuse of materials by the Western Australian community.

³ Government Communication Network, *Communications and Behaviour Change*, Central Office of Information, UK Government

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WASTE PLANS

Background

Experience in other jurisdictions demonstrates the benefits of having local government waste planning align with state waste policies and strategies. The WARR Act provides the chief executive officer of the department (CEO) with powers to require local governments to include a waste plan within its Plan for the Future prepared by local governments under the *Local Government Act 1995*. While the CEO does not currently exercise these powers, some local governments have incorporated elements of waste planning into their Plan for the Future.

There is an opportunity to provide formal guidance on elements that could be incorporated into local government waste plans. It is proposed that a program to support and guide local government preparation of waste plans be delivered. This would facilitate the implementation of the Waste Authority's preferred approaches to waste management and better alignment with the Waste Strategy.

Project description and approach

Better practice approaches to local government waste management have been identified through ongoing programs and policy development. Subject to the availability of staff, this project will collate better practice related findings and positions to identify elements that should be recommended for adoption in local government waste plans. A contractor may be engaged through a competitive procurement process to assist with aspects of the work.

It is proposed that guidance, which local governments can use on a voluntary basis to prepare a waste plan as part of their Plan for the Future, will be developed. Subject to Ministerial approval, these materials will be published on the Waste Authority website.

Should the CEO exercise the section 40 powers, additional work will be undertaken to provide enhanced guidance to local governments. This guidance would assist with the meeting of the CEO's requirements and encourage local government to adopt better waste management practices.

Ministerial approval will also be sought to develop a program through which WARR Account funds will be applied to provide financial support and guidance materials (including data and a template waste plan) to local government for the development of waste plans.

Benefits

Experience elsewhere shows that there are benefits associated with local governments developing and implementing waste plans that align with state waste strategies. Improvements in MSW performance are dependent upon improved performance by local government.

Enhancing waste plans by encouraging inclusion of those components the Waste Authority requires by linking access to WARR Account funds to delivery of such a plan, may maximise their benefit.

CHARITABLE RECYCLERS DUMPING REDUCTION PROGRAM

Project background

The state government is committed to reducing waste and increasing recycling as outlined in the Waste Strategy. It is supporting programs to reduce illegal dumping and the donation of unusable items at charitable recyclers and to support charitable recyclers continued efforts to divert waste from landfill.

Western Australian charitable recyclers routinely dispose of material that is illegally dumped at their facilities (at donation bins or shopfronts). This material cannot be recycled or reused. Charitable recyclers operate on a not-for-profit basis providing community services to Western Australians in need. The cost of disposing of illegally dumped waste has escalated as a result of the increase of the waste levy, which diverts funds from charities' core business.

The Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction Program, which was approved in 2016-17, funds charitable recyclers to implement and evaluate interventions that aim to reduce illegal dumping and the donation of unusable items at their bins and stores.

The program supports the delivery of strategic objective 4 of the Waste Strategy:

Use existing economic instruments to support the financial viability of actions that divert waste from landfill and recover it as a resource. .

Project description and approach

The program supports charitable recyclers to identify and implement interventions to mitigate dumping at their collection sites, as set out in the draft *Better practice guidelines for charitable recyclers*. Charitable recyclers must also consider these guidelines when applying for funding through the program. The guidelines will be updated periodically following the evaluation of interventions implemented through this program.

The dumping reduction program builds on other existing programs that target illegal dumping reduction and support charities recover landfill costs of disposing unusable goods to landfill. It aims to improve the cleanliness of charity donation sites, reducing clean-up costs and complaints from local governments and the public – which potentially results in withdrawal of permission for charities to site their collection bins.

All eligible charitable recyclers can apply for program funding. Partnerships of charitable recyclers are encouraged. Eligibility and assessment criteria are described in the program guidelines.

Benefits

The program will support existing activities that target illegal dumping reduction, and reduce the costs for charitable recyclers to dispose of unusable items to landfill

It will result in a reduction of illegal dumping, clean-up costs and associated negative impacts on local governments and the public.

The program contributes to the objectives of the Waste Strategy and the Western Australian Litter Prevention Strategy: *A litter prevention strategy for Western Australia 2015–2020*.

It enables increased funding to be directed by charities to their charitable objectives for the benefit of the Western Australian community.

CLEAN COMMUNITIES

Project background

Clean communities encourages community groups and schools engaged in voluntary litter and weed collection activities to separate the waste they collect into general waste, recyclables and weeds.

It supports the delivery of strategic objective 4 of the Waste Strategy:

Use existing economic instruments to support the financial viability of actions that divert waste from landfill and recover it as a resource.

The program also aligns with strategies identified in the Western Australian Litter Prevention Strategy: *A litter prevention strategy for Western Australia 2015–2020*.

Project description and approach

Clean Communities encourages community litter collection groups to source separate the waste they collect and divert recyclable waste from landfill.

The program builds on existing successful work carried out by these groups through the provision of litter collection bags and financial incentives. The program further promotes existing messaging on source separation of waste, with collection bags coloured consistently with the Better Bins program: red bags for general waste, yellow bags for recyclables and green bags for green waste.

The financial incentive involves a grant payment of \$3 per bag of general waste collected and \$5 per bag of recyclables or green waste collected. Approved participants are eligible to receive a maximum grant of \$500 for their collected waste.

Benefits

Clean communities complements the existing activities of community groups and provides incentives for volunteers to source separate waste and increase diversion of waste from landfill.

It contributes to the objectives of the Waste Strategy and the Western Australian Litter Prevention Strategy: *A litter prevention strategy for Western Australia 2015–2020*.

It also reinforces the messaging of current programs such as Better Bins.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE REVIEW

Background

The Household Hazardous Waste program has been supported by the WARR Account since 2008. It provides local governments and regional councils with funding to assist with the safe collection, storage and disposal of household hazardous waste.

In 2014-15, WSP was engaged to undertake a review of the program. That review highlighted the need to reconfirm the program's objectives and review design elements with reference to those objectives.

Changes will be made to elements of the program to support a transition to best practice.

Project description and approach

The Waste Strategy is committed to developing best practice approaches to waste collection systems.

Through this review project, a five year strategic plan to transition the household hazardous waste program from current arrangements to best practice arrangements will be developed. For example, best practice approaches such as product stewardship will be identified and pursued. Best practice collection systems and performance benchmarks will be identified and then supported through either the household hazardous waste program or through complementary initiatives.

The project will engage local government to seek buy in and ownership as the Waste Authority works towards developing best practice collection systems.

Benefits

The project will establish a new strategic direction for the household hazardous waste program, to achieve best practice approaches to materials and collection facilities.

The new strategic direction will include clear program objectives and guiding principles to support decision making (such as a commitment to best practice and a focus on priority materials).

These objectives and principles will guide the development of a more flexible transitional structure for the program.

DATA STRATEGY

Background

Data on waste management performance in Western Australia is collected on a voluntary basis through two reports that meet state (budget and reporting key performance indicators) and national reporting requirements, and are used to track project related performance.

The Waste Strategy will undergo a statutory review process commencing in 2017. The Waste Authority has advised the Minister that the Waste Strategy targets should be reviewed. Initial stakeholder feedback indicates that existing sector based targets should be updated and maintained but that additional targets may be appropriate for priority areas to facilitate better measurement of project impacts.

A greater focus on integration and co-ordination with other government agencies could assist in meeting the objectives of the Waste Strategy and WARR Act. This may require the development of new data for the waste sector that are used elsewhere in government.

Ensuring that adequate data of a suitable quality is available in a timely manner to report against existing and new waste strategy targets and to assess the extent of improvements in waste management performance is an ongoing challenge. Given the changing context in which data capture and reporting is occurring a project to develop a dedicated data strategy was commenced as part of the 2016-17 business plan.

The Auditor General's 2016 performance audit concluded that data to inform the progress of waste management are incomplete and unreliable.

Project description and approach

The project will build on research undertaken in 2016-17 by consulting with waste sector stakeholders to better understand data needs and priorities and inform the development of a waste data strategy. This will include other state government agencies, local government, the waste management industry, interest groups and the public. In addition to targeted consultation with stakeholders, information received via public consultation on the review of the Waste Strategy and the development of an approved manner for waste data provision will also inform this project.

The information gathered will be used to prepare a data strategy.

Benefits

A strategic approach to data identification, collection, storage and reporting will maximise the benefits that can flow from the provision of quality and timely data while avoiding duplication, collection of unnecessary information and inefficient use of information that has been collected.

Stakeholder feedback and engagement can ensure that the resulting waste data strategy is relevant to stakeholders. It will also ensure that stakeholders have a sense of ownership for it and support its direction.

FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Background

The application of funds from the WARR Account through programs set out in the business plan is a key mechanism for delivering the Waste Strategy. Regular process and procedure review is a key part of good governance and continuous improvement processes.

Making decisions around program funding and design is complex. Funded programs differ in terms of the policy objectives they deliver against and it can be difficult to compare their relative merit. Additionally, multiple mechanisms typically exist to achieve a given program's intended outcomes and each is associated with different costs, benefits and likelihood of success.

Project description and approach

This project has developed a set of principles for the application of funds. Desktop based research conducted has focused on reviewing the legislative requirements for the application of WARR Account funding and implied and explicit funding principles applied in other jurisdictions for similar programs.

This work has produced:

- **Statement of objectives for the application of funds:** the consolidation of the Western Australian waste management objectives expressed in various legislative and policy documents in one place.
- **Statement of funding principles:** the development of funding principles informed by research into significant funding decisions in Western Australia and elsewhere, and through consultation.

This work will be further refined following consultation with a view to producing a document which:

- informs the design of funding programs funded from the WARR Account;
- informs funding applicants of the principles that will be applied in funding decisions; and
- provides a framework that can be applied to the development of the business plan and the assessment of funding proposals and decisions.

Benefits

Establishing clear funding principles will provide greater confidence that funding decisions are consistent with the requirements of the WARR Act, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the expectations of Government.

Funding principles will also help to ensure funds are applied in the most effective manner in relation to the Waste Strategy by providing a reference against which program design can be measured.

ADVICE TO SUPPORT THE PLANNING AUTHORITY'S CONSIDERATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

Project background

The *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* (LPS Regulations) were gazetted on 25 August 2015 and came into effect on 19 October 2015. The LPS Regulations make it clear that local governments are required to give due regard to the 'storage, management and collection of waste' when considering development applications (Schedule 2, regulation 67).

For local governments, there is a need to develop LPS that suit their local waste management needs. For developers, the process of identifying potential sites for a new development can be difficult as different waste facility definitions and land use terminology is used across local governments. For decision-making bodies (such as local governments, the WAPC, Development Assessment Panels or the State Administrative Tribunal) this inconsistency could result in the need for legal advice, which is costly and time-consuming.

Further guidance on better practice approaches to prepare LPS with regard to waste could improve planning for waste management and infrastructure.

Project description and approach

This project is developing better practice guidance for local governments to incorporate waste infrastructure planning considerations into their LPS consistent with new LPS Regulations and other changes in the planning system, in a manner that improves waste infrastructure planning outcomes.

Working in consultation with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and following a competitive procurement process, a planning consultant has been engaged to:

- Identify the provisions within the LPS Regulations which may impact planning and development of waste infrastructure.
- Clarify how different types of waste facilities will be classified under new land use definitions in the regulations.
- Identify parts of LPS which may be amended to incorporate and comply with the provisions within the regulations related to waste infrastructure, and development of 'model text' that could be included in LPS.
- Assess the implications and risks for state government, local government, and the waste industry of the new regulations.

The consultant will also develop guidance material to assist local governments to interpret and identify the implications of the provisions within the new regulations related to waste management.

Benefits

This program will improve State government knowledge of the implications and risks associated with implementing the LPS Regulations.

It will assist local governments to respond to new legislative requirements in a manner that is likely to deliver outcomes sought in the Waste Strategy (improved waste infrastructure planning and improved landfill diversion).

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