

Waste Authority

Business Plan

2018-19

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A. INTRODUCTION

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act) established 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 and Priorities - 2018-19

In February 2019, the Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC released the Western Australian *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (Waste Strategy). The Waste Strategy outlines a vision for Western Australia to become a sustainable, low-waste circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste. Its vision is supported by the three following objectives:

- **Avoid** – Western Australians generate less waste;
- **Recover** – Western Australians recover more value and resources from waste; and,
- **Protect** – Western Australians protect the environment by managing waste responsibly.

The Waste Strategy identifies high level targets, focus materials and strategies that underpin these objectives. It is supported by the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030: Action Plan* (Action Plan), which prioritises the specific actions that will be progressed to achieve the Waste Strategy's objectives and which agencies will lead those actions.

The Waste Authority's objectives align with the objectives of the Waste Strategy. Its identification of priorities under the Waste Strategy and against its objectives is guided by the Action Plan.

The Waste Strategy's vision, objectives, high level targets and headline strategies are outlined below.

VISION	<i>Western Australia will become a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.</i>		
OBJECTIVES	Avoid <i>Western Australians generate less waste.</i>	Recover <i>Western Australians recover more value and resources from waste.</i>	Protect <i>Western Australians protect the environment by managing waste responsibly.</i>
TARGETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2025 – 10% reduction in waste generation per capita ○ 2030 – 20% reduction in waste generation per capita 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2025 – Increase material recovery to 70% ○ 2030 – Increase material recovery to 75% ○ From 2020 – Recover energy only from residual waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2030 – No more than 15% of waste generated in Perth and Peel regions is landfilled. ○ 2030 – All waste is managed and/or disposed to better practice facilities
HEADLINE STRATEGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consistent three bin kerbside collection system, which includes separation of food organics and garden organics from other waste categories, to be provided by all local governments in the Perth and Peel region by 2025 and supported by State Government through the application of financial mechanisms. • Implement local government waste plans, which align local government waste planning processes with the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030</i>. • Implement sustainable government procurement practices that encourage greater use of recycled products and support local market development. • Provide funding to promote the recovery of more value and resources from waste with an emphasis on focus materials. • Review the scope and application of the waste levy to ensure it meets the objectives of Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 and establish a schedule of future waste levy rates with the initial schedule providing a minimum five year horizon. • Develop state-wide communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours. • Review and update data collection and reporting systems to allow waste generation, recovery and disposal performance to be assessed in a timely manner. • Undertake a strategic review of Western Australia’s waste infrastructure (including landfills) by 2020 to guide future infrastructure development. 		

Supporting documents

Other documents which align with or support this strategy *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* include the:

1. *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 Action Plan*
2. Waste Authority position and guidance statements
3. State Waste Infrastructure Plan
4. Annual Business Plan
5. Waste Data Strategy

This business plan outlines the activities funded through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account (WARR Account) for the 2018-19 financial year that align with these priorities. The activities identified provide significant opportunities to improve the State's waste and recycling practices and performance. Consistent with the Action Plan, the Waste Authority's priorities for 2018-19 include:

- Develop a plan for the roll out of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) systems in Perth and Peel, update the Better Bins funding program to support three bin FOGO adoption and release FOGO position statement.
- Establish a recycling infrastructure support program and identify priority areas for funding to support adoption of waste avoiding practices and/or resource recovery.
- Identify, communicate and support better practice approaches to avoidance, recovery and disposal covering all waste generators and streams.
- In consultation with key stakeholders, review, update and publish Guidelines for the design and operation of facilities for the acceptance and storage of household hazardous waste, to support the Household Hazardous Waste Program.
- Review and update Waste Authority Position Statements on waste to energy and the waste hierarchy.
- Identify priority areas of need for funding, and establish a funding program(s) to support adoption of waste avoiding practices and behaviour and/or the recovery of resources from waste, with an emphasis on:
 - focus materials;
 - reuse and low-waste alternatives;
 - community, government and industry initiatives that lead to waste avoidance and resource recovery; and
 - increasing the uptake of better practice approaches.
- Develop, release and implement a waste data strategy.
- Develop, in consultation with other State Government agencies, a framework for sustainable procurement with mandatory recycled content.

The Waste Authority's short term priorities for WARR Account funds are also guided by the short term actions identified in the Action Plan for other agencies. In 2018-19, these include:

- Support the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to implement new reporting requirements under the amended *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008*, develop reporting guidance to provide support to data reporters and develop an online reporting system for waste reporting.

- Support the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to collaborate with Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to report local government waste data on the MyCouncil website to provide increased transparency around local government waste and recycling performance, and encourage benchmarking and improved performance.
- Support Main Roads Western Australia to work with the Waste Authority and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to pilot Roads to Reuse using approximately 25,000 tonnes of recycled construction and demolition (C&D) waste as road base.

Five year priorities

The Waste Authority's objectives over the medium term will remain aligned with the Waste Strategy. The Waste Authority's medium term priorities, as outlined in the Action Plan include:

- In consultation with stakeholders, identify better practice priorities and develop, trial and publish relevant better practice guidance documents, and encourage adoption;
- Implement three-bin FOGO systems across local governments in the Perth and Peel region, with funding support through the revised Better Bins program;
- Support the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to undertake an audit of existing waste infrastructure and a needs analysis to determine the waste infrastructure required to meet the objectives and targets in the waste strategy; and
- Support Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to implement a major long-term behaviour change campaign covering social marketing, media, education and engagement.
- In consultation with stakeholders, identify and develop sustainable government procurement practices that enable uptake of recycled products and support local markets.

C. BUDGET FOR 2018-19

Business plan activity area	Waste Strategy				2018-19 \$
	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation ¹	
Waste Authority programs (further detail in Appendix A)					
New initiatives					
Inclusion of waste data on MyCouncil				✓	40,000
Review of the Waste Authority website				✓	80,000
Online system for waste reporting				✓	40,000
Ongoing initiatives					
Statutory review of the Waste Strategy				✓	48,000
Better bins kerbside collection		✓			2,448,500
WasteSorted communications toolkit, monitoring and evaluation		✓		✓	260,000
Household hazardous waste program		✓	✓		1,900,000
Community and industry engagement program (incl. recycling infrastructure)	✓	✓			2,300,000
Community grants scheme	✓	✓			190,000
Waste Wise Schools				✓	549,000
Waste Wise Schools – High school and regional expansions				✓	47,100

¹ Foundation are strategies that relate to multiple objectives

Business plan activity area	Waste Strategy				2018-19 \$
	Waste objective	Recover	Protect	Foundation ¹	
Roads to Reuse		✓			100,000
Support for testing recycled construction and demolition products		✓			82,000
Charitable recycling organisation rebate		✓	✓		285,000
Charitable recycler dumping reduction program		✓	✓		10,500
Reducing waste through procurement	✓	✓			30,950
Waste data reporting and analysis				✓	75,000
Approved method for mandatory data reporting				✓	65,000
Engagement in action				✓	188,000
Infinity Awards				✓	143,000
National Recycling Week				✓	57,000
Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA			✓		848,000
SUB TOTAL					9,787,050



Business plan activity area	Waste Strategy				2018-19 \$
	Waste objective	Strategy			
	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation ¹	
Services and Functions funded under section 16 of the WARR Act					
Program and policy design, development and management				✓	3,152,942
Administration and overheads				✓	1,546,000
Levy inspection, compliance and enforcement				✓	1,126,000
Waste Authority support				✓	832,936
Illegal dumping			✓	✓	749,000
Ministerial and Director General support				✓	711,540
Communications				✓	352,632
SUB TOTAL					8,471,050
Functions funded under section 80 of the WARR Act					
Container deposit scheme		✓	✓		1,185,000
Single use lightweight plastic bag ban	✓		✓		1,167,000
Economic analysis of waste levy	✓				29,600
Plastic Free Foundation	✓				110,300
SUB TOTAL					2,491,900
TOTAL					20,750,000

D. 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 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 WARR Act requires that not less than 25 per cent of the forecast levy amount for the financial year is paid into the WARR Account. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation forecast is that waste levy revenue will be \$83.75 million and the expenditure limit imposed on the WARR Account is therefore \$20.75 million in each of the next five years. The WARR reserve is estimated to reach some \$41,000,000 by the end of 2018-19. These could potentially be drawn upon in case of increase in funding requirement of particular priorities and programs.

Estimated revenue and expenditure from the WARR Account 2018-19 to 2022-23

Description	2018-19 Forward Estimate \$'000	2019-20 Forward Estimate \$'000	2020-21 Forward Estimate \$'000	2021-22 Forward Estimate \$'000	2022-23 Estimate \$'000
Receipts					
Interest received	750	750	750	750	750
Waste levy revenue	83,000	83,000	83,000	83,000	83,000
Total receipts	83,750	83,750	83,750	83,750	83,750
Waste levy rate	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%
Payments					
Expenditure	20,750	20,750	20,750	20,750	20,750
Total expenditure limit	20,750	20,750	20,750	20,750	20,750

Levy rate review

The last scheduled increase in the levy rate was on 1 July 2018. In March 2019, the Minister announced no further increases to the levy over the next two years.

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 WARR Act.

E. SECTION 16 SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS

Section 16 of the WARR Act states that the Minister must ensure 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 of Water and Environmental Regulation in line with a memorandum of understanding (dated 23 September 2009) and a service level agreement between the two parties.

Program and policy design, development and management

- Delivery of **strategic policy** including policies and programs to avoid generating waste, recovering more value and resources from waste and protecting human health and the environment, 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.

Compliance and enforcement activities

- **Levy compliance and enforcement** activities for landfill premises. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation provides environmental investigative capability and single-point accountability for regulatory complaints to achieve state-wide enforcement outcomes in line with the WARR Act and the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
- An **illegal dumping** team in the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation delivers state-wide detection, investigation and prosecution of illegal dumping offenders. This team also seeks to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping through knowledge sharing with the community, industry and government regarding the impacts of illegal dumping. Ensuring that illegal dumping is detected, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted enhances the effectiveness of the waste levy as an economic motivator in increasing diversion from landfill.

Support for the Waste Authority

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

Support for the Minister for Environment and the Director General

- Support for the Minister for Environment and the Director General of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is required ongoing work to meet portfolio responsibilities in relation to State Government waste matters.

Administration and overheads

- Administrative and overhead costs includes those 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, maintenance of the Waste Authority website, drafting the Waste Authority newsletter, and support for annual 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. The 2018/19 initiatives funded under section 80 as approved by the Minister are as below.

Plastic Free Foundation

- WARR Account funds will be applied to support the Plastic Free Foundation in its annual behaviour change campaign to reduce plastic use in Western Australia.

Container deposit scheme

- WARR Account funds will be applied to support the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to develop the State Government's commitment to deliver a **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 the waste levy

- WARR Account funds will be applied to support an economic analysis undertaken to inform a **review of the waste levy**.

Legislative reviews and amendments

- WARR Account funds will be applied to support **legislative reviews and amendments**.

G.WASTE AUTHORITY PROGRAMS – 2018-19

Appendix A contains further detail on Waste Authority programs, and outlines the alignment with the relevant headline strategy from the Waste Strategy 2030 and the Waste Strategy 2030 Action Plan.

New initiatives

- Develop and implement a **recycling infrastructure funding program stream** to be delivered under the existing Community and Industry Engagement program to facilitate the recovery of more material and increase the value of material collected in Western Australia.
- Report **local government waste and recycling data on the MyCouncil website** in collaboration with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.
- Undertake a **review of the Waste Authority website** to identify communication needs and support behaviour change.
- Develop and implement a secure and centralised **online reporting system** that will be tailored to user-needs to enable efficient and accurate data reporting and analysis as part of the existing Data Reporting project.

Ongoing initiatives

- Continue and finalise the **statutory review of the Waste Strategy**.
- Provide funding to local governments to implement consistent and better practice kerbside collections, with a new focus on the separation of food organics and garden organics (FOGO) from other waste categories to support higher recovery rates through the revised **better bins** program.

- Build on, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the existing local government **WasteSorted communications toolkit** for consistent messaging on better practice kerbside delivery and to support FOGO implementation.
- Provide funding to local governments and regional councils to assist with the collection, storage and disposal of **hazardous household wastes** (HHW), in line with the recommendations of the review of the HHW program.
- Fund the development and implementation of waste management projects and initiatives that promote the diversion of waste from landfill through the **Community and Industry Engagement** program.
- Assist community groups to reduce waste generation, recover resources, and reduce the impact of waste on the environment through the **Community Grants Scheme**.
- Provide resources and support for schools to plan, implement and maintain waste minimising projects to change attitudes and behaviour through **Waste Wise Schools**.
- Continue to **expand the Waste Wise Schools** program with a focus on high schools and schools in regional areas.
- Work with Main Roads WA to use recycled construction and demolition products through the **Roads to Reuse pilot** program.
- **Support the producers of recycled construction and demolition products** with the cost of sampling, testing and independent audit as part of the Roads to Reuse pilot program.
- Provide a **Rebate to Charitable Recyclers** for the cost of the waste levy incurred when disposing of waste to landfill.
- Provide funds to charitable recyclers to pilot, evaluate and implement measures to reduce illegal dumping through the **Charitable Recycler Dumping Reduction** program.
- Work with other State Government agencies to identify opportunities to **reduce waste through procurement**.
- Continue to undertake a range of waste data reporting functions including:

- collecting and reporting of recycling industry participant data in the **Recycling Activity in Western Australia** report;
 - collecting and reporting of services provided to households and commercial premises by local government and regional councils through the **Annual Census of Local Government Waste and Recycling Services**; and
 - finalise and implement the **waste data strategy** to guide enhancement to existing data collection and reporting mechanisms, as well as data storage and reporting frameworks.
- Development and implementation of an **approved method** to support liable entities in their obligations to report waste data under the amended WARR Regulations.
 - Promote waste avoidance and reuse messages through the **Engagement in Action** program.
 - Deliver the annual **Infinity Awards** to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of those Western Australians working towards a better waste future through improved waste practices and innovative waste solutions.
 - WARR account funding will be applied to promote **National Recycling Week** to highlight the importance of recycling and waste avoidance.
 - WARR Account funds will be applied to fund the **Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA** to deliver specific litter prevention and recycling programs, in line with the Waste Strategy and the *Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia*, and other strategic priorities.

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 to ensure a clear link between funds provided from the WARR Account and relevant activities. Funds are applied to the development and delivery of initiatives that support attitude and behaviour change to enhance waste avoidance, resource recovery and protection of the environment from the impacts of waste.

FUNDING OBJECTIVES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the most efficient use of resources and prioritise the avoidance of waste, followed by its recovery of more value and resources from waste, over disposal. • Protect the environment by reducing environmental harm, including pollution through waste. • Be consistent with the principles set out in section 4A of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>. 	
OUTCOME PRINCIPLES	
Shared responsibility and partnership – owning your impact	Funded activities should result in a reduction in the impact of waste generated and protect the state's environmental resources.
Innovation and growth	Funded activities should consider innovation that enables and expands our waste management capacity and know-how.
Better Practice	Funded activities should promote better practice approaches in waste management taking into account full costs, benefits and impacts of waste management decisions.
Waste as a resource	Funded activities should take into consideration the waste hierarchy, avoiding waste generation where possible, maximising waste recovery, and protecting the environment from impacts of disposal.
Intergenerational equity	Funded activities should ensure the health, diversity and productivity of our environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.
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 risk management.

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 of Water and Environmental Regulation to develop a container deposit scheme for Western Australia.

National initiatives

The Waste Authority also places priority on contributing to national initiatives as part of the National Waste Policy (revised 2018), National Foodwaste Strategy and Environment Ministers' commitments. National commitments include the development and support for product stewardship schemes such as the Australian Packaging Covenant, the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme, Paintback and tyre recycling. Product stewardship schemes are currently being developed for batteries and photovoltaic systems.

J. OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY THE MINISTER

The Minister does not require the Waste Authority to include any other matters in the 2018-19 business plan.

APPENDIX A

2018-19 WASTE AUTHORITY PROGRAMS



NEW INITIATIVES

(Note: the 2018-19 new initiative for the Recycling Infrastructure Funding is Stream B of the ongoing Community and Industry Engagement funding program and is captured in the “Ongoing Initiatives” section following.)

INCLUSION OF WASTE DATA ON MYCOUNCIL WEBSITE

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy:

Review and update data collection and reporting systems to allow waste generation, recovery and disposal performance to be assessed in a timely manner

Action:

7.5 MyCouncil: Reporting waste data – In collaboration with DWER, report local government waste data on the MyCouncil website to provide increased transparency around local government waste and recycling performance and encourage benchmarking and improved performance.

Project background

The Waste Authority conducts the annual Census of Local Government Waste and Recycling Services (the census). The results are collated and published on the Waste Authority website in an annual report and data fact sheets, however prior to 2019, the performance of individual local governments was not publicly available.

The MyCouncil website (MyCouncil.wa.gov.au) is an initiative of the State Government administered by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to improve local government accountability and performance. The website, which launched in April 2016, allows users to compare the performance of local governments across a number of key performance indicators.

DLGSC and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), on behalf of the Waste Authority, have agreed to collaborate to update MyCouncil to include data from the census. For a number of years during previous census collection processes, the Waste Authority has advised local governments of the future intended publication of disaggregated waste data by each local government on MyCouncil.

Project description and approach

DLGSC and DWER are working together to publish local government waste and recycling data on the MyCouncil website from the census. The publication of local government specific waste performance data will highlight well performing local government services and allow benchmarking of performance between local governments.

A consultant will be engaged to update the MyCouncil website. The update will involve the inclusion of a 'Waste and Recycling' pane on the View Council, Compare Council and Compare All Council webpages.

An update of the MyCouncil website will be completed by April 2019, and will include the addition of census data, as well as further upgrades and functionality to the website. Initially, the data provided for publication will be a subset of data from the 2015-16 and 2016-17 census reports.

Benefits

Including individualised local government waste and recycling data on MyCouncil will provide increased transparency around local government waste and recycling performance, and encourage benchmarking and improved performance.

Providing local governments with an increased incentive to improve their waste performance through the availability of waste performance data will contribute to a number of Waste Strategy 2030 targets related to waste avoidance, municipal solid waste recovery, adoption of FOGO services and environmental protection.

REVIEW OF THE WASTE AUTHORITY WEBSITE

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy: Develop state-wide waste communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

Project background

The Waste Authority requires a web presence that meets communications needs and supports behaviour change. The website should provide stakeholders and the community with easy and timely access to accurate information that is relevant to their needs. However, the current structure and content of the website does not provide for these user needs. The website is difficult to navigate and information on key programs is arduous to locate. The information architecture and search engine are also dated.

Since the Waste Authority website was first established, a number of other communication tools have been developed by the Department (such as the Waste Sorted toolkit and the Own Your Impact website) and other key stakeholders (such as the Western Australian Local Government Association, various local governments and Regional Councils apps, websites and A to Z lists for recycling). Hence a review of the Waste Authority website is required to reduce confusion, increase effectiveness and update the structure and content of this website.

Project description and approach

Good websites should have simple and intuitive navigation with clear symbols, and not be cluttered with unnecessary text or graphics. It is also crucial that information displays in a coherent way for computers, tablets and phones, and complies with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The current navigation structure of the Waste Authority website does not meet these standards. Additionally, search results within the website do not give prominence to information on Waste Authority programs. Further, the website cannot be optimised for use on platforms such as tablets and mobiles. These issues have been highlighted by external users who have reported difficulty in finding information on programs and policies. Internal users have also observed that the website is difficult to navigate.

A consultant will be engaged through a competitive procurement process to analyse user needs and develop and implement a strategy to address those needs. This will include evaluating the suitability of the Waste Authority website information architecture and content management system, and optimising the website for use on mobiles and tablets.

Benefits

A Waste Authority website that is user-focused and easy to navigate will improve awareness of the WARR Account funded programs and grants. This will enhance the reach and effectiveness of Waste Authority programs such as Better Bins and Roads to Reuse.

In addition, an improved Waste Authority website can support the sharing of better practice guidance and knowledge that will enable waste generators and waste managers to learn from others.

These benefits will support the achievement of the Waste Strategy 2030 recovery targets.

ONLINE SYSTEM FOR WASTE REPORTING

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy:

Review and update data collection and reporting systems to allow waste generation, recovery and disposal performance to be assessed in a timely manner.

Action:

7.3 Online system for waste reporting – Implement an online reporting system for waste data by 2020.

Project 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 (the census) and the Recycling Activity in Western Australia (RAWA) report.

Voluntary reporting for the census and RAWA has resulted in an incomplete dataset due to variable response rates, reducing the accuracy of assessment of progress against the targets and objectives set in the Waste Strategy. Voluntary reporting also negatively affects data quality and accuracy, as reporters have less incentive to invest time in ensuring accurate data recording and reporting. The current methodology of collecting information uses Microsoft Excel based survey forms, from which data are reviewed and transferred to a centralised Access Database. This approach falls short of best practice, undermines data accuracy and is onerous for reporters.

To better address these issues, an online data reporting system will be developed to support mandatory data reporting that is consistent with the approved methods. The online system will replace the spreadsheets and third-party online survey currently used to collect data. It will reduce double-handling of data and the likelihood of error and result in more robust and secure online data collection.

Project description and approach

This project will deliver a secure and centralised online reporting system for mandatory reporting of waste data under the amended *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008* (WARR Regulations) to increase data accuracy and timeliness and meet stakeholder expectations.

This project is directly linked to the ongoing projects for Data Reporting and the development of Approved Methods. A consultant will develop the technical specifications for the reporting system in consultation with targeted users. Further services will be required to build the online reporting system, with work to be completed by 30 June 2020 to support mandatory reporting under the amended WARR Regulations. The technical specifications will inform the funding required to complete the build of the system.

The prompt design and development of the system to enable liable entities to fulfil their obligations in a consistent way and to prevent a year long delay in improvements to data collection. Continuing with the current approach to collecting and reporting data is likely to be viewed unfavourably by local government and industry, who expect to be able to efficiently comply with their reporting obligations under the amended WARR Regulations.

Benefits

The online reporting system will allow liable entities to comply with their reporting obligations in a manner that is simplified, efficient and streamlined. It has the potential to simplify the way local

governments, industry and the community can view such data. A centralised online system will also enable the Department to retrieve waste-related data more efficiently.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

STATUTORY REVIEW OF THE WASTE STRATEGY

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy: Develop state-wide communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

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 inaugural Waste Strategy was approved by the then Minister for Environment 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 section 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 a 28 day period to request further variations to the draft. 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.

Project description and approach

A consultant undertook work in 2017-18 and 2018-19 to manage the Waste Authority's statutory obligation to consult on its proposed amendments to the Waste Authority. A contractor was 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.

Consultation processes are likely to be more effective when delivered by an independent and experienced consultant who is well placed to engage with stakeholders to gather information. Consulting in this matter enabled the Waste Strategy to be updated in a way that incorporated stakeholder feedback, which assists in garnering stakeholder support.

BETTER BINS KERBSIDE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
	✓		

Headline strategy:

A consistent three bin kerbside collection system, which includes separation of food organics and garden organics from other waste categories, to be provided by all local governments in the Perth and Peel region by 2025 and supported by State Government through the application of financial mechanisms.

Actions:

2.1 FOGO Position Statement – Develop a Waste Authority Position Statement on Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO).

2.2 Revise Better Bins with a FOGO focus – Review and update the Better Bins funding program and better practice guidelines for kerbside collection to include, and support the adoption of, three bin FOGO collection systems.

2.3 Plan for three bin FOGO system roll out – In consultation with local government, develop a plan for the phased introduction of three bin FOGO kerbside collection systems in Perth and Peel, including coverage requirements, processing and infrastructure needs, market scoping and development, mechanisms for transition from non-FOGO two and three bin services, and flexibility to allow for contractual transition.

2.4 Implement three bin FOGO system – Implement three-bin FOGO systems across local governments in the Perth and Peel region, with funding support through the revised Better Bins programs.

Background

The Waste Strategy 2030 sets recovery targets for municipal solid waste (MSW), including 65 per cent in the Perth and Peel regions and 50 per cent in major regional centres by 2020. The Waste Strategy also sets a target for all local governments in the Perth and Peel region to provide consistent three bin collection systems that include separation of food organics and garden organics (FOGO) from other waste categories by 2025. Three bin systems that include a combined FOGO service can achieve kerbside recovery rates of 65 per cent or more.

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. In 2016-17, local governments across Western Australia reported collecting 1.51 million tonnes of domestic waste from households through all waste services, with 66 per cent collected directly from households via kerbside bin services. The overall proportion of domestic waste recovered across the State has increased from 31 per cent in 2013-14 to 36 per cent in 2016-17, however, this is significantly below the Waste Strategy MSW recovery targets.

The best performing kerbside systems for waste recovery in 2016-17 were those that included a third bin for the collection of FOGO, and those that processed mixed waste at a waste composting facility, referred to as alternative waste treatment.

Project description and approach

The Better Bins program provides an incentive for local governments to introduce better practice kerbside waste and recycling services to achieve increased resource recovery. 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. The program offers up to \$30 per household for local governments that introduce better practice services.

Better Bins is being revised to encourage FOGO services in alignment with the Waste Strategy 2030 and the Action Plan. FOGO systems are important in recovering food waste, maximising kerbside recovery rates and supporting the National Food Waste Strategy. The revised Better Bins program will provide updated guidance and additional incentives to local governments that implement practice FOGO collection services.

Achieving a widespread uptake of FOGO services requires ongoing improvements in infrastructure, increased organics processing capacity, markets for recycled organic products and behaviour change education targeting households.

The Better Bins Kerbside Collection Guidelines contain information on infrastructure (including bin types, colours and collection frequencies), performance benchmarks and complementary measures. The Guidelines will be revised and updated to include and support the adoption of three bin FOGO collection systems. There is a direct link between this Better Bins program and the WasteSorted toolkit program provided by the Waste Authority to support local governments in consistent communications with households and other waste generators.

In order to plan for the three bin FOGO system roll out, the Waste Authority will undertake consultation with local government to develop a plan for the phased introduction of three bin FOGO kerbside collection systems in the Perth and Peel areas, including coverage requirements, processing and infrastructure needs, market scoping and development, mechanisms for transition from non-FOGO two and three bin services and flexibility to allow for contractual transition. Implementation of FOGO systems will be supported by State Government through the application of financial mechanisms to make it a cost competitive option for local governments.

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.

The benefits of revising Better Bins to include FOGO include:

- maximising kerbside recovery rates;
- enabling recovery of food waste;
- supporting the National Food Waste Strategy
- consistency with local governments in other jurisdictions; and
- cost savings associated with diverting waste from landfill.

The Better Bins program and the WasteSorted toolkit program both support more consistent kerbside collection systems, particularly across the metropolitan region, which will result in more consistent communications and messaging to the community.

WASTESORTED COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Objectives:	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
		✓		✓

Headline strategy: Develop state-wide waste communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

Action: 1.1 WasteSorted communications toolkit – Build on and maintain the existing local government communications toolkit for consistent messaging relating to better practice kerbside service delivery and to support FOGO implementation in Perth and Peel.

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.

The WasteSorted communications toolkit complements the Better Bins program by assisting local governments in providing consistent and effective communication to their residents on how to sort their waste correctly. The intention is to effect household behaviour change in order to increase resource recovery, reduce contamination and divert waste from landfill. 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. A service provider was engaged through a competitive procurement process to deliver this work.
- *Part B: Monitoring and evaluation* – monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the overall communications toolkit in order to inform future toolkit design. A service provider has been engaged through a competitive procurement process to deliver this work

Project description and approach

The WasteSorted toolkit is an evidence based, comprehensive communication and engagement toolkit for use by local governments participating in the Better Bins program. A variety of engagement templates and initiatives have been developed and published on the WasteSorted website for local governments to communicate with residents about source separation to reduce contamination, maximise resource recovery and reduce waste disposed of to landfill. The development of the toolkit involved consultation with local governments and the Western Australian Local Government Association.

The WasteSorted toolkit launched in September 2018 and aims to standardise communications across local governments. Since its launch, a number of local governments have used the toolkit graphics and templates to communicate to their residents on how to sort their waste correctly. The templates and icons contained in the online toolkit can be used in various communications formats, such as direct printed communication to households, and other prompts such as fridge magnets, calendars or bin stickers. Templates and icons are categorised into three phases:

- 1) Phase one: Why? – Supports local government communication in preparation for the introduction of a new kerbside bin.
- 2) Phase two: How? – Guides residents on how to correctly sort their waste.
- 3) Phase three: Feedback – Provides feedback on how well residents are sorting their waste.

To ensure continuous improvement, the Waste Authority has engaged a contractor to undertake monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the WasteSorted toolkit.

Benefits

Research and experience elsewhere suggests that improved communications tools such as those developed for the WasteSorted toolkit program will lead to increased recovery rates through improved source separation.

Both the WasteSorted toolkit program and the Better Bins program will support 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 support the National Food Waste Strategy
- 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.

The WasteSorted toolkit program and the Better Bins program both support more consistent kerbside collection systems, particularly across the metropolitan region, which will result in more consistent communications and messaging to the community.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
	✓	✓	

Headline strategy:

Develop state-wide waste communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

Action:

1.7 Guidance: Household Hazardous Waste Program – In consultation with key stakeholders, review, update and publish *Guidelines for the design and operation of facilities for the acceptance and storage of household hazardous waste*, to support the Household Hazardous Waste Program.

Background

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

The program commenced in 2008 and supports removal of hazardous waste from the MSW stream to minimise harm to people and equipment and to reduce the environmental impacts at disposal sites. Removing hazardous waste from the general waste stream improves the performance of mixed waste treatment facilities and quality of compost outputs.

Project description and approach

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.

The program has eight metropolitan and five regional permanent facilities where householders can drop off unwanted household chemicals at no charge.

To further support the HHW program, the Waste Authority plans to consult with key stakeholders to review, update and publish *Guidelines for the design and operation of facilities for the acceptance and storage of household hazardous waste*.

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.

The development of further guidance will ensure that consistent messaging on the collection, storage and disposal of hazardous waste is effectively communicated to households.

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
✓	✓		

Headline strategy:

Provide funding to promote the recovery of more value and resources from waste with an emphasis on focus materials.

Action:

8.2 Facilitate waste avoidance and recovery – Identify priority areas of need for funding, and establish a funding program(s) to support adoption of waste avoiding practices and behaviour and/or the recovery of resources from waste, with an emphasis on: focus materials; reuse and low waste alternatives; community, government and industry initiatives that lead to waste avoidance and resource recovery; and increasing the uptake of better practice approaches.

8.3 Infrastructure support program – Develop and implement a recycling infrastructure support program that delivers funding and other support for the development of local resource recovery infrastructure.

Background

The waste levy, the application of WARR Account funds and the delivery of programs will drive the achievement of the targets contained in the Waste Strategy 2030. To maximise the return on government and industry investment in waste management programs, the community and industry must:

- 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 community and industry organisations will influence specific behaviours and assist the achievement of best practice waste management including increased diversion of waste from landfill. Through leveraging the expertise and networks of peak and specialist bodies, the Waste Authority will facilitate the delivery of its functions.

Project description and approach

The Community and Industry Engagement (CIE) program aims to support organisations that promote better waste management behaviours, practices and awareness. The program is based on a transparent, competitive 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 community and industry engagement and education activities.

CIE funding is allocated for the achievement of deliverables related to behaviour change, improved waste management and/or recovery, and the attainment of the Waste Strategy 2030 targets. Funded bodies are accountable for the delivery of specified outcomes. The CIE program targets organisations that work with community and industry groups that promote education and training on better waste management practices, generate or manage a high volume of waste and/or have a high impact on the environment. 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.

2018-19 CIE funding includes two streams:

- Stream 1: CIE – General Funding Stream (\$400,000). This stream will prioritise community organisations and projects.

- Stream 2: CIE – Recycling Infrastructure Funding Stream (\$1,000,000). The CIE Recycling Infrastructure Funding Stream is a new stream in the 2018-19 funding round developed to support investment in local recycling infrastructure.

Funding will focus on projects and events that align with the following priorities:

- Projects that support the Waste Strategy's objectives to avoid waste, recover more value and resources from waste, and protect the environment.
- Projects related to plastics, paper and cardboard, organics (including food organics), construction and demolition waste, metals, glass and textiles.
- To support organisations in the delivery of projects that are ready for implementation and supported by well-developed and fully costed project plans.

Benefits

The CIE program General Funding stream 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, and more effective and efficient programs through direct access to existing industry and local government contacts and capabilities.

The CIE program Recycling Infrastructure Funding stream for improved infrastructure will incentivise the recycling industry to facilitate the recovery of more material and increase the value of material collected.

COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
✓	✓		

Headline strategy:

Provide funding to promote the recovery of more value and resources from waste with an emphasis on focus materials.

Action:

8.2 Facilitate waste avoidance and recovery – Identify priority areas of need for funding, and establish a funding program(s) to support adoption of waste avoiding practices and behaviour and/or the recovery of resources from waste, with an emphasis on: focus materials; reuse and low waste alternatives; community, government and industry initiatives that lead to waste avoidance and resource recovery; and increasing the uptake of better practice approaches.

Project background

The Community Grants Scheme commenced in 204 and encourages community waste projects.

Community groups can play an important role in developing and promoting projects that divert waste from landfill. Community-led waste reduction projects can engage individuals and organisations and enable them to contribute to the achievement of the Waste Strategy 2030 targets.

Project description and approach

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

Grants are offered through two funding rounds each year that 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.

Projects are generally partly 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.

A panel comprised of Department of Water and Environmental Regulation staff assesses and prioritises each application against the approved criteria. The panel makes recommendations to the Waste Authority, and once endorsed, 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 community’s management of waste, which will support the achievement of the Waste Strategy’s targets.

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

WASTE WISE SCHOOLS

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy: Develop state-wide waste communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

Project background

The Waste Wise Schools program was established in 2002 and aims to achieve behaviour change to minimise waste in schools and the wider school community. The 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 relevant components of the Western Australian curriculum.

The Waste Wise Schools program supports achievement of the following Waste Strategy 2030 MSW targets:

- five per cent reduction in MSW generation per capita by 2025;
- increase of MSW material recovery to 65 per cent in the Perth and Peel regions by 2020; and
- increase of MSW material recovery to 50 per cent in major regional centres by 2020.

The program also contributes to the Waste Strategy's targets of moving towards zero illegal dumping and zero littering by 2030.

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 assists schools to set up infrastructure and provides resources aimed at changing attitudes and behaviour in regard to sustainable waste management.

Waste Wise Schools offers program information workshops to schools and 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 funding tiers. Funding rounds are open four times a year. A panel of Departmental staff assess and prioritise each application against the approved criteria. The panel makes recommendations to the Waste Authority for endorsement. Successful applicants are generally announced by the Minister for Environment.

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

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 teachers and students in improved 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.

WASTE WISE SCHOOLS – HIGH SCHOOL AND REGIONAL EXPANSION

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy:

Develop state-wide waste communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

Action:

1.12 Waste Wise Schools (WWS) expansion – Continue to extend the WWS program with a focus on:

- Developing more high school resources to provide more motivation for high schools to engage with the WWS program and increase their diversion of waste from landfill.
- Extending the WWS program to more schools in regional areas through the establishment of regional partnerships to meet demand for face to face school support in regional areas.

Project background

The Waste Wise Schools program was established in 2002 and aims to achieve behaviour change to minimise waste in schools and the wider school community. It has focussed primarily on primary schools to date. Only a small proportion of high schools have succeeded in setting up successful waste management systems for resource recovery.

Regional schools participating in the Waste Wise Schools program receive less support than schools in the metropolitan area.

Since 2016-17, the Waste Authority has been working to expand the Waste Wise Schools program to reach more high schools and more regional schools.

Project description and approach

The Waste Authority will continue to extend the Waste Wise Schools program with a focus on developing more high school resources, and providing the program to more schools in regional areas.

High school expansion

Some high schools have as many as 2,000 students and can generate substantial volumes of waste. However, high schools do not have adequate waste management infrastructure for maximum resource recovery. Research into how to best support high schools conducted in 2011-12 recommended increasing the level of support and providing resources specific to the needs of high schools. Some elements that lead to successful sustainability outcomes include teacher training, a mentor and hands on support, resources (such as grants, information and curriculums), involvement in program evaluation and integration of operational changes into the curriculum.

Increasing the support Waste Wise Schools offers to high schools will enable more schools to participate in activities that significantly reduce waste disposed of to landfill by funding infrastructure investment in high schools and the development of supporting curriculum.

This project expands on the Waste Wise Schools program to:

- trial waste management infrastructure in a group of high schools (including electric composters, food waste collections, mixed recycling and/or other waste management infrastructure and services);
- produce curriculum resources to support waste reduction and other waste management strategies, including a high school food waste curriculum chapter; and
- develop a grants program specific to high school waste management infrastructure needs.

WARR Account funds are used to engage a service provider to deliver the Waste Wise Schools high school expansion and infrastructure trials.

Regional school expansion

Regional schools participating in Waste Wise Schools receive less support than schools in the metropolitan area. There are 403 regional schools in Western Australia, 73 per cent of which have had some contact with the Waste Wise Schools program since 2001. A total of 124 regional schools (31 per cent) currently have Waste Wise Schools accreditation.

This project focuses on providing additional face-to-face support to regional schools engaged with the Waste Wise Schools program. Since 2016-17, a qualified educator has been engaged to conduct 40 Waste Wise Schools visits in one or two regional areas, in addition to the existing Kimberley partnerships. One or two new regional areas are added in each subsequent year upon evaluation. Continuing to engage waste education service providers to support schools in the regions will result in broader communication of messages for behaviour change regarding waste at schools.

Increased support has already led to more regional schools adopting the Waste Wise Schools program, and it is likely that it will continue to do so. As a result, schools will increase their waste minimisation activities. Schools have the added benefit of being able to easily access local waste information.

Benefits

The benefits of continuing to increase Waste Wise Schools support for high schools include:

- an increase in the communication of messages for behaviour change and the adoption of the Waste Wise Schools program in high schools;
- enables Waste Wise Schools to develop supporting resources to enable high schools to adopt appropriate waste management systems; and
- flow on effects of waste practices to the wider community.

The benefits of continuing to increase Waste Wise Schools support for regional schools include:

- an increase in the communication of messages for behaviour change and the adoption of Waste Wise Schools in regional schools;
- access to regular face-to-face support for regional schools including staff presentations, school visits, and grant and project support;
- increased access to local knowledge for teachers; and
- access to training opportunities (for teachers and students) on waste topics specific to their community.

ROADS TO REUSE

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
	✓		

Headline strategy:

Implement sustainable government procurement practices that encourage greater use of recycled products and support local market development.

Actions:

3.11 Roads to Reuse pilot – In 2019, Main Roads WA will work with the Waste Authority and DWER to pilot the Roads to Reuse project, using approximately 25,000 tonnes of recycled construction and demolition (C&D) road base.

3.12 Use of recycled C&D – 2019 – Subject to ongoing DWER independent audit testing, Main Roads WA to use over 100,000 tonnes of crushed recycled concrete on selected projects in 2019, with access to Roads to Reuse program funding as appropriate.

3.13 Use of recycled C&D – 2020 – Subject to ongoing DWER independent audit testing, Main Roads WA to use over 200,000 tonnes of crushed recycled concrete on selected projects in 2020, with access to Roads to Reuse program funding as appropriate.

Background

Construction and demolition (C&D) waste makes up around half of Western Australia’s waste stream and represents around 45 per cent of material recovered for recycling. The Waste Strategy 2030 contains targets to reduce C&D waste generation per capita by 15 per cent by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030; and to increase material recovery of C&D to 77 per cent by 2025, and 80 per cent by 2030.

The Waste Strategy identifies C&D as a focus material that represents a significant opportunity for waste avoidance and material recovery. The Action Plan prioritises action on C&D recovery and reuse.

Recyclers of C&D waste have reported an increase in waste materials received and processed stockpiled at their sites in response to the increases in the waste levy and the low take-up of recycled C&D waste products for use as 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 Roads to Reuse program 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.

Project description and approach

The Roads to Reuse program provides two funding streams:

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).

As part of the State Government's commitment to sustainable procurement and cross-government collaboration, Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA), with support from the Waste Authority, will pilot Roads to Reuse by using recycled C&D product in MRWA projects. The pilot will guide consideration of how future funding will be applied to increase the recycling of C&D waste. It is envisaged that Roads to Reuse will be rolled out following the delivery of a successful pilot. The Waste Authority will support the Roads to Reuse pilot by:

- working with producers to support the supply of recycled C&D products in accordance with the product specification;
- engaging a qualified environmental auditor to ensure that producers' site procedures, testing procedures and products meet the product specification; and
- providing up to \$100,000 directly to MRWA to support the use of recycled material.

Benefits

The Roads to Reuse program is expected to support the achievement of the Waste Strategy 2030 targets through:

- increasing the amount of recycled C&D products used in construction projects;
- increasing the number of local governments using recycled C&D products;
- demonstrating cross-government collaboration and sustainable procurement;
- promoting the use of recycled C&D products across a range of applications and demonstrate the benefits of those uses; and
- increasing 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

Objectives:	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
		✓		

Headline strategy: Implement sustainable government procurement practices that encourage greater use of recycled products and support local market development.

Actions:

3.11 Roads to Reuse pilot – In 2019, Main Roads WA will work with the Waste Authority and DWER to pilot Roads to Reuse on the Kwinana Freeway Northbound Widening Project from Russell Road to Roe Highway or a similar project, using approximately 25,000 tonnes of recycled construction and demolition (C&D) waste as road base.

3.12 Use of recycled C&D – 2019 – Subject to ongoing DWER independent audit testing, MRWA to use over 100,000 tonnes of crushed recycled concrete on selected projects in 2019, with access to Roads to Reuse program funding as appropriate.

3.13 Use of recycled C&D – 2020 – Subject to ongoing DWER independent audit testing, MRWA to use over 200,000 tonnes of crushed recycled concrete on selected projects in 2020, with access to Roads to Reuse program funding as appropriate.

Project background

The Roads to Reuse 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 Roads to Reuse program, the Waste Authority needs assurance that recycled C&D products funded by the program meet relevant specifications. This requires:

- Roads to Reuse Product Specification that contains environmental specifications which must be met;
- recyclers to produce C&D product that meets the Product Specification; and
- a mechanism to confirm that products are compliance with the Product Specification.

Project description and approach

To be eligible for the Roads to Reuse program, applicants must demonstrate that the recycled C&D product used meets the Roads to Reuse Product Specification. Materials funded by the Roads to Reuse program must meet the Product Specification so that purchasers of recycled C&D products have confidence in the product. To assist with this, the Waste Authority is implementing a Product Testing Scheme to support C&D recyclers with the costs to develop a sampling and testing plan, and undertake routine sampling and testing. It will also subsidise the cost of product sampling and testing to determine whether or not recycled products meet the requirements 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 as to whether or not the material meets the specifications.

Benefits

Once a history of compliance has been demonstrated, the Product Specification and Product Testing Scheme will improve market confidence in product suitability and may help transition the recycling industry towards 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 C&D recovery rates, and contribute to the achievement of the Waste Strategy's C&D targets.

CHARITABLE RECYCLING ORGANISATION REBATE

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
	✓	✓	

Headline strategy: Review the scope and application of the waste levy to ensure it meets the objectives of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 and establish a schedule of future waste levy rates with the initial schedule providing a minimum five year horizon.

Project background

Western Australian charitable recycling organisations routinely dispose of material that unusable and/or is illegally dumped at outside 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 was introduced in 2016 to 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. This program is directly linked to the Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction program, with the intention that over time, efforts to reduce illegal dumping at charities' facilities will be effective in reducing the incidence, volume and cost of waste sent to landfill. An effective reduction in dumping will reduce the cost of the Charitable Recyclers Rebate program over time.

Project description and approach

Charitable organisations operate clothing and other goods recycling services. The materials are left by members of the community at drop-off centres located in places such as schools and shopping centres. Disposing of an increasing volume of waste arising from illegal dumping and materials that cannot be recycled is costly for charity groups.

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 quarterly claims for rebates, providing details of the quantities of waste disposed of to landfill in the Perth metropolitan region from their collections. Copies of invoices and supporting documentation such as weighbridge records are provided to verify each claim.

Benefits

The Charitable Recyclers Rebate program, in conjunction with the Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction program, builds the capacity of charitable organisations to reduce the costs and incidence of illegal dumping, in line with the Waste Strategy. Payments of the rebates for the waste levy costs incurred increases the availability of funding for charities to apply to their charitable objectives for the benefit of the Western Australian community.

CHARITABLE RECYCLERS DUMPING REDUCTION PROGRAM

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
	✓	✓	

Headline strategy:

Review the scope and application of the waste levy to ensure it meets the objectives of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 and establish a schedule of future waste levy rates with the initial schedule providing a minimum five year horizon.

Action:

5.5 Illegal dumping strategies – Implement actions to protect the environment from the impacts of illegal dumping:

- Work with land owners/managers to build their capacity to tackle illegal dumping
- Detect, investigate and prosecute illegal dumping.

Project background

The State Government is committed to reducing waste and increasing recycling as described in the Waste Strategy 2030. The Waste Authority's Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction program commenced in 2016-17 and supports reduction in illegal dumping of unusable items at charitable recyclers and supports charitable recyclers continued efforts to divert waste from landfill.

The Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction program funds charitable recyclers to implement and evaluate interventions to reduce illegal dumping of unusable items at their bins and stores.

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 *Better practice guidelines for charitable recyclers*, published on the Waste Authority website. Charitable recyclers must consider these guidelines when applying for funding through the program.

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. A reporting template provides the format and guidelines for reporting. The guidelines are updated periodically following the evaluation of interventions implemented through this program.

The Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction program complements the Charitable Recyclers Rebate program that supports 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 community, which may impact on permissions for charities to site their collection bins.

Benefits

The program aims to reduce illegal dumping, clean-up costs and associated negative impacts on charities, local governments and the community.

The Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction program, in conjunction with the Charitable Recyclers Rebate program, builds the capacity of charitable organisations to reduce the costs and incidence of illegal dumping, in line with the Waste Strategy. Reduced costs incurred through dumping reduction increases the availability of funding for charities to apply to their charitable objectives for the benefit of the Western Australian community.

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*.

REDUCING WASTE THROUGH PROCUREMENT

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
✓	✓		

Headline strategy:

Implement sustainable government procurement practices that encourage greater use of recycled products and support local market development.

Actions:

3.1 Identify options and priority actions to reduce waste through procurement – In consultation with industry and State Government, identify priority sustainable government procurement measures, reporting requirements and policies, and engage with State Government agencies and obtain commitment to these within negotiated timeframes.

3.2 Implement reducing waste through procurement program – Lead collaboration between State Government agencies and industry to implement sustainable government procurement measures and policies.

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, governments can achieve secondary objectives as well as the best value for money outcome.

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.

Project description and approach

During 2018-19, a consultant was engaged to work with 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. A Consultation Report provided a summary of the information gathered through consultation with the targeted stakeholder agencies. This consultation served as key input for the final recommendations, contained in a Project Report, which identified options for increasing waste avoidance, resource recovery and recycled product use through procurement.

The Waste Authority will work with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, the Department of Finance and other State Government agencies to explore the potential for these options to reduce waste and increase recovery through procurement.

Benefits

The Auditor General recommended that this work be undertaken, highlighting that it would encourage community use of recycled products. 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, a State Government commitment to avoid waste and use recycled products may influence local government, industry and the community to decrease the volume of waste it disposes of to landfill.

WASTE DATA REPORTING AND ANALYSIS

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy:

Review and update data collection and reporting systems to allow waste generation, recovery and disposal performance to be assessed in a timely manner.

Actions:

7.1 Waste Data Strategy – Develop, release and implement the Waste Data Strategy.

7.4 Improved waste data – Review and update waste data reporting systems and methodology, and develop new metrics, in order to improve data accuracy and eliminate identified gaps in waste data. Initial focus will be on:

- Monitoring progress towards achieving objectives and targets of the waste strategy
- Monitoring and prosecuting illegal dumping
- Materials that are reused
- Waste tracking and stockpiling
- Focus materials
- Measuring the impact of communication initiatives, including those focused on kerbside recycling.

Background

To assess the State’s performance against the targets in the Waste Strategy 2030 and to report against budget key performance indicators, waste and recycling data are collected annually from local government and industry in Western Australia through the voluntary Census of Local Government Waste and Recycling Services (the census) and the Recycling Activity in Western Australia report (RAWA). Under amendments to the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008* (WARR Regulations), the reporting of census and RAWA data will become mandatory.

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

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

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.

Project description and approach

This project is directly linked to the Approved Methods project. Data is collected annually through the census and the RAWA. The data collected is used to measure progress towards the targets contained in the Waste Strategy.

A range of initiatives are underway, particularly the development of Approved Methods for data reporting, to improve the quality and accuracy of the data collected. Fundamental to all of these data improvements is the finalisation of the Waste Authority’s waste data strategy, which builds on consultation with waste sector stakeholders undertaken in 2017-18 to better understand data needs and priorities.

In order to improve the accessibility and maximisation of knowledge that can be gained from the data collected through the census and RAWA, the Waste Authority is committed to publishing waste data reports and supporting fact sheets on its website. Local governments and their residents will

also be able to more accurately compare performance of different councils through publishing the data on the MyCouncil website.

The amendments to the WARR Regulations, which will require all local governments and certain recyclers to record and report data currently captured in the census and RAWA, will improve the accuracy and timeliness of both reports in line with the waste data strategy. The mandatory reporting of waste data will be supported through an approved method for the provision of data and an online reporting system.

Benefits

Data collection and reporting are required to assess Western Australia's performance against the targets contained in the Waste Strategy. Improved data collection and analysis will better enable the measurement and evaluation of the Waste Authority's programs and initiatives.

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 will enhance the relevance of the final waste data strategy to stakeholders. It will also ensure that stakeholders have a sense of ownership for it and support its direction.

APPROVED METHOD FOR THE PROVISION OF DATA

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy:

Review and update data collection and reporting systems to allow waste generation, recovery and disposal performance to be assessed in a timely manner.

Action:

7.2 Mandatory reporting of waste and recycling data – Implement new reporting requirements under amendments to the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008* and develop reporting guidance to provide support to local governments, recyclers and landfill operators.

Project background

This ongoing project is linked with the new initiatives previously described (the Inclusion of Waste Data on the MyCouncil website and the introduction of an Online System for Waste Data Reporting). It is also linked directly with the Data Reporting Project.

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 of Water and Environmental Regulation 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 (the census) and the Recycling Activity in Western Australia (RAWA) report.

In mid-2016, proposed amendments to the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008* (WARR Regulations) to require record-keeping and annual reporting of waste and recycling data were released 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 method has been approved by the CEO, who is the Director General of the Department for Water and Environmental Regulation.

Project description and approach

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

A draft of the approved methods will be developed and stakeholders will be consulted to confirm its suitability. Following the consultation process, Departmental staff will finalise the draft approved methods for the CEO’s consideration and approval.

Benefits

Voluntary reporting has resulted in incomplete data of variable accuracy. Improved reporting rates and data quality will result from the proposed regulatory amendments for approved methods of data reporting.

In June 2019, the CEO will notify liable entities of the requirement to report their 2019-20 data using an approved method.

ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy: Develop state-wide waste communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

Action: 1.3 Major behaviour change program

Background

The Waste Strategy sets targets for a five per cent reduction in municipal solid waste (MSW) by 2025, and a 10 per cent reduction by 2030. It also contains targets for the Perth and Peel regions to increase MSW recovery to 67 per cent by 2025, and increase to 70 per cent by 2030.

To achieve these ambitious targets, the Waste Authority seeks to influence the Western Australian community to view unwanted materials as resources that can be reused rather than as 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 difference².

Project description and approach

This initiative seeks to change the Western Australian community's behaviour in regard to waste avoidance and reuse of materials, and is delivered through a service provider engaged through a competitive process.

The initiative involves 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.

² Government Communication Network, *Communications and Behaviour Change*, Central Office of Information, UK Government

INFINITY AWARDS

Objectives:

Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation
			✓

Headline strategy: Develop state-wide communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

Background

The Waste Authority is committed to engaging with the community, and recognising and rewarding organisation and individuals that undertake practical steps to support the objectives of the Waste Strategy.

Project description and approach

The annual Infinity Awards event has been a highlight of the Waste Authority calendar since 2011. In recent years, the event has shifted from a gala dinner evening event to a breakfast ceremony. In 2018, the Waste Authority relaunched the Awards, including a return to a gala dinner event.

The event features a community expo and networking function for all attendees, which facilitates networking between stakeholders and showcases waste related 'success stories' from State Government initiatives, community led programs and local businesses. The Awards have been redesigned to feature new categories that align with the Waste Strategy 2030.

Benefits

To achieve the targets of the Waste Strategy 2030, there needs to be an increase in the adoption of best practice in waste avoidance, resource recovery and protection of the environment. The Infinity Awards recognise, reward and promote the adoption of positive behaviours, practices and innovation that contribute to the objectives of the Waste Strategy.

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