



Waste Authority Annual Report 2018–19



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Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Environment

In accordance with section 23 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Act 2007*, I submit the Waste Authority Annual Report for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, for presentation to Parliament. I acknowledge this annual report as the work of the previous members of the Waste Authority whose terms ended on 25 June 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reg Howard-Smith'.

Reg Howard-Smith

Chairman Waste Authority



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Chairman's report



Premier Mark McGowan launched *Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity* in February with 12 key performance indicators to hold the state government to account and target important issues facing Western Australia. It includes the priority of a cleaner, more sustainable environment with a target for at least 75 per cent of waste generated in Western Australia to be reused or recycled by 2030. This target provides a whole-of-government focus for improving waste performance and will help harness resources and effort to achieve the Waste Authority's goals.

Linked to the Premier's vision for Western Australian prosperity, in February Environment Minister Stephen Dawson launched the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* and the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 Action Plan*. These documents were the culmination of extensive consultation over the previous two years.

The consultation process for the review of the waste strategy with state government agencies, local government, industry and the community has shown widespread support for improvements to waste management and the goodwill needed to achieve the ambitious targets in the waste strategy. I do not underestimate the size of the task. The strategy and its action plan provide the government, the Waste Authority, local government, industry and the community with a clear picture of our current waste issues and a roadmap of where we need to go.

The Waste Authority needs to build on the impetus created by the government's waste agenda and work to facilitate and support investment in waste and resource recovery infrastructure, best practice guidance, market development and targeted education.

The Waste Authority's long-standing support for action on organic waste, which currently represents around 39 per cent of the waste currently going to landfill, is delivering good results.

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council's successful trial of a three-bin Food Organic Garden Organic (FOGO) kerbside collection system, which commenced in October 2017, yielded such positive results that member local governments of Melville, East Fremantle and Fremantle are rolling out FOGO services.

Following extensive consultation by the Waste Authority, local governments in Perth and Peel have joined in a discussion to achieve the key headline strategy: *'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.'*

The Waste Authority congratulates those local governments that have come on board with FOGO this financial year, including early adopters in regional areas.

The Waste Authority understands the important role of procurement in driving demand for recycled content products. The Authority is working closely with the

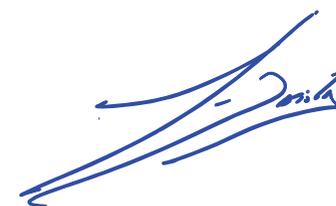
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Main Roads WA to increase the use of recycled construction and demolition (C&D) products in road construction through the Roads to Reuse pilot program. The pilot is testing the revised product specification and independent audit regime, to ensure recycled material meets environmental standards. A successful pilot is expected to provide confidence to the sector more broadly about the use of recycled C&D products.

The state government and the Waste Authority have supported the efforts of initiatives such as the Plastic Free Foundation and the Garage Sale Trail. These initiatives are examples of our next journey towards a circular economy, where goods and products are designed to avoid waste and resource recovery.

The Waste Authority has provided guidance and support for the visions of many Western Australians through the various grants programs and has celebrated their efforts through the Waste Authority's annual Infinity Awards.

This is the final Annual Report of the current Waste Authority as our terms expire in June 2019. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow members, Deputy Chairperson Jennifer Bloom, and members Victoria Bond, Neil Foley and Glen McLeod. It has been quite a journey together and I have greatly enjoyed working with such a dedicated and professional group of people in the Authority. We collectively recognise the privilege we have been afforded over our tenure to advise the government for the benefit of the people of Western Australia.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Environment and his staff for their support of the waste strategy and constructive input to the Waste Authority. And on behalf of all Authority members, I express my gratitude and best wishes to Director General Mike Rowe, Executive Director Strategic Policy Sarah McEvoy and the staff within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, and particularly Bernard Ryan and all those staff within the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Division. It has been a pleasure working with you all.



Marcus Geisler
Waste Authority Chairman
25 June 2019



Performance overview

Waste and recycling data for the 2016–17 financial year showed that Western Australia (WA) generated 4.7 million tonnes of solid waste of which 2.4 million tonnes – or 51 per cent – were recovered, up from 31 per cent in 2010–11.

The total quantity of waste generated in WA declined by 28 per cent between 2010–11 and 2016–17, with the biggest decline seen in the disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste to landfill (an 80 per cent decline). Declining C&D waste disposal has coincided with scheduled increases in the waste levy since January 2015 and is understood to be largely related to increased stockpiling of C&D waste and waste levy avoidance activities.

The recovery rate for the C&D waste stream was 77 per cent in 2016–17, reaching the target in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 of 75 per cent set for 2020. However, the recovery rate is likely to be inflated due to the aforementioned stockpiling of C&D waste and waste levy avoidance activities.

Material recovery in the commercial and industrial waste stream has increased significantly from 28 per cent in 2010–11 to 46 per cent in 2016–17 – edging closer to the target in the waste strategy of 70 per cent set for 2020. While the commercial and industrial waste sector has been responsive to increases in the waste levy, material recovery performance in this sector is also closely tied to international market prices for waste products.

The recovery rate for the municipal solid waste stream generated in the Perth metropolitan region has declined, decreasing from 39 per cent in 2010–11 to 33 per cent in 2016–17 – well below the waste strategy target of 65 per cent set for 2020. This downward trend has mostly been driven by a decrease in the amount of recovered C&D materials reported in the municipal solid waste stream. A headline strategy in the waste strategy is the adoption of three-bin food organics and garden organics collection systems across the Perth and Peel regions. These systems have been demonstrated to be effective in improving municipal solid waste recovery rates both in Western Australia and other jurisdictions.

The waste strategy includes an initiative to improve the quality and timeliness of waste data available for assessing and reporting against its targets. From 2019–20 waste data reporting will be a regulated activity and will be collected using an online reporting tool.

Table 1 — Landfill material recovery¹

Year	Metro MSW	Major regional centres	Commercial and industrial	Construction and demolition	Statewide recovery rate ²	Per capita generation (kg per person)
2010–11	39%	-	28%	31%	31%	2 764
2011–12	39%	-	41% ³	38%	38%	2 658
2012–13	45%	-	45%	39%	40%	2 486
2013–14	41%	-	45%	38%	39%	2 659
2014–15	40%	30% ⁴	52%	42%	42%	2 437
2015–16	35%	31%	46%	64%	48%	1 999
2016–17	33%	28%	46%	77%	51%	1 782
State targets 2020	65%	50%	70%	75%		
State targets 2025	67%	55%	75%	77%	70%	
State targets 2030	70%	60%	80%	80%	75%	

1. All figures are from the *Recycling activity in Western Australia annual reports* except MSW performance (major regional centres) which is from *The Census of Western Australian Local Government Waste and Recycling Services*.
2. A target of at least 75 per cent of waste generated in Western Australia to be reused or recycled is also a state government key performance indicator set out in *Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity*.
3. Some historical data has been revised. The data presented here supersedes all previous versions.
4. Excludes one major regional centre due to data verification issues.



Operational structure

Organisational structure

Sections 16 (1) and 17 (1) of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* provide that the Minister for Environment shall ensure the Waste Authority is provided with the services and facilities reasonably necessary to enable it to perform its functions. Section 16 (2) provides that the Minister may, by arrangement with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, allow the Waste Authority to make use of the services of any officer in the department.

Services are provided by staff employed by the department under provisions of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, pursuant to section 16 (1) of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*. Officers are subject to the department's human resources policy, information technology and administrative processes, and other policy matters regulated by the *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's instructions.

A service level agreement for the provision of services and functions between the department and the Waste Authority was reviewed in 2018 and signed on 21 December 2018. The service level agreement includes both section 16 services and section 80 functions that are approved by the Minister. The inclusion of updated Schedules to the agreement was undertaken in April 2019, and the service level agreement was signed on 10 May 2019. The agreement sets out the parties' mutual understanding of their respective statutory and other legal functions and obligations through a statement of expectations and performance deliverables for provision of services for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Membership

In August 2014, the then Governor of Western Australia appointed the members of the Waste Authority for five-year terms. The terms of all members expired on 25 June 2019.



Chairman Marcus Geisler

Marcus Geisler has corporate experience in the waste and recycling industry in Australia and overseas, particularly in the recycling of construction and demolition waste.

Marcus has held senior management positions with Coates Hire, Thiess Services and SITA. Marcus has been a Waste Authority member since 2008 and was Deputy Chairman in 2011–12. As Chairman, he has developed a broad engagement platform to bring together state and local governments, industry and the community to enable implementation of the state's waste strategy, and to cater for WA's waste infrastructure and management for the next 30 years and beyond. Marcus is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and led the state waste strategy review process.



Deputy chair Jenny Bloom

Jenny Bloom is a company director and business owner based in Broome.

With experience on various boards and as an elected government councillor, Jenny adds a regional perspective to the Waste Authority and has an interest in how waste is processed regionally, including to the growing resources industry, and the delivery of municipal services to remote communities.



Member Victoria Bond

Victoria Bond is a chartered waste manager with 15 years' experience in the public and private sectors as a waste management expert.

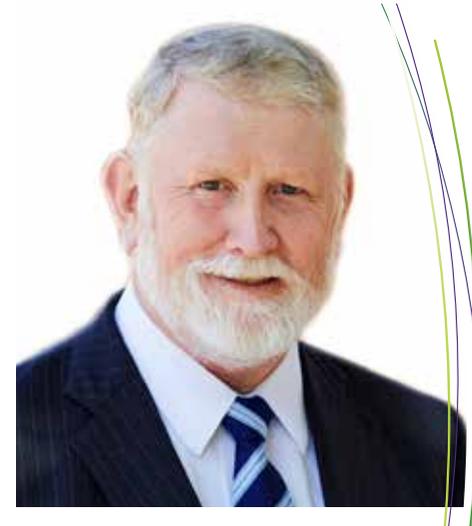
She has extensive international experience, having worked for global consultancies in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East. She brings technical and commercial expertise to the Waste Authority, along with knowledge of international best practice. She has an interest in waste education and behaviour change through effective communication to achieve positive results with regard to waste avoidance, increased recycling and decreased contamination.



Member Neil Foley

Neil Foley is a town planning consultant who previously worked as a planner for Western Australia's agencies responsible for planning, and in local government.

He also teaches at the University of Western Australia. Neil has promoted the integration of planning for waste infrastructure in the state to be included in the state planning framework.



Member Glen McLeod

Glen McLeod is an environmental and town planning lawyer with over 40 years' experience.

He has held senior positions in major Australian, English and American law firms. In July 2012 he established his independent niche firm, Glen McLeod Legal, where he practises in the areas of environmental and town planning law. He is a council member of the International Bar Association's Section on Energy Environment Resources and Infrastructure and a member of the WA Law Society's Education and Environment Town Planning and Local Government committees.

Glen is the general editor of the national loose-leaf publication *Planning Law in Australia* and an editor of the *Local Government Law Journal*. He is an adjunct professor at Murdoch University where he teaches units in environmental and town planning law. He is a member of the Advisory Group to the Murdoch Dean of Law and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Glen was the recipient of the 2016 WA Law Society's Lawyer of the Year Award.

Enabling legislation

A primary purpose of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* is the establishment of the Waste Authority. The Authority has a wide range of general powers and functions associated with waste established by sections 19 and 20 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*, with 17 functions being set out in full in Schedule 2 including:

- advising and making recommendations to the Minister for Environment on matters relating to the Act
- inquiring into and advising the Minister for Environment or CEO on any matter relating to the Act on which the Minister for Environment or CEO requests advice
- advising and making recommendations to the CEO on the regulation of waste services
- advising and making recommendations to the CEO with respect to subsidiary legislation under the Act
- seeking the advice of other entities that the Waste Authority thinks fit for the purpose of providing advice to the Minister for Environment in relation to the setting and variation of a levy
- acting as an advocate for the objects of the Act
- developing, promoting and reviewing the waste strategy and coordinating its implementation
- monitoring and assessing the adequacy of, and reporting to the Minister for Environment on the operation of, the waste strategy, product stewardship plans and extended producer responsibility schemes
- promoting community awareness and understanding of resource efficiency, waste avoidance and resource recovery.

The Waste Authority monitors implementation of programs in the annual business plan, which is approved by the Minister for Environment, and provides advice to the Minister as requested.

The Waste Authority aims to identify and promote the economic and environmental benefits from improved waste avoidance and resource recovery practices. It also works to ensure the community understands the benefits of resource recovery and avoiding waste generation.

The Western Australian Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account is credited with at least 25 per cent of the forecast waste levy. During 2018–19, the department provided administrative support, functions and services, and the management of programs funded from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account as articulated in the service level agreement and the business plan.

Responsible Minister

The Waste Authority reports to the Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, as the Minister responsible for the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.

Performance management framework

Contribution to state government goals

Table 2 — Mapping government goals		
State government liveable environment goal:	Waste strategy headline strategies	Waste Authority role
At least 75 per cent of waste generated in Western Australia is reused or recycled by 2030.		Note that the Waste Authority leads some waste strategy actions and a number of the other actions are led by other agencies.
Managing waste better makes environmental and economic sense – we can recover greater value from our resources if we effectively recycle.	1. Develop state-wide communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.	1. Coordinate the provision of better practice advice and guidance and facilitate stakeholders to take a consistent and cooperative approach to communications.
The development of a vibrant waste industry and local recovery and recycling will deliver three times more jobs than just sending rubbish to landfill.	2. 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 the state government through the application of financial mechanisms. 3. Implement sustainable government procurement practices that encourage greater use of recycled products and support local market development. 4. Implement local government waste plans, which align local government waste planning processes with the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030</i> .	2. Produce guidance and program documentation to support the uptake of FOGO systems and administer a program that provides financial incentives. 3. Provide advice to government on the opportunities for improved procurement and support their adoption through the annual business plan. 4. Support work undertaken by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to develop waste plan guidance and implementation.

Table 2 continued

Table 2 — Mapping government goals		
State government liveable environment goal:	Waste strategy headline strategies	Waste Authority role
At least 75 per cent of waste generated in Western Australia is reused or recycled by 2030.		Note that the Waste Authority leads some waste strategy actions and a number of the other actions are led by other agencies.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Review the scope and application of the waste levy to ensure it meets the objectives of the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030</i> and establish a schedule of future waste levy rates with the initial schedule providing a minimum five-year horizon. 6. Undertake a strategic review of Western Australia's waste infrastructure (including landfills) by 2020 to guide future infrastructure development. 7. Review and update data collection and reporting systems to allow waste generation, recovery and disposal performance to be assessed in a timely manner. 8. Provide funding to promote the recovery of more value and resources from waste with an emphasis on focus materials (construction and demolition waste; organics; metals; paper and cardboard; and plastics). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Provide advice to government on waste generation rates, recovery rates and estimations regarding specific waste streams and the application of the waste levy to them. 6. Support work by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to undertake audits, and provide waste generation and recovery estimations as inputs on a waste infrastructure plan. 7. Develop and implement the waste data strategy and support the collection and reporting of data through the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and MyCouncil online reporting systems. 8. Identify funding opportunities that support improved waste avoidance and resource recovery, support the development of infrastructure and undertake research into local market development.



Funding principles

The application of funds from the Waste Avoidance Resource Recovery Account, through programs set out in the business plan, is a key mechanism for delivering the waste strategy. The Waste Authority has adopted a set of funding principles that help ensure funds are applied effectively in relation to the waste strategy by providing a reference against which program design can be measured.

These funding principles:

- promote the most efficient use of resources and prioritise the avoidance of waste by reusing, reprocessing, recycling and energy recovery, over disposal
- reduce environmental harm including pollution through waste
- ensure consistency with the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* and the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Waste levy collection

In 2018–19, \$77.57 million in waste levy was collected. There were 32 landfill premises monitored in relation to the waste levy, the majority of which were in the Perth metropolitan area.

The disposal of reported metropolitan waste to non-metropolitan landfill facilities increased from 44 per cent of total waste disposed of to landfill in 2017–18, to 46 per cent of total waste disposed in 2018–19. Such waste remained liable for payment of the waste levy, which was received on the due dates.



Outcome principles

• Deliver benefits



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

• Address market failures



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



Process principles

• Be efficient and effective



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

• 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.

• 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.

• Integrity and accountability



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

• Stakeholder engagement



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

• Manage risk



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

Waste Authority performance

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* sets out requirements for the Waste Authority to develop and review a waste strategy for Western Australia. The waste strategy is a long-term strategy for continuous improvement of waste services, waste avoidance and resource recovery, and it sets targets for waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill disposal.

The first waste strategy, *Creating the Right Environment*, was released in March 2012. The strategy contained five strategic objectives and landfill diversion targets.

In 2018–19, the Waste Authority finalised a review of *Creating the Right Environment* and prepared a new draft strategy for Western Australia.

Extensive consultation was undertaken in the review, including a community and stakeholder consultation process from October 2017 to March 2018, followed by a second extensive consultation stage in October 2018. In addition, the Waste Authority and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation consulted across government agencies in relation to the strategy and accompanying action plan.

Following the extensive consultation the Waste Authority submitted a draft waste strategy and accompanying action plan to the Minister for Environment.

In February 2019, the Premier, Hon Mark McGowan MLA, and the Environment Minister, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, launched the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* and the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 Action Plan*.

The strategy aims 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. The strategy contains objectives to avoid waste, recover more value and resources from waste, and protect the environment, and human health as well as ambitious though achievable targets.

This section of the annual report sets out the key achievements of the Waste Authority for 2018–19 against the headline strategies set out in the waste strategy. It also refers to the achievements of other agencies pertaining to the waste strategy, mainly the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

Overall objectives and state targets

Avoid	Recover	Protect
<i>Western Australians generate less waste.</i>	<i>Western Australians recover more value and resources from waste.</i>	<i>Western Australians protect the environment by managing waste responsibly.</i>
<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

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

WasteSorted communications toolkit

The WasteSorted toolkit supports local governments in their communications with residents on the importance of separating and sorting waste correctly to reduce contamination in kerbside bins, and increase materials recovery and recycling.

WasteSorted provides templates and graphic icons that local governments can customise to suit their needs when producing communication and education materials for their residents on how to use their kerbside bins.

Local governments receiving Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account funding as part of their participation in the Better Bins program are required to use the WasteSorted materials toolkit in their communications about program implementation.

The WasteSorted toolkit materials are available to all local governments and regional councils free of charge through the WasteSorted, Own Your Impact and Waste Authority websites. In 2018–19, 13 local governments and regional councils made use of WasteSorted materials.

During the financial year, work commenced on the Waste Authority's commitment to develop WasteSorted toolkit materials for Western Australian schools.

Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the WasteSorted toolkit's materials on community attitudes and behaviours continued during the year, with 654 residents responding to a survey that measured levels of knowledge, attitudes and behaviours on how to correctly separate and sort household waste.

Initial results indicated that those surveyed held positive attitudes towards sorting waste and claimed to be committed and engaged. However, even with residents' intention to sort waste correctly, evidence shows that many Western Australians do not always correctly sort their waste. Many residents lacked confidence in their waste-sorting knowledge and indicated a desire for more information, particularly about items that are less common or perceived to be difficult to sort. Batteries, fluorescent globes and polystyrene were most likely to cause confusion or be incorrectly disposed.

In addition to surveys and evaluations, measurable changes in contamination rates will be used in the future to assess the effectiveness of the toolkits, and its take-up by local governments and schools.

Behaviour change program including Own Your Impact

The WasteSorted toolkit is a key example of consistent messaging to support positive behaviour change.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation supported the Waste Authority's behaviour change focus through the creation of the program named Own Your Impact. Expert waste management advice and information was provided to enhance the Own Your Impact website and social media content.

Own Your Impact messaging was incorporated into relevant Waste Authority programs. The Waste Authority program of work for 2019–20 will continue to support Own Your Impact.

The Waste Authority has supported and contributed to this program to ensure consistency with the Waste Authority's ongoing programs, especially those relating to food and garden organics waste, contamination of recycling for kerbside collection, awareness of the benefits of recycling and using recycled products and the impacts of illegal dumping.



A Waste Authority Program



A comprehensive waste-related behaviour change program is being scoped and managed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and in 2019–20 this work will be funded from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account.

Plans for the 2019–20 year include a review of existing Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account funded programs in line with outcomes of the behaviour change program.

National Recycling Week

The Waste Authority contributed to a supplement on recycling in *The West Australian* during National Recycling Week 2018 in which advertisements for the WasteSorted toolkit, Own Your Impact website and the plastic bag ban were published. The supplement included messages from the Minister for Environment and the Chairman of the Waste Authority.

Garage Sale Trail

The Garage Sale Foundation was awarded a contract to deliver the Garage Sale Trail event in Western Australia in 2018 and 2019, to engage the Western Australian community on knowledge and practice of behaviours that promote waste avoidance and reuse of materials.

A total of 35 local governments from across the state participated in the 2018 Garage Sale Trail event, which for the first time was held over a weekend on 20–21 October 2018.

In 2018, there were 4 783 registered garage sales in WA with 66 452 people participating as either sellers or shoppers. There were 764 530 items listed for sale across the state. On average, household garage sales made \$300 each, with approximately \$63 986 raised for local charities and community groups.

As a result of participation in Garage Sale Trail, 75 per cent of participants reported they were more conscious about waste and understood their role in reducing it.

Plastic Free July

The Plastic Free Foundation – a not-for-profit organisation committed to the reduction of plastic use in day-to-day living – entered into a funding partnership with the state government and Lotterywest in early 2019. An amount of \$326 725 was provided from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account, while Lotterywest contributed \$484 126. The funding will be used to engage individuals and communities in Western Australia to reduce waste and create a cleaner and healthier state.

Guidance: Household Hazardous Waste program

The Household Hazardous Waste program provides local governments and regional councils with funding to assist with the collection, storage and recovery/disposal of hazardous waste generated by households. The program is managed by the Western Australian Local Government Association and administered by the Waste Authority on behalf of the Government of Western Australia.

Since 2008, thousands of tonnes of materials have been collected from 13 permanent facilities (eight metropolitan, five non-metropolitan) and through temporary collection events. In 2018–19, 518 tonnes of materials including acids, batteries, flammable liquids, paint and cleaning products were collected for safe recovery or disposal.

Household hazardous waste describes products used in and around the home that are flammable, toxic, explosive or corrosive. If not disposed of correctly, these products can pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Better practice local government waste services

The primary collection methods for municipal solid waste are kerbside, vergeside and drop-off services. Better practice work commenced with the introduction of the Better Bins program which provided funding to support local governments to implement three bin kerbside services as set out in the *Better Bins Kerbside Collection Guidelines (2014)*.

The Waste Authority commenced a review of better practice kerbside systems with the aim of establishing best practice benchmarks and guidelines, and to inform an update to its kerbside collection guidelines to ensure the inclusion the collection of food organics and garden organics. The research identified the characteristics of kerbside services that are consistent with better practice.

In 2018–19 the Waste Authority consulted on draft guidelines for vergeside services with the Western Australian Local Government Association vergeside working group.

The vergeside guidelines will be released in 2019–20 and will be part of a suite of documents that local governments will be encouraged to refer to when designing waste and recycling services, and by so doing, support the objectives and targets in the waste strategy.

Charitable recyclers organisations

Charitable recycling organisations continued to access Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account funding through the Charitable Recyclers Rebate and the Dumping Reduction Program.

Western Australian charitable recycling organisations routinely dispose of materials left at their facilities (at donation bins or shop fronts) that have been illegally dumped or cannot be recycled or reused.

The Charitable Recyclers Rebate program provides a rebate for the cost of the waste levy incurred by charitable recycling organisations in the metropolitan area when disposing of unusable material left at their bins and premises. The program supports the continued efforts of charitable recycling organisations to divert waste from landfill and recognises that, for some items, disposal may be the only option because reuse, recycling or recovery may not be available or feasible.

Charities can claim the rebate in quarterly periods. Six charities are currently participating in the program, and were supported by rebates totalling \$274 500 in 2018–19.

In 2018, charitable recycling organisations finalised implementation of two projects funded through the Dumping Reduction Program. The program aims to reduce illegal dumping and littering, and to prevent unusable items – which ultimately end up at landfill – being left at donation sites. Charitable recyclers can access funding to support demonstration projects that implement and evaluate methods to reduce illegal dumping and littering.

Reducing littering and illegal dumping at charitable recyclers' sites is a key priority for government. In order to better support strategies and interventions that decrease littering and illegal dumping at donation sites, Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account funding to support charitable recycling organisations is being combined to prioritise reduced donations of unusable goods, and reduction in both littering and illegal dumping, in order to reduce the amount of unusable materials that need to be disposed of to landfill.

Waste Wise Schools expansion

The Waste Wise Schools program targets schools in Western Australia with educational strategies for avoiding waste, recovering waste as a resource, and reducing waste to landfill, while developing positive environmental values in students and the whole school community. These schools model

responsible environmental behaviours through hands-on learning experiences that are linked to the Australian Curriculum.

Waste Wise Schools delivered professional learning workshops, school visits and conducted project and partnership development across the Perth metropolitan and regional areas. Highlights in 2018–19 included:

- A total of 310 schools were accredited, including 37 newly accredited schools.
- Grants were provided to 84 accredited schools for projects such as recycling systems; composting and worm farming; and reuse collection infrastructure. A total of \$228 967 was awarded to schools during the financial year.
- 15 professional development workshops were delivered, while educational waste audits and student activities were undertaken at 52 schools.
- Funds were provided to support waste management activities in schools in the Kimberley.
- Funds were provided to deliver waste education workshops within early years learning services.
- Waste management curriculum material continued to be developed and provided to schools, to support teachers in the delivery of waste wise education to students.

02

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.

Infinity Awards

The Infinity Awards acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Western Australians working towards a better waste future through improved waste practices and innovative waste solutions. They are an initiative of the Government of Western Australia and are coordinated by the Waste Authority.

The awards program was refreshed in 2018 through the creation of new categories and the appointment of a consultant to manage the awards. The refreshed program attracted a record 97 entries.

The winners were announced at a gala dinner attended by 249 guests during National Recycling Week in November 2018.

This acknowledgement of the efforts of the public and local government working towards state waste management goals was appreciated and welcomed by guests.

Workpower's Balcatta Re-use Shop, which provides employment opportunities for people with disability, took out two titles – Waste Initiative of the Year and Waste Team of the Year.

Former Port Hedland mayor and founder of the Care for Hedland Environment Association, Kelly Howlett was awarded the WA Waste Award for 2018 for her work promoting a litter-free community and encouraging recycling and sustainability.

FOGO position statement

The Waste Authority published a position statement on food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection systems in May 2019. The position statement provides details about three-bin FOGO collection systems and recovery performance, and confirms the Waste Authority's support for FOGO systems to contribute to the state's municipal solid waste recovery targets. The statement underpins the commitment in the waste strategy to implement better practice three-bin FOGO collection systems across Perth and Peel by 2025.

Revise Better Bins with a FOGO focus

The Waste Authority consulted with local governments during April and May 2019, to inform the design of a revised Better Bins program aimed to support three-bin FOGO services. The consultation also sought input on matters relating to the roll-out of FOGO services more broadly, and revised better practice kerbside collection guidelines.

The consultation consisted of three workshops combined with the opportunity for stakeholders to provide written submissions. Eight written submissions were received.

Ongoing work and further consultation will be undertaken in 2019–20 to plan for key aspects of FOGO implementation with implementation of a revised Better Bins FOGO program.



Reducing waste through procurement

In February 2018, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, on behalf of the Waste Authority, engaged the services of a consultant to lead discussions with selected government agencies on the opportunities and barriers to decrease waste generation, increase recycling and recovery, and improve the use of recycled products by government agencies by modifying agency procurement practices. The findings in the consultant's report informed the development and implementation of several actions in the action plan.

During this financial year, the Department of Finance progressed a review of the State Supply Commission's sustainable procurement policy and associated guidelines to ensure currency with new international standards in sustainability. On behalf of the Waste Authority, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation participated in the review to ensure that the policy and guidelines will assist government agencies to reduce waste, increase recycling and contribute to the use of recycled products through government procurement.

On behalf of the Waste Authority, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation worked with the Department of Finance to assess all common use agreements (CUAs) developed since the release of the waste strategy with regard to the purchase of disposable plastic-based products and the increase of purchasing of recycled and low-waste products.

The review of three CUAs (for purchasing cleaning kitchen and bathroom products, office stationery and bulk groceries) was commenced. The work is ongoing and the two departments will continue to collaborate on other CUAs as they are due for review.

Roads to Reuse trial

The Waste Authority worked with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Main Roads Western Australia and the Department of Health to deliver the Roads to Reuse pilot program which aimed to use up to 25 000 tonnes of recycled construction and demolition (C&D) products in 2018–19, commencing with the Kwinana freeway widening project.

The pilot aims to:

- confirm that C&D recyclers can supply recycled products in accordance with the Roads to Reuse product specification
- assess the effectiveness of an independent audit of producers' processes and products.

The Roads to Reuse program is supported by the Waste Authority's Product Testing Scheme and an independent audit program.

In November 2018, to support the trial and the future use of C&D products, the Waste Authority released the *Roads to Reuse Product Specification – Recycled Road Base and Recycled Drainage Rock*, which focused on protecting human health and the environment.

The product specification contains obligations for C&D recyclers, including a requirement to develop an approved plan that sets out details of the recycler's processes, as well as product testing requirements.

The Waste Authority also delivered the Product Testing Scheme as part of the Roads to Reuse pilot. The Product Testing Scheme supports C&D recyclers with the cost of meeting the Roads to Reuse Product Specification, including the cost of preparing an approved plan and the cost of testing material. Two C&D recyclers participated in the Product Testing Scheme.

The Waste Authority also managed an independent audit of C&D recyclers' processes and products. Audits conducted in 2019 confirmed that the two recyclers participating in the PTS were able to supply material in accordance with the material acceptance and sampling plan. The audit has also confirmed that material produced under the Roads to Reuse framework met the required product specifications.

04

Implement local government waste plans, which align local government waste planning processes with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

Support and guidance for local government waste plans

The important role that local governments will play in achieving waste strategy targets was recognised through the inclusion of the implementation of local government waste plans as a headline strategy. Waste plans are the mechanism through which local governments will be expected to improve waste management planning across local government to:

- align local government waste management activities with the objectives and targets of the waste strategy
- positively impact municipal solid waste recovery rates
- encourage local governments to adopt better practice and preferred approaches to waste management.

In the initial phase of the roll-out of waste plans, local governments and regional councils in the Perth, Peel and major regional centres will be required to develop waste plans.

To support local governments in developing and implementing their waste plans, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation undertook initial stakeholder consultation and developed a draft *Waste Plan Resource Kit* that included waste plan templates and a guidance document. The Waste Authority provided comments on the draft resource kit.

05

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.

Litter strategy

Keep Australia Beautiful WA is mainly funded through an annual grant from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account for implementation of the *Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia 2015–20*.

The funding agreement covers six areas of work comprising research and data; education, awareness and training; enforcement; incentives; collaboration and partnerships; and administration.

Key achievements in 2018–19 included the delivery of:

- two National Litter Index audits at 151 sites across the state
- the development of a litter campaign in response to an increase in cigarette butt litter, to run in July/August 2019
- education and training events such as clean-ups and displays, the Clean Schools program and workshops in partnership with the Western Australian Local Government Association
- the Litter Report Scheme through which 1 960 litter reports were received with a 93.42 per cent conversion rate to infringements and payment. The number of litter reporters increased to 14,322, with 1,185 Western Australians registering to become litter reporters in 2018–19.

- the Adopt-a-Spot program, which had 1 254 groups registered with over 35 000 volunteers since it began in 2009. Clean-up reports showed over 5 000 bags of rubbish were collected. As each bag holds approximately 15 litres of rubbish, it is estimated that 75 000 litres of rubbish were removed from the environment in 2018–19.
- the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards. These had 42 registrations in 2018–19 – culminating the efforts of local shire and not-for-profit groups including 7 335 volunteers. Over 111 806 hours of volunteer participation drove the projects entered, helping to sustain the environmental, economic and social structure of these communities.
- remote community clean-ups, which is a new initiative through the Tidy Towns program. KABC has partnered with the Kimberley Bushrangers and Shire of Karratha for training to conduct litter audits in remote communities to promote and assist community clean-ups. A joint clean-up with the City of Karratha and the Aboriginal community at Cheeditha in the Pilbara took place in May 2019.

Further detail on Keep Australia Beautiful WA's work can be found in its 2018–19 annual report.

Improved regulatory framework for waste

The Waste Authority supported the progress by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on an improved regulatory framework for waste. Many of the initiatives and programs delivered through the Waste Authority rely on improvements to the regulatory framework.

In May 2019, the consultation paper *Mandatory use of weighbridges by landfill premises to calculate leviable waste* was released by the department for public comment. The paper proposed reforms on a consistent methodology for measuring waste by way of mandatory use of weighbridges, and the application of a levy on waste storage premises to address issues associated with the long-term storage of waste.

The department also continued its work to amend the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008 to enhance the completeness of waste and recycling data.

The waste levy aims to divert the amount of waste being disposed of at landfills by making alternatives more financially viable and supports investment in sorting and waste treatment options and related initiatives to support increased recycling.

A five-year schedule of rate increases set out in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008 was completed on 1 July 2018 when the levy reached \$70 per tonne at putrescible landfills and \$105 per cubic metre at inert landfills.

Levy funds were applied to deliver a waste levy compliance and enforcement program within the department. The objective of this program is to ensure compliance with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008. This is achieved through targeted premises inspections and, when appropriate, enforcement action.

In 2018–19, 220 inspections were carried out targeting waste levy compliance. These inspections included waste levy compliance inspections, audits of levy return forms and compliance monitoring inspections of associated industries.



06

Undertake a strategic review of Western Australia's waste infrastructure (including landfills) by 2020 to guide future infrastructure development.

Waste infrastructure planning

The Waste Authority provided input to a joint project with the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to develop a land-use planning instrument for waste infrastructure. The project is being led by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and is due for completion in late 2020.

The aim of the land-use planning instrument is to guide decision-making authorities and developers on the appropriate siting, location and design of waste infrastructure, ensuring that site locations meet state planning objectives and provide a clear development process for proponents and decision-makers.

The project was formally endorsed by the Western Australian Planning Commission in May 2019. The departments of Water and Environmental Regulation and Planning, Lands and Heritage will undertake consultation with key stakeholders in late 2019 and ensure the scope, application, structure and content of the planning instrument incorporate industry and community expectations.

The Waste Authority provided input into the development of Western Australian Planning Commission policies, including the *Modernising Western Australia's Planning System Green Paper*, *State Planning Policy 4.1 Industrial Interface*, and several *position statements*.

07

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

Waste data strategy

The Waste Authority drafted a waste data strategy in consultation with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. It sets out the principles, objectives and specific actions to be pursued by the Waste Authority and the department in relation to waste data. The waste data strategy will be released in 2019–20 following targeted industry and local government consultation.

Mandatory reporting of waste and recycling data

The Waste Authority supported consultation on the approved procedures to support liable persons in the calculation/estimation of annual reporting information. Under amendments to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations, liable persons (local governments, recyclers and large non-metropolitan landfill operators) are required to annually report waste and recycling data to the department in accordance with the approved procedures. The procedures contain approved methods that will assist persons who are liable to fulfil their reporting requirements under amendments to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations.

Consultation was undertaken on the approved procedures in the form of public consultation papers, face-to-face group workshops, webinars and one-on-one meetings. Twenty-six formal submissions were received.

The approved procedures were gazetted concurrently with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Amendment Regulations 2019 on 28 June 2019, to enable required reporting of waste and recycling data for the 2019–20 financial year.

Online system for waste reporting

The Waste Authority is administering funding through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account to develop an online reporting system to enable persons who are liable to submit annual waste and recycling data reports under the amended Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008. This work is underway for planned completion in June 2020.

MyCouncil reporting waste data

Data collected from the Waste Authority's annual *Local Government Waste and Recycling Census* was published on the MyCouncil website in April 2019, completing Action 7.5 of the waste strategy action plan.

Published data included disaggregated quantities of waste collected, disposed of to landfill and recovered by each local government for kerbside and vergeside services and will be updated annually.

The publication of local government-specific waste performance data will provide increased transparency around local government waste performance, encourage benchmarking and provide appropriate recognition of existing or improved performance.

Product stewardship

Container deposit scheme

The container deposit scheme is an example of a state-based product stewardship approach referenced in Action 8.1 of the action plan. Significant progress has been made on implementation of the container deposit scheme with an amendment to the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* having passed both houses of parliament in March 2019. Regulations to control the scheme are currently being drafted. Following a rigorous procurement process, WA Return Recycle Renew Limited was selected as the scheme coordinator to run the scheme, and develop the refund point network throughout 2019.

Projections show that over 20 years the scheme will reduce litter by 706 million containers, remove 6.6 billion containers from landfill and recycle an additional 5.9 billion containers.

The CDS will also create around 500 new jobs and provide significant opportunities for social enterprises and community groups, while complementing existing recycling efforts.

Consumers will receive a 10 cent refund for every empty eligible beverage container that they return when the scheme starts in 2020.

Plastic bags ban

The government recognises the harm caused by plastic waste, particularly to wildlife through ingestion and entanglement. The McGowan Government has taken action and implemented a ban on the supply of lightweight plastic bags from 1 July 2018.

The introduction of the plastic bag ban has been successful and the government is keen to do more to reduce plastic waste. In April the Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, launched the *Let's Not Draw the Short Straw Issues Paper* and survey. Over 8 000 submissions were received and feedback from the consultation will be used by the state government to identify options for further consideration.

Implementing the ban on lightweight plastic bags and promoting the benefits of avoiding single use plastic is consistent with the objectives of the waste strategy.

Community and Industry Engagement (infrastructure support program)

The Community and Industry Engagement program funds organisations to implement projects that divert waste from landfill, recover it as a resource, and contribute to achieving the objectives of the waste strategy. In 2018–19 the program was revised to include support for infrastructure projects.

Program funding of \$2.29 million was granted to 28 initiatives in 2018–19. Over \$1.83 million was provided to 17 organisations implementing recycling infrastructure projects across Western Australia that support recycling and recovery of materials such as plastics, cardboard, glass and construction and demolition waste. Grant recipients included a number of organisations that received funding to develop Western Australia's plastics recycling capacity, including two grants to Greenbatch Pty and Greenbatch Foundation for reprocessing equipment and education facilities, and a grant to Precious Plastics Margaret River for a community recycling project in the South West.

At least 30 jobs are expected to be created through the projects funded, including two jobs for people with disability through an \$11 000 grant to Good Samaritan Industries to convert scrap cardboard into packaging material.

Community and Industry Engagement project grants awarded in 2018–19 are listed in the tables below.

Table 3 — CIE general projects

Organisation	Project	Grant
Albany Community Environment Centre	Identify frivolous, cryptic and dumb plastic by educating the educator	\$23 126
Chairay Sustainable Plastic Company Pty Ltd	Western Australia plastic processing plant	\$93 000
City of Cockburn	Commercial food-waste trial	\$18 257
Katanning Land Conservation District Committee	The Katanning Food Service Industry – tackling waste together	\$35 245
Mindarie Regional Council	Mindarie Regional Council FOGO Trial – compost testing	\$81 450
Repair Café Fremantle	Repair Café Fremantle	\$5 250
Rottnest Island Authority	Engaging Rottnest Island visitors in waste management	\$52 405
Total Green Recycling Pty Ltd	E-Waste education for WA residents, government bodies and businesses	\$42 740
Western Australian Local Government Association	Waste summit in a non-metropolitan area/regional centre	\$10 000
Western Australian Local Government Association	Bin tagging program implementation	\$75 000
Western Australian Local Government Association	Waste and Recycle Conference sponsorship	\$26 000

Since 2005, the Community Grants Scheme has supported community groups to reduce waste generation, recover resources and reduce the impact of waste on the environment.

Although a separate funding round for the Community Grants Scheme did not take place in 2018–19, community groups continued to implement their better practice waste management projects during the year. \$178 000 of grant support was provided to community projects in 2018–19 to finalise a variety of projects including waste awareness through art, a small-scale regional community recycling centre, composting facilities and community workshops on waste.

The Community and Industry Engagement program is currently being revised to incorporate all the previous funding from Engagements in Action (the former initiative that promoted waste avoidance and reuse messages through an event or events offered across the state) and the previous Community Grants Scheme. From 2019–20 it will include combined funding for infrastructure, general and community projects.

Table 4 — CIE infrastructure projects

Organisation	Project	Grant
City of Cockburn	Expansion of cardboard recycling at Henderson Waste Recovery Park	\$27 000
City of Greater Geraldton	Reuse and recycle shop baler upgrade	\$114 000
Good Samaritan Industries	Cardboard recycler system	\$11 000
Greenbatch Pty Ltd	PET and HDPE plastic reprocessing infrastructure	\$93 442
Greenbatch Foundation Ltd	Installation of the educational facility workshop space	\$25 748
Green Machines Lab	Pilot program for onshore plastics recycling and reprocessing infrastructure	\$138 190
Green Machines Lab	Pilot program for sorting facility of plastic waste in Henderson Waste Recovery Park	\$141 661
MicroZinc Pty Ltd (ATF WKD Trust)	Landfill Class 3 C&I / C&D waste diversion and recovery	\$101 780
Precious Plastics Margaret River	Precious Plastics Margaret River	\$60 000
Shire of Broome	Glass crushing equipment	\$130 000
Shire of Collie	Purchase and construction of reuse shed	\$45 000
Shire of Northam	Old Quarry Road transfer station and reuse shop	\$310 000
Shire of Exmouth	Community Cans	\$67 300
Soft Landing Mattress Recycling	Mattress recycling processing upgrades for foam and steel recovery	\$171 600
Total Green Recycling Pty Ltd	Removal of contaminants from plastic streams using optical sorting and screening technologies	\$117 040
Town of Port Hedland	South Hedland Community Recycling Centre	\$150 000
Waste Stream Management Pty Ltd	Use of water separation technology to produce high-grade aggregates	\$130 500



Significant issues impacting the Waste Authority

Current and emerging issues and trends

The overall challenge for Western Australia in waste management is the need to minimise the amount of waste disposed to landfill, and to maximise the benefits and economic opportunities for communities in the process.

Driving waste avoidance through behaviour change will require increased research and focus if Western Australia is to meet its avoidance targets of '20 percent reduction in waste generation per capita by 2030' set out in the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030*.

Waste recovery performance is impacted by China's decision, which came into effect in January 2018, to restrict contamination levels in imported recyclables. Western Australia has since largely relied on south-east Asian markets to purchase its recycled material such as mixed plastic, mixed paper and cardboard, and these markets are also changing their requirements with reduced tolerance for contaminated materials.

To become more resilient to fluctuating international markets and trends, Western Australia must address the quality of recycled materials for off-shore processing; and at the same time create appropriate infrastructure and local markets for recycled resources. Due to its relatively small population combined with large distances, Western Australia faces ongoing challenges in establishing the optimal policy and regulatory settings to support the development of local processing and recycling infrastructure and to develop local markets.

Western Australians have demonstrated strong support for the container deposit scheme that will come on-line in early 2020. The single-use plastic bag ban commenced in 2019 and has been successful in reducing the prevalence of single use plastic bags. The subsequent community feedback and the review into single use plastics by government is a reflection of significant community interest and changing attitudes towards plastic waste.

An increase in national product stewardship and producer-responsibility schemes for everyday products, and the emergence of new waste streams such as photovoltaic systems, will likely reduce the reliance on state-based collection and recycling approaches. These initiatives result in pricing that addresses the costs of recovering problematic and priority products.

The Australian Packaging Covenant seeks to reduce the negative impacts of packaging at a national level and all Australian governments will continue to work with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation to pursue national agreed packaging targets.

Local governments are increasingly recognising the benefits of moving to a FOGO collection system. An important step in tackling this waste stream will be the development of appropriate processing infrastructure capacity and the securing of markets that use the compost and organic by-products that are produced.

The circular economy is used as a guiding concept in the waste strategy and prioritises a shift from a linear model of take, make, use and dispose to one in which materials and energy circulate in the economy for as long as possible. This type of approach can provide opportunities for increased local recycling which can lead to increased employment and reduced impacts associated with the transport of waste.

A move to a sustainable, circular economy also means that waste will be managed to protect the environment and human health and will need to be considered throughout the entire lifecycle of product, from design and manufacture, to use and eventual recycling or disposal.

Likely developments and forecast results of operations

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 and the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 Action Plan set out a number of areas in which the Waste Authority will engage with the sector on collaborations within government and between state government, local government, the community and business.

The 2019–20 business plan for the Waste Authority available on the Waste Authority's website specifies how funding has been committed to various strategies and actions identified within the waste strategy action plan.

Waste infrastructure funding

In June 2019 the Government of Western Australia delivered on a commitment to help address shrinking international recycling markets by announcing \$2.29 million, much of it for infrastructure, in the grants round of the Community and Industry Engagement Program. In 2019–20, there is a similar allocation within the Community and Industry Engagement Program for infrastructure support. This provides an opportunity for the Waste Authority to continue to support actions that will lead to a more robust set of markets for products recovered from the waste stream.

Construction and demolition waste

Work undertaken with Main Roads Western Australia on the Roads to Reuse Pilot during 2018–19 saw the preparation of the *Roads to Reuse Product Specifications – Recycled Road Base and Recycled Drainage Rock* and the use of 25 000 tonnes of C&D material on the Kwinana Freeway upgrade project.

The Waste Authority had the opportunity to work with C&D recyclers, the construction industry, government and peak bodies to leverage the improved certainty of product standards resulting from a testing and auditing regime. This market opportunity is large and it is expected that in coming years it will grow. The challenge is for government and businesses to work together to ensure consistent market uptake, thereby supporting the achievement of the Premier’s waste strategy target of ‘75 per cent material recovery by 2030’.

The stockpiling of unprocessed C&D waste and its impact on reported waste generation and landfill diversion rates has impacted the ability to accurately measure performance achieved in Western Australia against the targets in the waste strategy. Consultation on the proposed improvements in the waste levy regime will be undertaken in 2019–20 and it is expected that these will address issues associated with stockpiling.



FOGO

Local governments are increasingly supporting the headline strategy to achieve: ‘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.’

The Waste Authority will work with the department on one combined approach to revise, plan and implement Better Bins FOGO, which includes updating funding programs and better kerbside collection guidelines to include FOGO over the next year. The government has approved allocations from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery account of \$3 800 000 for these combined actions in 2019–20.

The activities planned in the short term to produce guidance for FOGO, vergeside waste collection services and drop-off facilities will support local governments in their development of waste plans and their adoption of better practices.

Regulations were introduced on 28 June 2019 to require reporting of waste and recycling data by local governments, recyclers and landfills (above 20 000 tonnes per annum) for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. The regulations are in response to ongoing challenges faced in securing timely and accurate data from the sector. It is expected that when combined with online reporting this initiative will improve the quality and consistency of data reporting into the future.

A range of waste legislation reforms are being pursued by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to support key objectives in the Waste Strategy 2030. The legislation reforms will support the reuse and reprocessing of waste for beneficial secondary use, respond to illegal waste disposal, minimise stockpiling, improve implementation of the waste levy and strengthen and streamline waste legislation.

Changes in written law

There were no changes in any written law that affected the operations of the Waste Authority during the reporting period.



Disclosures and legal compliance

Processes are in place within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to monitor and audit the financial performance of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account, as required by section 81 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* and in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*.

The management of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account is regarded as a department service for the purposes of sections 52 and 53 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*. Accordingly, the relevant financial information is contained within the department's annual report.

Ministerial directives

Under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*, the Minister for Environment may give written directions to the Waste Authority, either generally or in relation to particular matters. The Waste Authority did not receive any Ministerial directions during 2018–19.

Pricing policies of services provided

Not applicable. The Waste Authority does not apply fees or charges for goods or services.

Employment and industrial relations

Not applicable. The Waste Authority is not an employing authority and does not employ staff.

Unauthorised use of credit cards

There was no unauthorised use of credit cards by members of the Waste Authority.

Sitting Fees

Remuneration of the Waste Authority members is determined by the Governor of Western Australia, on recommendation of the Public Sector Commissioner, in accordance with the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*. Annual remuneration for 2018-19 is outlined in Table 5.

Table 5 - Remuneration

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration*
Chairman	Marcus Geisler	Sitting Fees	19 August 2014 –25 June 2019	\$44 812
Deputy Chair	Jennifer Bloom	Sitting Fees	19 August 2014 –25 June 2019	\$27 849
Member	Neil Foley	Sitting Fees	19 August 2014 –25 June 2019	\$22 294
Member	Glen McLeod	Sitting Fees	19 August 2014 –25 June 2019	\$22 294
Member	Victoria Bond	Sitting Fees	19 August 2014 –25 June 2019	\$22 294

* Includes superannuation

Director and officer liability insurance

Waste Authority members are insured under the department's insurance arrangements. Details on the department's public liability, professional indemnity and employment practices insurance are included in the department's 2018–19 annual report.

Other legal requirements

Advertising

Table 6 – Advertising

Program	Agency	\$
Single Use Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban	Optimum Media Design	26 968
Single Use Lightweight Plastic Bag Ban	Carat Australia	70 524
Recycling Week	Initiative Media	11 680
Call for EOI-Membership of the Waste Authority	Initiative Media	4 210
Total		\$ 113 381

Governance disclosures

The Waste Authority's corporate governance arrangements ensure transparency in decision-making and operation, as well as accountability to stakeholders.

The following two disclosures of potential conflicts of interest were made by members of the Waste Authority:

- During the meeting of 7 February 2019, Waste Authority member, Mr Glen McLeod, advised of a perceived conflict of interest in relation to an agenda item regarding a Shire of Boddington proposed development application received from Richgro. Due to Mr McLeod's position as a member of the Environmental Protection Authority Board, he left the meeting during this discussion and did not vote on the matter. A disclosure of interest form was completed by Mr McLeod and signed by the Chairman of the Waste Authority, Mr Marcus Geisler.
- During the meeting of 13 June 2019, Mr Geisler declared a potential, perceived conflict of interest, and removed himself from the process to review and advise on recommendations on the proposed recipients for the 2018–19 Community Industry and Engagement grants. A disclosure of interest form was completed by Mr Geisler and signed by the Acting Chair (Jennifer Bloom).

Ethics and integrity

The *Waste Authority Governance Charter* was reviewed during 2018 and approved and signed by the Waste Authority at its meeting of 7 February 2019. The Waste Authority also has an agreed code of conduct.

Procurement practices followed the Government of Western Australia's guidelines and procurement policies.

Meetings

The Waste Authority held 11 meetings during 2018–19.

Table 7 – Members' meeting attendance	
Member	Meetings attended
Marcus Geisler	11
Jennifer Bloom	11
Victoria Bond	11
Neil Foley	10
Glen McLeod	10

One 'resolution without meeting' was recorded pursuant to Schedule 1, Division 2, clause 11 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act* on 26 November 2018 for delegation to the chairman for the approval of the final version of the draft Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 and related documents.

Recordkeeping plan

The Waste Authority complied with the *State Records Act 2000* through adherence to the department's record-keeping plan.

In accordance with its code of conduct the Waste Authority ensured that official information remained confidential. The Waste Authority ensured that records of decisions and all other documentation were securely retained. Minutes of Waste Authority meetings were circulated to members with meeting agenda papers.

Waste Authority publications

During 2018–19, the Waste Authority published:

- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030*
- *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2010 Action Plan*
- *Position Statement on Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection systems*
- *Roads to Reuse Product Specifications*
- *Local Government Census 2016–17*
- *Recycling Activity in WA 2016–17* (consultant report).

wasteauthority.wa.gov.au

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