

Waste Authority Business Plan 2021–22

Supporting the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery
Strategy 2030* and associated Action Plan 2021–22

Be a GREAT Sort!

Landfill is the last resort.



Introduction 4

Waste Authority objectives and priorities 4

 Objectives and priorities: 2021–22 and the next four financial years..... 4

Headline strategies, actions and budget allocations: 2021–22 and the next four financial years 7

 Evaluation planned for 2021–22 and the next four financial years..... 8

 Actions led by DWER..... 9

 Actions led by other State Government agencies 9

Headline strategies and associated actions led, or funded, by the Waste Authority, including budget allocations in 2021–22 9

 Headline strategy 1 9

 Headline strategy 2 11

 Headline strategy 3 12

 Headline strategy 4 13

 Headline strategy 5 14

 Headline strategy 6 14

 Headline strategy 7 15

 Headline strategy 8 16

 Additional actions that support the delivery of the waste strategy 17

Five-year priorities 17

Budget for 2021–22 20

Financial projections 25

 Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account 25

 Scheduled increases in the waste levy rate 25

 Waste levy rate review 25

Estimated revenue and expenditure from the WARR Account 2021–22 to 2025–26	26
Section 16 funded services and section 80 funded functions	26
Support for the Waste Authority	26
Program and policy design, development and management	27
Administration and overheads	27
Director General and Ministerial liaison	27
Communications	27
Strategic policy, legislative reviews and amendments	27
Compliance and enforcement activities	27
Funding principles	28
Extended producer responsibility schemes	30
Container deposit scheme	30
Other matters required by the Minister	30

Introduction

The [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007](#) (WARR Act) established the Waste Authority to provide advice to the Minister for Environment (the Minister) 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. WARR Account moneys may only be applied to programs and activities authorised under the approved business plan or as otherwise approved by the Minister.

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 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
- any other matters that the Minister requires in writing.

The Waste Authority applies funds from the WARR Account to implement programs consistent with the annual business plan. 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 (DWER) forecast is that waste levy revenue will be \$83 million and the expenditure limit for the WARR Account is therefore \$20.75 million in each of the next five years.

Further information about the programs and projects administered by the Waste Authority can be found on our [website](#).

Waste Authority objectives and priorities

Objectives and priorities: 2021–22 and the next four financial years

In February 2019, the Premier of WA and the Minister released the WA [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#) (waste strategy). The waste strategy outlines this vision:

“Western Australia will become a sustainable, low-waste circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.”

This vision is supported by the three following objectives, which reflect the waste hierarchy, whereby waste avoidance is the most preferred outcome and disposal is the least preferred:

- avoid:** Western Australian's generate less waste
- recover:** Western Australian's recover more value and resources from waste
- protect:** Western Australian's protect the environment by managing waste responsibly.

This waste hierarchy concept is also complemented by the circular economy sustainability concept. A circular economy moves away from the linear “take, make, use and dispose” model to one that keeps materials and energy circulating in the economy for as long as possible. The waste strategy aims to change behaviour through a combination of strategies grouped around knowledge, infrastructure and incentives.

The waste strategy identifies high-level targets, focus materials and 50 strategies that underpin the objectives of waste avoidance, recovery and environmental protection. It is supported by the [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Action Plan 2021–22](#) (action plan), which prioritises the specific actions that will be progressed to achieve the waste strategy's objectives and sets out which agencies will lead those actions.

The Waste Authority's objectives and priorities in 2021–22, and for the subsequent four financial years, align directly with the objectives of the waste strategy and are guided by the action plan which focuses on the highest-priority strategies.

The waste strategy's vision, objectives, high-level targets and headline strategies are outlined below:

VISION	Western Australia will become a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.			Supporting documents Other documents which align with or support this Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 include the: 1. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Action Plan 2. Waste Authority position and guidance statements 3. State Waste Infrastructure Plan 4. Annual Business Plan 5. Waste Data Strategy.
OBJECTIVES	Avoid Western Australian's generate less waste.	Recover Western Australian's recover more value and resources from waste.	Protect Western Australian's protect the environment by managing waste responsibly.	
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"> 1. Develop statewide communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours. 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 regions 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 Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030. 5. 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. 6. Undertake a strategic review of Western Australia's waste infrastructure (including landfills) 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. 			

There are significant challenges ahead, given that the current rate of material recovery is about 59 per cent. The focus also needs to remain on recycling of organics and construction demolition materials to improve the overall recovery rate. The national waste export ban on glass, mixed plastics, tyres and paper and cardboard is progressively being implemented over the next three years. Significant State and Australian Government grants and investment from industry will see improved local reprocessing facilities for plastics, tyres, paper and cardboard.

This *Waste Authority Business Plan 2021–22* (business plan) supports the action plan. Good progress was made under the previous action plans, with quarterly progress reports provided to the Waste Authority and a report on overall achievements included in the Waste Authority's annual report.

This business plan focuses on the actions and activities under each of the eight headline strategies that are funded through the WARR Account for the 2021–22 financial year. Those actions, led by the Waste Authority and/or funded directly by the WARR Account, are supported by business cases approved by the Minister. Business cases are not required for those services and costs provided under sections 16 and 80 of the WARR Act, as these are addressed in the service-level agreement (SLA) between DWER and the Waste Authority. The business plan is supported by the [Waste Data Strategy](#), various Waste Authority [position and guidance statements](#) and a series of Waste Authority [programs and initiatives](#).

In addition to the proactive actions outlined in the action plan, there is additional work on issues that arise during the course of the financial year undertaken by DWER staff and Waste Authority members for which no specific resources have been allocated. Depending on the complexity of these issues, this can impact the planned work program.

Improved compliance and enforcement mechanisms to reduce levy evasion, stockpiling of waste and illegal dumping will be developed and implemented. This will also involve a review and reform of the waste regulatory framework to create a reasonable risk of enforcement and ensure that compliant entities are not disadvantaged. DWER is supporting these waste reforms, including the review of the WARR Act and regulations, the [Plan for Plastics](#) to reduce single-use plastic use, and the future schedule and conditions for the waste levy rates. Work is continuing on:

- **Improvements to waste policy regulatory framework:** DWER will continue to review and implement approved changes to the regulatory framework for waste to ensure it is appropriate, reduces the environmental impacts and risks from waste management, and facilitates adequate processing facilities to process collected materials.
- **Compliance and enforcements, including improved levy compliance and illegal dumping strategies:** DWER will continue to develop and implement mechanisms to reduce levy evasion and stockpiling of waste. The department will implement actions to protect the environment from the impacts of illegal dumping including detection, investigation and prosecution of illegal dumping, and working with landowners or managers to build their capacity to tackle illegal dumping.

- **Improved compliance with the waste policy regulatory framework:** DWER is undertaking work to review and reform regulations and policies, to create a reasonable risk of enforcement and ensure that entities which are compliant and apply better practice are not disadvantaged.

The waste strategy includes eight high-level headline strategies, which describe activities that need to be pursued to achieve these targets. The action plan expands on each of these and highlights the specific priority actions for the current year. The headline strategies underway and ahead over the next four years are:

1. Develop statewide communications to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.
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 regions 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 waste strategy.
5. Review the scope and application of the waste levy to ensure it meets the objectives of the waste strategy 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) 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.

Headline strategies, actions and budget allocations: 2021–22 and the next four financial years

This business plan focuses on actions (under each of the headline strategies) that are funded through the WARR Account. Those actions led by the Waste Authority and/or directly funded by the WARR Account are supported by business cases approved by the Minister, except for those covered in section 16 services and section 80 functions, which are addressed in the SLA between the Waste Authority and DWER.

Evaluation planned for 2021–22 and the next four financial years

The Waste Authority evaluation framework provides logic-based methodology to enable the assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of various waste programs. Evaluations of individual programs highlight the extent to which they support progress towards the waste strategy targets and will inform planning of future actions. All programs are monitored on an ongoing basis against the desired outcomes.

A formal, independent evaluation of at least one funded program per year will be undertaken. Programs scheduled for formal evaluation are broadly determined by the number of years the program has run and the cumulative budget that has been allocated. An allocation of funding for these evaluations will be incorporated into each budget. The Waste Wise Schools (WWS) program was evaluated in the 2019–20 year and the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program was evaluated in 2020–21. The WasteSorted Grants program (previously known as the Community and Industry Engagement or CIE program) will be evaluated in 2021–22, and an allocation for this work is included in the 2021–22 program budget. The schedule for future evaluations is as follows:

Timeframe	Program to be evaluated
2021–22	WasteSorted Grants program: This funding program has two streams, education and infrastructure. The program provides funding for the development and implementation of waste management projects, infrastructure, initiatives and events which contribute to waste avoidance and resource recovery and/or recognise the adoption of improved waste management practices and achievements. This program supports headline strategies 1 and 8.
2022–23	Charitable Recyclers Waste Levy Rebate and Dumping Reduction program: This funded program rebates the landfill levy paid by charitable recyclers on unusable material left at their facilities. This program supports headline strategy 8.
2023–24	Keep Australia Beautiful Council (KABC) litter strategy: KABC are implementing the <i>Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australians 2020–25</i> (litter strategy) with a focus on four strategic objectives: increasing community understanding of the impacts of litter on the environment to bring about behaviour change; contributing to the long-term prevention of litter and marine debris; regulating and enforcing the <i>Litter Act 1979</i> ; and monitoring the level of litter in WA and its marine environment and evaluating the effectiveness of programs. This program supports headline strategy 1.
2024–25	'Be a GREAT Sort' behaviour change campaign and local government communications toolkit: WasteSorted is the overall brand for the behaviour change campaign comprising a community education and awareness campaign and a communication toolkit. These were developed to help local governments communicate with their residents about the importance of separating their waste and sorting it correctly to reduce contamination in their kerbside bin services. This program supports headline strategy 1.

2025–26	<p>Bin-tagging: Bin-tagging is a direct, household by household intervention that helps to increase recycling and reduce contamination in the recycling, garden waste and organics bins. The program uses a combination of tools to achieve this outcome, including information provision and, ultimately, enforcement. This program supports headline strategies 1 and 3.</p>
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Actions led by DWER

In addition to actions led by the Waste Authority, there are other actions funded by the WARR Account, approved by the Minister under section 16 or section 80 of the WARR Act and led by DWER.

Numerous actions led by DWER are detailed in the action plan. All are addressed in a 2021–22 SLA between the Waste Authority and DWER and do not require business cases. These include: Ministerial advice on waste reform and other waste related issues; strategic waste policy development; compliance and enforcement; support for the development, assessment and approval of local government waste plans; the administration of the waste levy; and the development of a state waste infrastructure plan. The section 16 services funded by the WARR Account include: Waste Authority support; development and management of waste policies and programs; single-use plastic reduction policy and programs; illegal dumping and waste levy inspection, compliance and enforcement; Ministerial and Director General support and communications; and relevant administrative overheads.

Actions led by other State Government agencies

Further commitments in the action plan are led by several other State Government agencies, including some actions that may not fit one of the eight headline strategies but do directly support one or more of the key objectives of the waste strategy. These additional actions are specified in section 9 of the 2021–22 action plan. Actions led by organisations other than the Waste Authority or DWER are not funded through the WARR Account and therefore do not need a business case and are not further referenced in this business plan.

Headline strategies and associated actions led, or funded, by the Waste Authority, including budget allocations in 2021–22

Consistent with the overall waste strategy and the associated action plan, the Waste Authority's priorities and budget allocations for 2021–22 include:

Headline strategy 1

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

DWER and the Waste Authority will work together to implement targeted and consistent communication to divert waste from landfill, reduce municipal solid waste (MSW) contamination and support waste avoidance. The strategic approach implements better practice approaches to avoidance, recovery and disposal covering all waste generators and streams with the following components implemented in 2021–22:

Action 1.1 Deliver the WasteSorted ‘Be a GREAT Sort’ behaviour change campaign and WasteSorted local government communications toolkit: \$600,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Continue to deliver the WasteSorted behaviour change campaign using a range of communication strategies. Build on the campaign using a staged approach, which is informed by behaviour change insights and can respond to emerging priorities. This includes expanding the WasteSorted toolkit and providing support for consistent local government messaging for householders to enable better practice kerbside recycling, reduce bin contamination and support food organics and garden organics (FOGO) implementation in Perth and Peel. As part of the overall behaviour change campaign, the following programs and components will be supported:

Action 1.1.1 WasteSorted Bin-Tagging program: \$115,000 (led by Waste Authority with WALGA)

Continue to provide funding support to Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) in delivering a bin-tagging program to 100,000 households per year. The program will educate householders by providing direct feedback on kerbside bin contents together with advice on what to exclude from particular bins. The program will also gather data on the effectiveness of community education and behaviour change efforts.

Action 1.1.2 WasteSorted Grants – community education stream: \$150,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Maintain the WasteSorted grants program for a community education stream to raise awareness and support positive waste behaviour.

Action 1.1.3 WasteSorted Schools: \$500,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Continue to deliver the WasteSorted Schools (WSS) program including developing more online resources, restructuring and delivering the WSS grant program, engaging more schools to become accredited and aligning with the suite of WasteSorted programs. Develop stronger links between WSS program and the Department of Education, linking resources to the Department of Education’s sustainability framework and national curriculum.

Action 1.1.4 WasteSorted Awards: \$190,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Support the annual WasteSorted Awards program to recognise and celebrate achievements in waste avoidance, resource recovery and environmental protection.

Action 1.1.5 Promotional opportunities including National Recycling Week and the Waste and Recycle Conference: \$61,000 (led by DWER and Waste Authority)

Support the Waste and Recycle Conference and other events that contribute to consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviour. Deliver targeted messages to stakeholders, with media

partners The West Australian, who have been identified as important to the achievement of the waste strategy. Publish editorials during National Recycling Week and upon the achievement of significant milestones in the Waste Authority's program of work.

Action 1.1.6 KABC litter strategy: \$884,000 (led by DWER and Waste Authority with KABC)

Support KABC in its implementation of the litter strategy to reduce littering and manage its impacts.

Action 1.1.7 Plastic Free Foundation: \$19,250 (led by DWER and Waste Authority with Plastic Free Foundation)

Provide funding under the existing contract to support the Plastic Free Foundation in its community education work, including a year-round behaviour change program and the Plastic Free July event challenge to reduce consumption of plastics and increase recycling.

Action 1.2 Provide guidance and support to the HHW program: \$1,763,250 (led by Waste Authority with WALGA)

Support the HHW program through the multi-year funding agreement with WALGA. In consultation with key stakeholders, review, update and publish guidance for the design and operation of premises accepting HHW. HHW guidance will be incorporated into DWER's better practice guidelines for waste storage and treatment.

Action 1.3 Update Waste Authority position statements as relevant: covered in SLA (led by Waste Authority)

Review all Waste Authority position statements by December 2021 to identify if revisions or further statements are required.

Action 1.4 Support better practice local government waste services and uptake: covered in SLA (led by Waste Authority)

Continue to implement better practice kerbside services through the *Better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines* supported by the Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program. Trial the Waste Authority's *Guidelines for local government vergeside and drop-off services: better practice principles*.

In addition to the Waste Authority and DWER led actions described above and being funded through the WARR Account, a number of State Government agencies are leading actions in support of headline strategy 1 and these are specified in the 2021–22 action plan.

Headline strategy 2

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

FOGO rollout support: The Waste Authority, supported by the FOGO Reference Group, develops and implements a FOGO rollout plan which contains actions relating to

market development, engagement and education, local government services and processing. The actions relation to this are to:

Action 2.1 Progress market development: \$70,000 (led by Waste Authority)

A market development strategy for FOGO-derived materials was completed in 2020–21. Priority market development actions, informed by the strategy, will be implemented in 2021–22.

Action 2.2 Continue engagement and education: covered under Action 1.1 (led by Waste Authority)

Continue to develop FOGO materials as part of the WasteSorted communications toolkit, to help local governments communicate their waste and recycling services to residents and support consistent and effective communications across local governments.

Action 2.3 Support local government services, including implementation of the three-bin FOGO system: covered in SLA (led by Waste Authority)

Provide guidance through the better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines and develop resources to support local governments to plan and implement FOGO services. The components are below:

Original Better Bins funding commitment: \$2,425,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Continue to provide funding under original Better Bins agreements for implementing the three-bin infrastructure, under existing funding agreements.

Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO funding program: \$2,475,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Continue to provide funding support through the Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program to support local governments to introduce better practice FOGO kerbside collection systems.

Action 2.4 Guide processing: \$130,000 (led by DWER)

Develop and implement DWER composting guidelines and better practice guidelines for solid waste treatment and storage facilities. Provide FOGO-related inputs into the strategic review of WA's waste infrastructure. Support the composting industry with regulatory processes such as works approval and licence applications.

Headline strategy 3

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

DWER will support the reforms in government procurement to reduce waste generation, improve recovery of materials and encourage the purchase of locally produced recycled products. The use of locally produced recycled materials, particularly construction and demolition (C&D) and organics, in government construction projects will create a more sustainable market for these products. The following component actions implemented in 2021–22 will support this:

Action 3.1 Support government agencies to procure and use recycled products: covered in SLA (led by DWER)

Support government agencies, with a focus on agencies that have commitments in this action plan, to use recycled products in specific projects/construction applications.

Action 3.2 Support the reforms in government procurement to reduce waste: covered in SLA (led by DWER)

Continue to support collaboration between State Government agencies and industry for improved sustainable procurement practices to reduce waste generation, improve the recovery of materials and encourage the purchase of locally produced recycled products.

Action 3.3 Continue to deliver the Roads to Reuse program (to increase use of C&D materials): \$100,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Continue to implement the Roads to Reuse program to support the use of recycled C&D products in civil applications such as road construction.

In addition to the actions led by the Waste Authority described above, several other State Government agencies are leading actions in support of headline strategy 3. These are included in the 2021–22 action plan.

Headline strategy 4

Support the implementation of local government waste plans, which align local government waste planning processes with the waste strategy.

Local governments are the primary managers of MSW waste generated in WA. Improving local government waste management practices will make a significant impact on the amount of waste materials recovered. DWER developed waste plan resources to assist local governments to develop waste plans that are consistent with the waste strategy. Forty-three local governments, located in the Perth and Peel regions and major regional centres, are required to include a waste plan within their plans for the future. These plans will allow for the mapping of current performance and align local government waste management activities with the waste strategy. Final waste plans were due by March 2021, and the first annual report on implementation is required by 1 October 2022. The following component actions implemented in 2021–22 will support this:

Action 4.1 Support local governments to meet waste plan requirements: covered in SLA (led by DWER with Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries)

Provide local governments with assistance to meet their ongoing waste plan implementation and reporting requirements.

Action 4.2 Implement waste plan reporting requirements: covered in SLA (led by DWER)

Implement waste plan reporting requirements and guidance to enable local governments to report annually on the progress of their five-year waste plan, with the first annual report due to DWER by 1 October 2022.

Headline strategy 5

Review the scope and application of the waste levy to ensure it meets the objectives of the waste strategy and establish a schedule of future waste levy rates with the initial schedule providing a minimum five-year horizon.

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007* (WARR Levy Act) and *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008* (WARR Levy Regulations) provide for a landfill levy for waste received at landfill premises in the metropolitan region, and for waste collected in the metropolitan region and received at landfill premises outside the metropolitan region. The waste levy is an economic instrument that aims to reduce waste to landfill by increasing the price of landfill disposal and generating funds for a range of waste and environmental purposes. The waste strategy includes a requirement to review the waste levy (to ensure that it supports the objectives of the strategy) and to recommend future levy rates. The following actions implemented in 2021–22 will support this:

Action 5.1 Implement findings from waste levy review: *covered in SLA (led by DWER)*

A review and consultation process on the waste levy was undertaken by DWER in 2019–20 and 2020–21. The waste levy will be considered by the State Government in 2021–22 and DWER will implement the decisions resulting from the review of the scope and application of the waste levy.

Action 5.2 Establish a schedule of levy rates: *covered in SLA (led by DWER)*

Establish a schedule of future waste levy rates that provides a minimum five-year projection.

Action 5.3 Amend WARR Levy Regulations: *covered in SLA (led by DWER)*

Update the WARR Levy Regulations to reflect any changes to the scope and application of the waste levy.

Headline strategy 6

Undertake a strategic review of WA's waste infrastructure (including landfills) to guide future infrastructure development.

Planning for future waste infrastructure development for resource recovery is essential and will be undertaken in consultation with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), local government and the waste industry.

A waste infrastructure audit and needs analysis undertaken in 2020–21 will form the basis of the development of the state waste infrastructure plan, which will provide a long-term framework to guide decision-making for the planning and development of waste infrastructure in WA.

DPLH and DWER are already working together to prepare an appropriate planning instrument for waste infrastructure. It will guide the planning and decision-making for establishing and maintaining critical infrastructure. The following actions implemented in 2021–22 will support this:

Action 6.1 Develop state waste infrastructure plan: \$250,000 (led by DWER)

In consultation with State Government agencies, local government and the waste industry, develop the state waste infrastructure plan.

Action 6.2 Develop guidance for waste infrastructure planning: covered in SLA (led by DWER with DPLH)

Work with DPLH to develop the necessary planning instruments and guidance for local government and developers to facilitate appropriate siting and design of waste facilities (including landfills).

Action 6.3 Explore options for improving waste infrastructure planning: covered in SLA (led by DWER with DPLH)

Investigate options for developing a needs-based approach to planning and environmental and licensing approval of new landfills and other waste infrastructure which supports a state waste infrastructure plan, in consultation with DPLH.

Headline strategy 7

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

Data provides a foundation for the better management of waste in WA. It is essential in evaluating the state's performance, identifying issues and opportunities and enabling evidence-based decisions and actions.

Under regulation 18C of the WARR Regulations, liable persons are defined as those who provide waste services (including local governments); waste recyclers who treat, process or sort at least 1,000 tonnes of reprocessed, recycled or recovered material in a financial year; and landfills located outside of the metropolitan region which receive at least 20,000 tonnes of solid waste in a financial year. Liable persons are required to report the required data on an annual basis. The data collected is used to track progress against waste strategy targets. The following actions support this:

Action 7.1 Implement Waste Data Strategy: covered in SLA (led by Waste Authority)

Continue to implement the actions contained in the Waste Data Strategy to ensure that progress towards waste strategy targets can be appropriately monitored.

Action 7.2 Support local governments, recyclers and landfill operators in required waste and recycling data reporting: covered in SLA (led by DWER)

Continue to provide support and guidance to local governments, recyclers and large non-metropolitan landfill operators to fulfil their obligation to report waste and recycling data annually.

Action 7.3 Improve waste data (includes online reporting system, data collection, reporting and analysis): \$40,000 (led by DWER)

Maintain and update the online reporting system to enable liable entities to report the required waste and recycling data.

In addition to the actions led by the Waste Authority and DWER described above, to support headline strategy 7, other agencies such as Metronet, the Public Transport

Authority and the Water Corporation will be supporting waste data reporting, via actions specified in the 2021–22 action plan.

Headline strategy 8

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

To move WA towards a circular economy, funding will be required to support the adoption of waste avoidance practices and enable resource recovery, which will involve reviewing and developing local infrastructure. The Waste Authority will identify priority areas for funding to support these goals. The actions associated with this are to:

Action 8.1 Support Containers for Change (container deposit scheme): covered in SLA (led by DWER)

DWER will continue working with the scheme coordinator and stakeholders to maintain, promote and regulate the Containers for Change program.

Action 8.2 Provide governance support to Containers for Change: \$55,000 (led by DWER)

Oversee and evaluate the scheme coordinators' financial activities, annual report and annual business plan by June 2022.

Action 8.3 Participate in national and cross-jurisdictional waste policy and program initiatives and decision-making processes: covered in SLA (led by DWER)

Continue to actively participate in regular inter-jurisdictional meetings to support the Environment Ministers Meetings, heads of environmental protection agencies and Australian Government decision-making processes. Prepare briefing papers and support materials based on local research, desktop studies and industry consultation to further WA's position on national waste issues.

Action 8.4 Support product stewardship: \$20,000 (led by DWER)

Continue to support aligned product stewardship schemes, including Containers for Change, the Australian Packaging Covenant, National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme, Tyre Product Stewardship Scheme, Paintback, Fluorocycle and the development of schemes for photovoltaic systems and batteries.

Action 8.5 Facilitate waste avoidance and recovery: Continue to identify current and future needs and support requirements for waste avoidance and improved material recovery, including:

Action 8.5.1 Support for increasing WA's recycling and reprocessing capacity: covered in SLA (led by DWER and Waste Authority)

Establish and manage the allocated State and Australian Government funding provided to increase WA's reprocessing and recycling capacity in plastics, tyres and mixed paper and cardboard.

Action 8.5.2 Continuation of WasteSorted Grants – infrastructure support stream: \$1,000,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Maintain the WasteSorted infrastructure support stream funding program for additional or enhanced recycling infrastructure.

Action 8.5.3 Support for emerging and priority waste streams: \$580,000 (led by DWER and Waste Authority)

Support the development of solutions to emerging and priority waste streams. Focus on the implementation of WA's Plan for Plastics, collaboration with the Sustainable Communities and Waste Hub as part of the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program (NESP2), and emerging waste streams as a result of COVID-19 recovery and State Government priorities.

Action 8.5.4 Initial policy development for e-waste landfill ban: covered in SLA (led by DWER and Waste Authority)

Prepare for planned 2024 e-waste landfill ban, including policy development, regulations, compliance requirements and grant administration for e-waste recycling facilities.

Action 8.5.5 Grant management software: \$15,000 (led by DWER and Waste Authority)

Subscribe to annual grant management software for improved grant governance.

Action 8.6 Implement Charitable Recyclers waste levy rebate: \$310,000 (led by Waste Authority)

Ensure eligible charities are not financially disadvantaged by providing a rebate to the waste levy incurred when disposing of unusable items to landfill.

Additional actions that support the delivery of the waste strategy

Several other State Government agencies are also undertaking additional actions that support the delivery of the waste strategy. These are specified in the 2021–22 action plan.

These actions demonstrate the important steps currently being taken by the State Government to further the objectives of the waste strategy by avoiding waste, increasing recovery and protecting the environment, and align with the overall vision of the waste strategy.

Five-year priorities

The Waste Authority's priorities over the next five years will remain aligned with the waste strategy. DWER and the Waste Authority will continue to work together to deliver waste policies and programs, focused on avoiding waste generation, recovering more value and resources from waste, and protecting human health and the environment.

Essential waste policy and compliance work is underway and will continue over the next five years, primarily led by DWER. This includes waste reform work and changes to the regulatory framework for waste to ensure it is appropriate, reduces the environmental impacts and risks from waste management, and allows for adequate processing facilities to sort collected materials. DWER's waste priorities include the review and reform of regulations, legislation and national and state policies. DWER will also continue to develop and implement mechanisms to reduce levy evasion and stockpiling of waste, and implement actions to protect the environment from the impacts of illegal dumping. Such actions include detection, investigation and prosecution of illegal dumping, and working with landowners or managers to build their capacity to tackle illegal dumping. DWER will also continue its focus on effective enforcement improvements and ensure that entities which are compliant and apply better practice are not disadvantaged.

The priorities, as outlined in the 2021–22 action plan, include:

- **Headline strategy 1:** Engaging with stakeholders to align WasteSorted messaging and maintain a range of effective communications strategies and events, including the WasteSorted website, the WasteSorted toolkit, social marketing, media, education and engagement mechanisms. This includes building on and providing support for consistent local government messaging for householders for better practice kerbside recycling and reduced bin contamination, and supporting FOGO implementation, particularly in Perth and Peel. Continuing support of established programs, including schools and community education, HHW facilities, rebates for charities, research and recognition of better practice waste management.
- **Headline strategy 2:** Implementing the FOGO rollout plan, with support from the Waste Authority's FOGO Reference Group, with a focus on market development, processing capacity to keep pace with generation, engagement and education. The Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO funding program will continue to support local government participants to transition to three-bin FOGO systems by 2025.
- **Headline strategy 3:** Supporting ongoing improvements in government procurement to reduce waste generation, increase recovery of materials and encourage purchase of locally produced recycled products. This includes a continued focus on the increased use of recycled C&D materials in road base and other projects through the Roads to Reuse program.
- **Headline strategy 4:** Supporting local governments and regional councils in their five-year waste plan implementation and annual reporting.
- **Headline strategy 5:** Implementing the decisions resulting from the review of the scope and application of the waste levy.
- **Headline strategy 6:** Finalising the state waste infrastructure audit and enhance planning for the future.

- **Headline strategy 7:** Providing guidance to liable entities required to report waste and recycling data under the WARR Regulations, including through the online reporting system. This will ensure accurate waste data collection and reporting to allow waste generation, recovery and disposal performance to be assessed in a timely manner.
- **Headline strategy 8:** Providing funding to promote the recovery of more value and resources from waste with an emphasis on focus materials. This will include facilitating new local infrastructure funded by the State and Australian Governments, to improve local processing and recycling of paper and cardboard, plastics, and tyres; supporting further funding opportunities through WasteSorted grants rounds; supporting existing and emerging product stewardship schemes, including Containers for Change; and reforming and improving national waste practices. This strategy also prioritises developing policy for the e-waste landfill ban, involving new regulations, compliance resources and grant administration support for new e-waste recycling facilities.

Budget for 2021–22

Business plan activity area	Waste strategy objective				2021–22 \$
	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation	
Led or directly funded programs by the Waste Authority					
Headline strategy 1					
1.1 Deliver the WasteSorted ‘Be a GREAT Sort’ behaviour change campaign and WasteSorted local government communications toolkit	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$600,000
1.1.1 WasteSorted Bin-Tagging program		✓	✓		\$115,000
1.1.2 WasteSorted Grants – community education stream	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$150,000
1.1.3 WasteSorted Schools	✓	✓	✓		\$500,000
1.1.4 WasteSorted Awards	✓	✓	✓		\$190,000
1.1.5 Promotional opportunities including National Recycling Week and the Waste and Recycle Conference	✓	✓	✓		\$61,000
1.1.6 KABC litter strategy	✓	✓	✓		\$884,000
1.1.7 Plastic Free Foundation	✓				\$19,250
1.2 Provide guidance and support to the HHW program			✓		\$1,763,250
1.3 Update Waste Authority position statements as relevant				✓	Covered in SLA
1.4 Support better practice local government waste services and uptake				✓	Covered in SLA
Headline strategy 2					
Provide FOGO rollout support:		✓	✓		

Business plan activity area	Waste strategy objective				2021–22 \$
	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation	
2.1 Progress market development		✓	✓		\$70,000
2.2 Continue engagement and education		✓	✓		Covered in Action 1.1
2.3 Support local government services, including implementation of the three-bin FOGO system, which involves:		✓	✓		Covered in SLA
Original Better Bins funding commitment		✓	✓		\$2,425,000
Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO funding program		✓	✓		\$2,475,000
2.4 Guide processing (implement DWER composting guidelines)		✓	✓		\$130,000
Headline strategy 3					
3.1 Support government agencies to procure and use recycled products	✓	✓			Covered in SLA
3.2 Support the reforms in government procurement to reduce waste	✓	✓			Covered in SLA
3.3 Continue to deliver the Roads to Reuse program (to increase use of C&D materials)		✓	✓		\$100,000
Headline strategy 4					
4.1 Support local governments to meet waste plan requirements	✓	✓	✓	✓	Covered in SLA
4.2 Implement waste plan reporting requirements	✓	✓	✓	✓	Covered in SLA
Headline strategy 5					
5.1 Implement findings from waste levy review	✓	✓	✓	✓	Covered in SLA
5.2 Establish a schedule of levy rates				✓	Covered in SLA
5.3 Amend WARR Levy Regulations				✓	Covered in SLA
Headline strategy 6					

Business plan activity area	Waste strategy objective				2021–22 \$
	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation	
6.1 Develop state waste infrastructure plan		✓	✓	✓	\$250,000
6.2 Develop guidance for waste infrastructure planning		✓	✓	✓	Covered in SLA
6.3 Explore options for improving waste infrastructure planning		✓	✓	✓	Covered in SLA
Headline strategy 7					
7.1 Implement Waste Data Strategy				✓	Covered in SLA
7.2 Support local governments, recyclers and landfill operators in required waste and recycling data reporting				✓	Covered in SLA
7.3 Improve waste data (including online reporting system, data collection, reporting and analysis)	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$40,000
Headline strategy 8					
8.1 Support Containers for Change (container deposit scheme)		✓			Covered in SLA
8.2 Provide governance support to Containers for Change		✓			\$55,000
8.3 Participate in national and cross-jurisdictional waste policy and program initiatives and decision-making processes	✓	✓	✓	✓	Covered in SLA
8.4 Support product stewardship		✓		✓	\$20,000
8.5 Facilitate waste avoidance and recovery, by providing:					
8.5.1 Support for increasing WA's recycling and reprocessing capacity		✓	✓		Covered in SLA
8.5.2 Continuation of WasteSorted Grants – infrastructure support stream		✓	✓		\$1,000,000
8.5.3 Support for emerging and priority waste streams	✓	✓	✓		\$580,000
8.5.4 Initial policy development for e-waste landfill ban		✓	✓		Covered in SLA

Business plan activity area	Waste strategy objective				2021–22 \$
	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation	
8.5.5 Grant management software				✓	\$15,000
8.6 Implement Charitable Recyclers waste levy rebate	✓	✓	✓		\$310,000
Other actions supporting the waste strategy					
Operational costs for compliance and enforcement, illegal dumping and waste levy inspections (e.g. surveillance equipment and prosecution costs)			✓	✓	\$285,000
WARR Division and Waste Authority miscellaneous costs	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$34,500
SUB TOTAL					\$12,072,000

Business plan activity area	Waste strategy objective				2021–22 \$
	Avoid	Recover	Protect	Foundation	
Services and functions funded under section 16 and section 80 of the WARR Act and covered in the SLA					
Waste policy and program design, development and management				✓	Covered in SLA
Strategic policy (waste reform, legislation, national policy and environmental policy)				✓	Covered in SLA
Waste Authority support				✓	Covered in SLA
Waste operations compliance and enforcement (Illegal dumping, waste levy inspection, waste operations oversight and compliance and enforcement oversight)				✓	Covered in SLA
Strategy and engagement (communication and executive)				✓	Covered in SLA
Ministerial and Director General support				✓	Covered in SLA
Administration and overheads (Finance, IT, HR, Legal Services, Accommodation and Corp Services Executive)				✓	Covered in SLA
SUB TOTAL					\$8,678,000
TOTAL					\$20,750,000

***Note:** Funded activities should operate within anticipated budget; however, there is a need to remain flexible and responsive to changing circumstances, and a 25 per cent variation (up or down) in any given line item is permitted with the approval of the Waste Authority's Chair, on the basis that the overall expense limit for the year is not exceeded. If a variation of more than 25 per cent is required, Ministerial approval will be sought.

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 [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 until at least 30 June 2022*	\$70	\$70	\$105

* Future waste levy rates to be determined by current waste levy review process.

** 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. DWER's forecast is that waste levy revenue will be \$83 million and the expenditure currently approved for the WARR Account is \$20.75 million in each of the available out-years.

Waste levy rate review

The last scheduled increase in the levy rate was on 1 July 2018. In February 2020, the Minister advised there would be no increase to the 2020–21 waste levy. Future waste levy rates to be determined by the current waste levy review process.

The Waste Authority may provide advice to the Minister on further changes to the levy rate beyond this period, in accordance with section 4 of the WARR Act.

Estimated revenue and expenditure from the WARR Account 2021–22 to 2025–26¹

Description	2021–22 Forward Estimate \$'000	2022–23 Forward Estimate \$'000	2023–24 Forward Estimate \$'000	2024–25 Forward Estimate \$'000	2025–26 Forward Estimate \$'000
Receipts					
Waste levy revenue	83,000	83,000	83,000	83,000	83,000
Interest received	850	850	850	850	850
Total receipts	83,850	83,850	83,850	83,850	83,850
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
Waste levy rate (applied against Waste levy revenue)	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%

Section 16 funded services and section 80 funded 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.

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 undertaken by DWER.

The 2021–22 initiatives funded under sections 16 and 80 as approved by the Minister are as below:

Support for the Waste Authority

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

¹ Although the revenue from the waste levy varies slightly from year to year, the table of revenue and expenditure anticipates no change in the levy charge per tonne or 25 per cent hypothecation waste levy rate for waste strategy implementation. The levy rate for the period after June 2022 will depend on the outcomes of the waste levy review process undertaken in 2020–21.

Program and policy design, development and management

- This includes the delivery of strategic policy, such as policies and programs to avoid generating waste, recover more value and resources from waste, and protect human health and the environment; and the amendment of regulations and legislations related to waste and national policy.
- It also includes services to ensure that activities funded by the WARR Account are planned, implemented and evaluated effectively and in accordance with WARR legislation, the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the State Supply Commission Policy.

Administration and overheads

- Administrative and overhead costs include those associated with finance and administration, business systems, human resources, legal services and accommodation provided by DWER.

Director General and Ministerial liaison

- This includes correspondence and advice on waste-related issues, Ministerial briefing notes, events and parliamentary question responses.

Communications

- Communications services include drafting media statements, responding to media enquiries, monitoring the media, graphically designing publications, further developing and maintaining the Waste Authority website, and supporting annual events such as the Local Government Convention and the Waste and Recycle Conference.

Strategic policy, legislative reviews and amendments

- WARR Account funds will be applied to support DWER to undertake legislative reviews and amendments. These include: strategic policy, national policy, programs and environmental policy.

Compliance and enforcement activities

- These include levy compliance and enforcement activities for landfill premises. DWER provides environmental investigative capability and single-point

accountability for regulatory complaints to achieve statewide enforcement outcomes in line with the WARR Act and the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

- An illegal dumping team in the DWER delivers statewide 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.

These section 16 services and section 80 functions are provided through DWER in line with a memorandum of understanding (23 September 2009) and an annually reviewed SLA between the two parties.

Funding principles

The WARR Act states 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 the 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	Funded activities should result in a reduction in the impact of waste generated and the protection of the state's environmental resources.
Innovation and growth	Funded activities should consider innovation that enables and expands our waste management capacity and knowledge.
Better practice	Funded activities should promote better practice approaches in waste management and consider the full costs, benefits and impacts of waste management decisions.

Waste as a resource	Funded activities should consider 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 this is likely to lead to an outcome that is associated with greater benefits for the state and/or a more efficient delivery of outcomes.
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.
Be flexible and responsive	Funded activities should operate within anticipated budget; however, there is a need to remain flexible and responsive to changing circumstances, and a 25 per cent variation (up or down) in any given line item is permitted with the Waste Authority Chair's approval, on the basis that the overall expense limit for the year is not exceeded. If a variation of more than 25 per cent is required, Ministerial approval will be sought.

Extended producer responsibility schemes

Container deposit scheme

The State Government implemented a container deposit scheme on 1 October 2020.

This example of an extended producer responsibility scheme involves beverage manufacturers paying for refunds on empty containers and to fund a collection system. Consumers pay an additional amount as part of the product's purchase price, which provides a financial incentive to recycle empty containers.

WARR Account funds were applied to support DWER to develop a container deposit scheme for WA.

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. There is a joint national and state commitment to provide funding to support reprocessing of waste materials impacted by the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) 2019 waste export ban. Other national initiatives include the development and support of product stewardship schemes such as the Australian Packaging Covenant, the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme, Paintback and the Tyre Stewardship Scheme. Product stewardship schemes are currently being developed for batteries and photovoltaic systems.

Other matters required by the Minister

The Minister does not require the Waste Authority to include any other matters in the 2021–22 business plan.

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