



Directions paper

Review of Western Australia's
Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030



Waste
Strategy
Western Australia
May 2023



Waste Authority

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This document is available in alternative formats and languages on request to the Waste Authority.

Statutory context

The Waste Authority is charged with promoting better waste management practices in Western Australia under the *Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Act 2007*. One of the Authority's functions under the Act is to draft, for the Minister for Environment's approval, a long-term waste strategy for the whole of the state for continuous improvement of waste services, waste avoidance and resource recovery, benchmarked against best practice and targets for waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill disposal. The strategy takes a 10-year and beyond view and must be reviewed at least every five years. This Discussion Paper supports the waste strategy review process.

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Message from the Minister

In Western Australia we care about protecting our unique natural environment and living in more sustainable ways. More than ever, Western Australians want the opportunity to minimise their waste generation and positively contribute to the recovery of valuable resources from waste materials.

In 2019, the State Government released a blueprint for a more sustainable, low-waste state. The [Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030](#) (waste strategy) set objectives and targets for better waste performance and a more circular economy.

I am pleased that we have seen improvements in many areas thanks to the collective efforts of community, industry and government. We have reduced the generation of waste and increased our recycling rates. The State Government is proud to have contributed to these achievements through key initiatives, such as

the phasing out of problematic single-use plastics through [Western Australia's Plan for Plastics](#), introducing the [Containers for Change](#) program, and supporting the recovery of organics, and construction and demolition waste. We will also be introducing bans on the disposal of e-waste to landfill in 2024.

Despite substantial progress in some areas, we need to do more to protect public health and the environment, and support a vibrant economy in which the value of waste materials is recognised.

This review of the waste strategy, led by the Waste Authority, is timely and provides an opportunity to reflect on how we are performing, what is working, and where we could do better. This directions paper seeks early input to assist in shaping the review and defining focus areas. There will also be further opportunities for input at later stages of the review.

I encourage you to engage proactively in the review process. Waste is everyone's responsibility and we want to know how you think it should be managed. Your feedback will ensure that the updated waste strategy is one we can be proud of, and reflects the aspirations of all Western Australians.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reece Whitby'.

Hon Reece Whitby MLA
Minister for Environment;
Climate Action



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This section sets out areas the Waste Authority proposes to focus on in our review. It seeks your views on the current waste strategy and priorities for the future. We ask you questions about our current waste strategy, including the vision, objectives, targets and principles. We then ask for views on areas the Waste Authority has identified as being a focus for the review.

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How we will consult

The Waste Authority is committed to engaging with the community to ensure our updated waste strategy reflects the views and aspirations of all Western Australians. The Waste Authority is implementing a phased approach to consultation, starting with this directions paper seeking feedback on the areas proposed to be the focus of the review.

Phase 1:
Directions paper
(mid 2023)

Phase 2:
Draft waste strategy
(late 2023)

Phase 3:
Modified draft waste
strategy (early 2024)

Phase 1: Directions paper (mid 2023)

This directions paper sets out the key areas the Waste Authority proposes to focus on in the review and provides opportunity for you to comment. Your input to this first phase of consultation will inform and help set the direction for the draft updated waste strategy. We encourage you to make a submission. You will also have an opportunity to comment on the draft waste strategy later in the review.

To ensure we gather a representative snapshot, we will also commission independent market researchers to identify views of the broader community. These views will be considered alongside comments in response to this directions paper.

Phase 2: Draft waste strategy (late 2023)

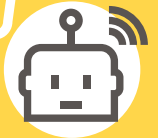
The input from phase 1 will inform our draft updated waste strategy, which will be released for consultation for a minimum of 12 weeks.

We will run public information sessions to work through the draft strategy and encourage feedback. We will also commission a second round of market research to provide an opportunity for the broader community to provide input.

Phase 3: Modified draft waste strategy (early 2024)

If the waste strategy is modified after considering submissions from phase 2, the Waste Authority will refer the modified draft waste strategy to each entity that made a submission.

Making a submission



The consultation for Phase 1 (comments in response to this paper) closes at

5pm on Tuesday 11 July 2023.

Electronic submissions (preferred) can be lodged:



through the [online consultation survey](#) available on the department's website, and accessible through the Waste Authority website, or

by email to wastestrategyreview@dwer.wa.gov.au

Hard copy submissions can be mailed to:



Waste Strategy Review
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 10,
Joondalup DC WA 6919

For further information on this consultation please contact: (08) 6364 6965.



Part 1: Setting the scene

This section provides an overview of Western Australia's waste strategy and our ongoing commitments. It summarises our waste and recycling performance and identifies key issues and opportunities which may inform an updated waste strategy.

1.1 Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030

The waste strategy sets out the strategic direction for waste management and resource recovery in Western Australia (WA). Released in 2019, the strategy contains a vision for WA to become a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which public health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.

The strategy contains three objectives – **avoid**, **recover** and **protect** – which align with the waste hierarchy and circular economy concept. Each objective is supported by targets which are based on outcomes that can be achieved by implementing better practice approaches to waste management.

The strategy also includes targets for three solid waste streams: municipal solid waste (MSW); construction and demolition (C&D) waste; and commercial and industrial (C&I) waste. These streams, for the purposes of monitoring and reporting, are primarily solid waste but may also include some types of liquid waste.



Vision	WA will become a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.		
Objectives	Avoid <i>Western Australians generate less waste.</i>	Recover <i>Western Australians recover more value and resources from waste.</i>	Protect <i>Western Australians protect the environment by managing waste responsibly.</i>
Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2025 10 per cent reduction in waste generation per capita ○ 2030 20 per cent reduction in waste generation per capita 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2025 Increase material recovery to 70 per cent ○ 2030 Increase material recovery to 75 per cent ○ From 2020 Recover energy only from residual waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2030 No more than 15 per cent of waste generated in Perth and Peel regions is landfilled. ○ 2030 All waste is managed and/or disposed to better practice facilities

MSW: Solid waste generated from domestic (residential) premises and local government activities.

C&I waste: Waste that is produced by institutions and businesses, including offices, schools, restaurants, retail and wholesale businesses, and industries such as manufacturing. Also includes waste from primary and secondary production, such as mining and minerals processing.

C&D waste: Waste produced by demolition and building activities, including road and rail construction and maintenance, and excavation of land associated with construction activities.

The waste strategy was released following extensive consultation with the WA community. It builds on previous commitments to divert waste from landfill, but reflects a more modern approach to waste management by better aligning objectives and targets with the waste hierarchy. It focuses on avoiding the generation of waste, valuing waste as a resource which should be recovered at its highest value, and protecting the environment from the impacts of processing and disposing of waste.

Recovering materials at their highest value gives effect to a more circular economy – one of the guiding concepts in our strategy. A circular economy presents opportunities for local recycling which supports investment and jobs, and reduces the impacts and costs of transporting materials to distant markets.

The strategy supports circular economy commitments, for example through its targets (such as the **material** recovery targets, and the target to recover energy only from residual waste) and its headline commitments such as the rollout of three-bin FOGO (food organics and garden organics) kerbside services across the Perth and Peel regions.

The waste strategy is built on five key principles, aligned with legislation, to drive decision-making:

- Shared responsibility and partnership – owning your impact
- Innovation and growth
- Better practice
- Waste as a resource
- Intergenerational equity

Waste management is a shared responsibility. The waste strategy recognises that everyone generates waste, and we all have a responsibility to avoid and better manage our waste. These responsibilities cut across all tiers of government, industry and the community (including individuals and households). The waste strategy describes our collective roles and responsibilities in managing waste.

The strategy also identifies materials which are the focus of actions and measurement: C&D waste, organics, metals, paper/ cardboard, glass/packaging, plastics/ packaging, textiles and hazardous waste. These materials were identified as being important to achieving waste strategy objectives and targets.

The strategy is implemented through a range of annual commitments, such as business and action plans, and guidance documents (e.g. better practice guidelines and position statements). Supporting materials continue to be developed and reviewed.



1.2 Our ongoing commitments

Since the 2019 release of the waste strategy, we have made considerable progress towards delivering our headline strategies – many of which are longer-term commitments that we will continue to deliver.

These strategies remain a key priority as they set the foundations for future actions.



Our ongoing commitments



Statewide communications and behaviour change

The State Government has been supporting local governments to provide ongoing education and resources to the community, schools and other stakeholders to support behaviour change. Annual research shows that community attitudes are improving – reducing contamination, increasing recycling and composting, and generating lower volumes of general waste.

The State Government will continue to support programs to engage communities and encourage better waste avoidance and disposal behaviours.



Increased recovery of organics from MSW streams

Organics make up about half of the MSW stream. When disposed to landfill, organic material can contribute to environmental impacts, including the generation of greenhouse gases. Through the recovery of organic material, we can avoid these impacts and generate valuable products such as mulch and nutrient-rich compost. This value would be lost through other waste management options, such as landfill disposal or waste-to-energy.

The State Government is supporting improved organics recovery through engagement and education, funding

to local governments, investing in processing, and developing strategies for market development.

The State Government will continue to support services – such as FOGO services – which are demonstrated to achieve high levels of organics recovery and make a significant contribution to achieving WA targets.





Government procurement practices that encourage greater use of recycled products and support local market development

The State Government is increasingly using recycled products in its own projects, including purchasing and using recycled C&D materials (such as [Roads to Reuse](#) products), organics and recycled rubber/tyre products across transport infrastructure projects. It is also working to embed commitments into its procurement policies and practices, such as through its procurement guidelines and common use agreements.

In addition, the State Government is supporting other entities – including local governments and the private

sector – to use recycled products. As part of an ongoing legislative reform program, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department) is developing a recovered materials framework to provide greater clarity about the use of certain materials and build confidence in recycled products. We are also supporting recycling markets in the C&D and organics sectors through our C&D and FOGO rollout plans.

The State Government recognises there is still more to be done and will continue to embed sustainability principles across its operations.

The State Government recognises there is still more to be done and will work to embed sustainability principles across the board.



Review and update data collection and reporting systems

The department and the Waste Authority have delivered projects to improve the accuracy, timeliness, completeness and availability of waste and recycling data including:

- mandatory reporting requirements under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008 (WARR Regulations)
- [Waste Data Online](#) – an online reporting system
- an annual compliance audit program for reporters
- publishing new resources including the [Waste and recycling in Western Australia](#) report; interactive dashboards and data downloads on the Waste Authority website; and releasing local government waste and recycling data via the MyCouncil portal.



In addition, the State Government continues to collaborate with the Australian and State and Territory governments to improve and harmonise waste data collection and reporting.

We are all committed to building on our data improvement work, with a focus on delivering the mandatory waste data reporting program and reviewing and updating waste data-related actions.





Reviewing WA's waste infrastructure (including landfills) to identify infrastructure needs and guide development

A draft state waste infrastructure plan was released in April 2023 for public consultation. The plan provides an information framework to guide decision-making for the planning and development of waste infrastructure in WA. With an outlook to 2050, it focuses on the waste and recycling infrastructure needed for the state to achieve waste strategy targets by 2030.

The department has established a separate consultation process for the draft infrastructure plan. We encourage you to provide specific comments through that process by 23 June 2023. Details are available at consult.dwer.wa.gov.au.



Waste levy review

In response to a headline commitment in the waste strategy, the department has progressed a review of the waste levy – resulting in an increase to the levy rate in line with inflation (from \$70 per tonne, to \$85 per tonne). This will take effect from 1 July 2024. A rolling five-year schedule of rates will be published each year.

Further work will be undertaken, through and alongside this review, to consider broader reforms to the levy's rate and geographic scope.



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

The State Government delivers funding to support better waste management practices and the achievement of waste strategy objectives and targets. It also partners with the Commonwealth to deliver infrastructure in response to agreed national priorities. Through the [Recycling Modernisation fund](#), WA has committed \$35 million to invest in recycling infrastructure to recover materials affected by waste export bans. As a state, we are also investing \$5.6 million in organics recycling infrastructure through the [Food Waste for Healthy Soils](#) program.

In addition, [WasteSorted Infrastructure grants](#) and the \$20 million [Better Bins Plus: GO FOGO](#) program support recovery infrastructure for focus materials.

The State Government will continue to support investments which address key priorities.



Other ongoing commitments

In addition to delivering the headline strategies, the State Government remains committed to delivering or supporting many other priorities, including:

- implementing [WA's Plan for Plastics](#) to address problematic single-use plastics
- delivering [Containers for Change](#), our container deposit scheme, to increase recycling and reduce litter
- implementing a ban on e-waste disposal by 2024
- working with the Australian Government to strengthen and improve product stewardship schemes
- developing a suite of better practice guidance materials to help facilities that manage waste achieve better practice environmental performance
- progressing legislative proposals to improve waste management in WA
- working with local governments to adopt consistent, better practice waste services which contribute to achieving national and state targets.

Review of the waste levy
Consultation paper
February 2020

Stage 2 of
Western Australia's
**Plan for
Plastics**

The next stage of phase outs
for single-use plastics

Product stewardship is an approach to managing the impacts of different products and materials. It acknowledges that those involved in producing, selling, using and disposing of products have a shared responsibility to ensure that those products or materials are managed in a way that reduces their impact, throughout their life cycle, on the environment and on public health and safety.

1.3 Our performance

So, how is WA tracking against the waste strategy targets?

The news is mixed.

The most recent waste and recycling data is for 2021–22, which is only three full financial years following the 2019 release of the strategy. Figures for 2021–22 are provisional, with final numbers expected to be published around July 2023. Although the data sets are limited, they provide an early indication of progress against the waste strategy targets.

Since 2014–15, the baseline year for WA's waste strategy, recycling performance has improved in comparison with other jurisdictions, though notably from a lower base.

Avoid targets

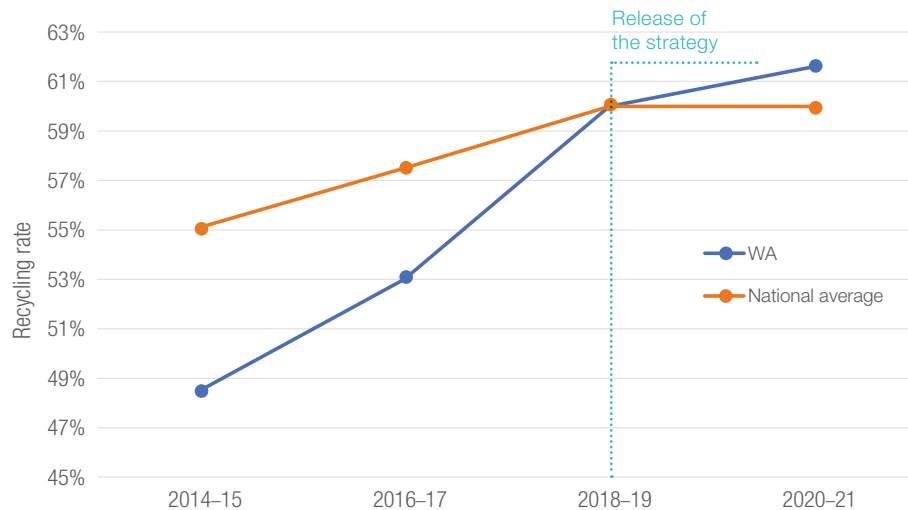
The introduction of mandatory data reporting in 2019 has resulted in a more comprehensive data set. This improved data indicates an increase in waste generation, particularly in relation to C&D waste; however, the actual extent of this increase compared with the years before the introduction of mandatory reporting is unknown. The achievement of the overall avoid target is dependent on success in the C&D waste sector, as it represents more than 50 per cent of overall waste generation.

Waste generation of C&I has been trending down marginally from 2014–15 until 2020–21. A noticeable increase in generation in 2021–22 includes a surge in additional metal recovery, but

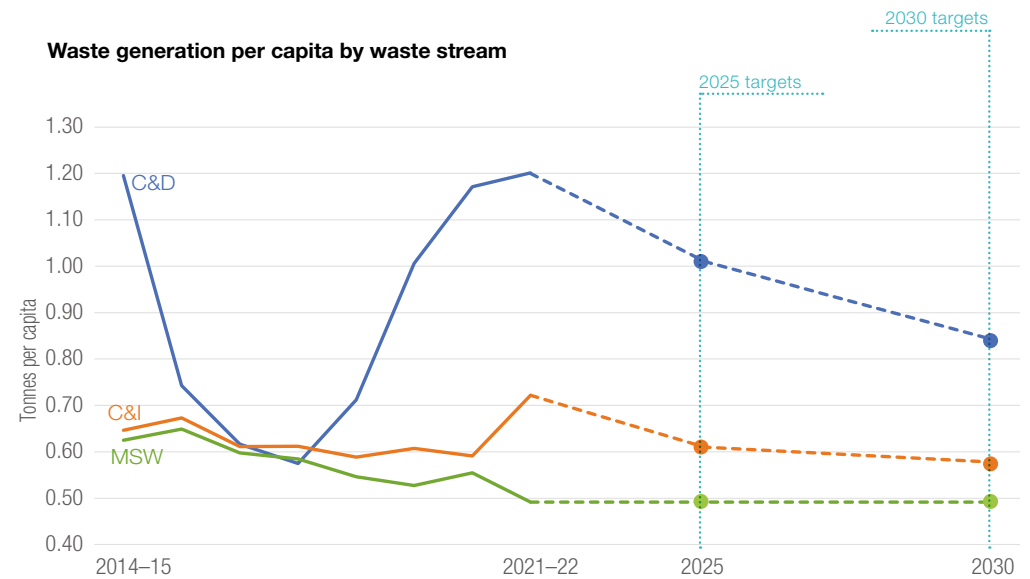
may also reflect misallocation within reporting for the C&I and MSW streams, as MSW generation fell by a broadly similar amount. No specific changes in the MSW sector appear to explain the noticeable drop in generation in 2021–22. Based on the longer-term trends the data indicates that sustained progress is being made towards the MSW avoid; however, slow or inconsistent progress is being made towards the C&I avoid target.

It should be noted that per capita rates can be volatile because of variable reporting of waste streams.

WA and National average recycling rate



Waste generation per capita by waste stream



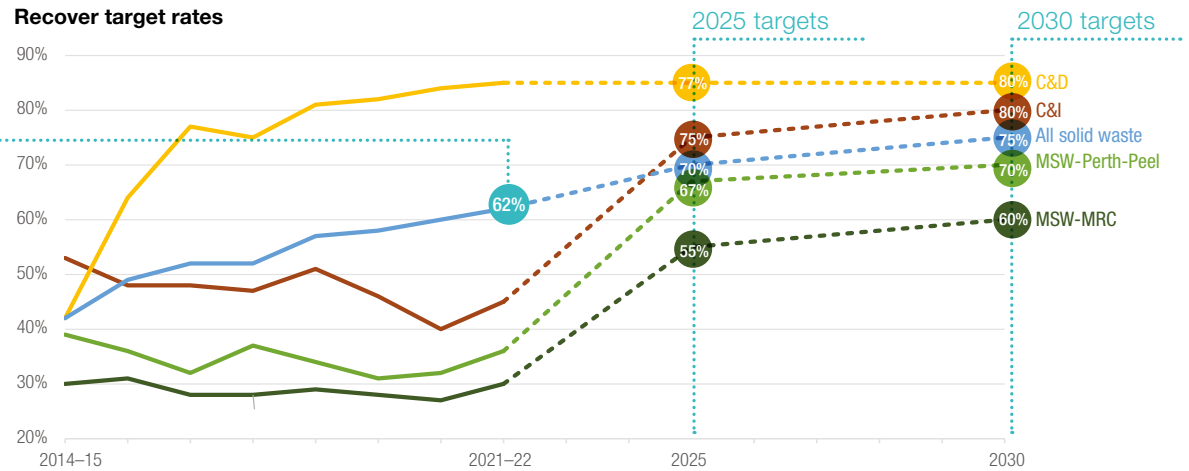
Recover targets

The material recovery rate for all waste generated in WA has increased from 42 per cent in 2014–15 to 62 per cent in 2021–22. Most of this improvement is linked to increases in C&D recovery rates. We are aware that C&D recovery is likely to be overstated because of stockpiling of C&D materials, and we are focused on presenting data differently in the future to make this clearer.

There has not been any sustained improvement in the MSW and C&I recovery rates since 2014–15. Waste composition data shows that organic waste provides the greatest opportunity to increase the recovery of waste in the MSW and C&I sectors.

Our data also shows the best-performing kerbside systems for material recovery are those with a third bin for the recovery of FOGO. In 2021–22, local government three-bin FOGO systems had an average kerbside recovery rate of 54 per cent, compared with only 15 per cent for two-bin systems.

Recover target rates



The Town of Bassendean introduced a FOGO bin to its residents in July 2020. Before the introduction of FOGO, residents were provided with a 240-litre general waste bin that was collected weekly, and a fortnightly collection of a yellow-topped recycling bin. The council was only recovering 17 per cent of all waste collected from these kerbside bins. With the introduction of FOGO, residents now have a weekly collection of their FOGO bin and an alternating fortnightly collection of their red and yellow-topped bins. The latest data reported by the Town of Bassendean shows that, with FOGO, 66 per cent of all waste collected in the kerbside bins is now recovered.

Protect targets

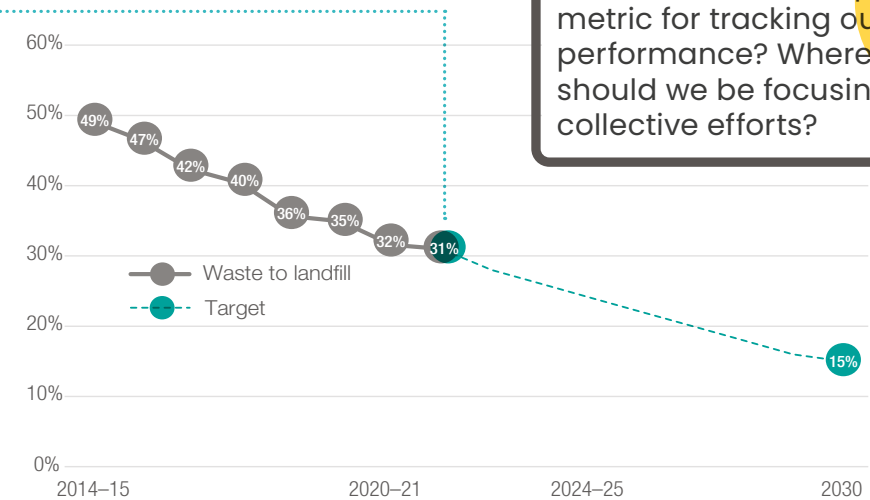
- **No more than 15 per cent of waste generated in Perth and Peel regions is landfilled:**

Currently, 31 per cent of the Perth and Peel regions' waste is disposed of to landfill and, if current trends continue, this protect target should be met by 2030. Diversion from landfill in the Perth region will be accelerated through the establishment of two waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities which are expected to start operating from financial year 2023–24.

- **All waste is managed by and/or disposed to better practice facilities:**

This target requires 'better practice facilities' to be defined. In 2022, the department released its [Guideline: Better practice Organics Recycling](#). Work is underway to support composters to achieve the requirements in this guideline, and development of further better practice guidance is ongoing.

Waste to landfill: Perth and Peel



What is the most important metric for tracking our performance? Where should we be focusing our collective efforts?



1.4 Our environment – key developments since 2019

Waste management is affected by a range of social, economic and environmental factors.

There have been some significant developments since the 2019 release of the waste strategy which will be important considerations for this review. Some key themes which may inform the review are identified in the panel on the right.

Climate change is a key issue and there have been some significant advances in climate policy since 2019. In 2022 Australia committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 43 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. In 2020, the State Government released the [Western Australian Climate Policy](#) – setting out a vision and commitments to a low-carbon future. WA's [Sectoral emissions reduction strategies \(SERS\)](#) will address emissions across different sectors of the economy, including waste, with an aim to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

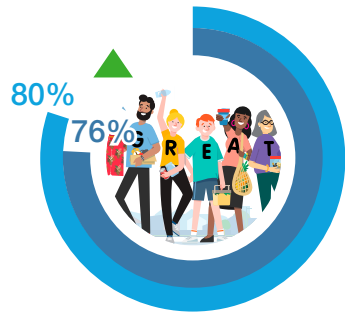
There have also been major developments in waste policy and legislation at state and national level. Waste export bans are driving infrastructure development, and product stewardship commitments are driving action on a growing range of products. The Australian Government is facilitating work through the [National Waste Policy](#) and an updated action plan, while WA has introduced Containers for Change, WA's Plan for Plastics, and committed to a ban on the disposal of e-waste to landfill by 2024. These developments may affect the materials we focus on or the approaches we adopt in the future.

Events such as COVID-19, natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, and breakdowns at waste/recycling facilities have impacted waste generation rates and waste processing capacity. These events have highlighted the importance of establishing a system which is able to quickly adapt to circumstances outside of 'business as usual'.

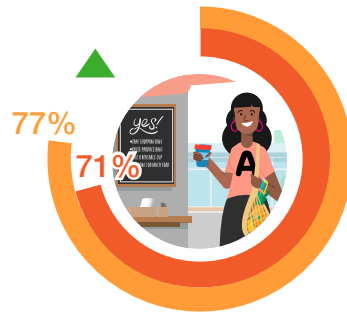
Our environment – Key themes



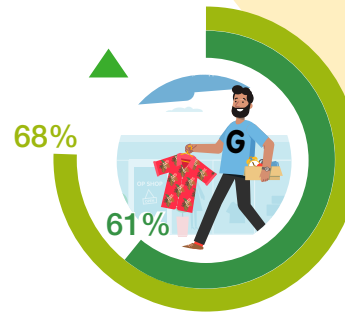
Sorting waste into the different disposal options is the right thing to do.



It is important for the community to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill.



I only put things in the general waste bin when there is no other option.



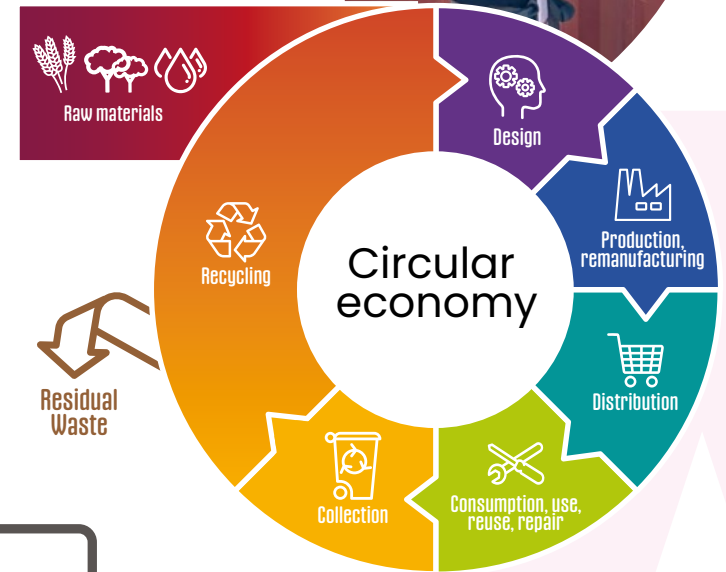
Improvement in community attitudes towards waste: agreement with statement. Dark circle, 2021; light circle, 2022.

Circular economy thinking has evolved in recent years. The circular economy has become particularly important in our response to the waste export ban which has prompted a focus on local recycling.

Encouragingly, community attitudes towards waste have improved. Research shows attitudes and behaviours are increasingly positive. There are greater expectations from the community for better waste management services across the state.

Efforts by the Waste Authority have also had an effect, such as [the GREAT Sorts](#) behaviour change campaign which builds on work undertaken through the waste strategy. Our review of the strategy presents an opportunity to consider increased support for evidence-based behaviour change efforts, with potential to further accelerate the rate of household waste sorting behaviours across WA.

Waste management systems and technologies continue to evolve, with WtE facilities set to play a significant role in managing waste in the future. Technologies such as pyrolysis and advanced recycling technologies are also entering the market on a commercial scale.



A circular economy refers to the flow of both materials and energy – it moves away from the linear ‘take, make, use and dispose’ model to one which keeps materials and energy circulating in the economy for as long as possible.

A circular economy presents opportunities for increased local recycling activity. Local solutions create local jobs, and minimise the costs and impacts of unnecessary transport.

What trends and societal changes do you think are most relevant for consideration as part of the waste strategy review?

1.5 Our strengths and opportunities

WA is a large state with a low population which presents challenges, but also opportunities, for waste management.

WA is making significant advances with bans on single-use plastics, as well as the container deposit scheme and recovery of organics. The state will also soon divert significant volumes of residual waste from landfill with the introduction of large-scale WtE facilities.

It is important to capture WA's strengths and opportunities in this review so that we can harness them in our updated waste strategy.

Building on our current initiatives

We have an opportunity to build on some of the great initiatives that are already being delivered throughout our state.

WA's Plan for Plastics

WA's Plan for Plastics, which bans the sale and supply of a range of disposable plastic items statewide, has provided a pathway to address the impacts posed by single-use plastics.

Containers for Change

Containers for Change has increased recycling rates, reduced litter, provided benefits for community groups and charities, and created employment and investment across WA. In addition, the scheme also presents opportunities to develop collection networks statewide.

A discussion paper was released for comment in WA in December 2022, which set out an aim to increase the scope of eligible containers and improve harmonisation between container deposit schemes across Australia.



This review provides an opportunity to better link the waste strategy with other priorities, such as economic development and action on climate change.

Organics: FOGO collection services

Organics: FOGO collection services are being rolled out across the Perth and Peel regions, as well as other parts of WA. The rollout is helping drive investment in new composting facilities and develop new markets for FOGO-derived products, such as compost and soil conditioner. The FOGO rollout presents an opportunity to significantly increase organics and MSW recovery rates. As the FOGO sector increases, there is an opportunity to increase organics recovery from other sectors such as C&I sources. There is also an opportunity to consider the role of the organics sector in recovering an increasing volume of compostable packaging in response to state and national moves away from plastics.

Regional and remote

We also have an opportunity to improve our performance in regional and remote areas, including remote Aboriginal communities. Schemes such as WA's Plan for Plastics and Containers for Change provide benefits to all Western Australians,

but there is an opportunity to consider how to better support areas where basic services are lacking.

Better alignment of policy and regulation

This review provides an opportunity to align the waste strategy with other priorities – such as economic development and action on climate change – and to better align our legislation.

Diversify WA

[Diversify WA](#) provides a blueprint on how to diversify our state's economy. A higher-performing waste and recycling sector presents significant opportunities for investment, economic development and jobs. There is an opportunity to strengthen the link between waste management and economic development, and for the waste and recycling sector to better capture and report costs and benefits. This includes capturing the benefits of high-performing systems, and also the costs to the economy and community when waste management systems fail.

WA's Climate Policy sets out a vision and commitments to a low-carbon future. SERS forms a key part of this climate policy, addressing emissions across different sectors of the economy (including waste).

We also need to better align legislation such as the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* so that they complement our objectives and make better use of available powers.

Harnessing strengths of WA industry and the community

WA is recognised as a global leader in the mining and petroleum sectors, and there is opportunity to explore the application of expertise and technologies across these industries to improve waste management practices in the state. For example, to better extract valuable materials from the waste stream while processing materials into value-added products. There is also an opportunity for the mining sector to better manage its waste streams, including materials generated on mining sites such as tyres and conveyors. The decommissioning

of fossil fuel infrastructure may also provide an opportunity for material recovery on a large scale.

Community support

Research from 2022 clearly shows an improved community attitude towards waste and a desire to take personal responsibility for waste produced, alongside improving waste sorting behaviours. This is supported through increased recycling and composting activity, decreased contamination in bins, and lower volumes of general waste. Positive attitudes and community expectations are an important driver of change – as demonstrated by widespread community support for a single-use plastics ban and increasing numbers of people actively avoiding buying items with single-use plastic packaging.

There is an opportunity to leverage increasingly positive community attitudes to enable and implement further legislative and waste system changes, and increase investment in evidence-based behaviour change efforts – ultimately turning positive attitudes into improved waste-sorting behaviours.

Circular economy

WA has traditionally relied on distant markets to recycle materials collected locally, such as plastics, paper, cardboard and tyres. The introduction of bans on the export of certain wastes has triggered a rethink of how we can manage materials locally by developing processing capacity and end-markets for recovered materials. Australia's waste export bans and move towards a more circular economy provides opportunity for WA to develop more local processing capacity. Increased local capacity can drive investment and jobs, and reduce the impacts of transporting materials long distances.



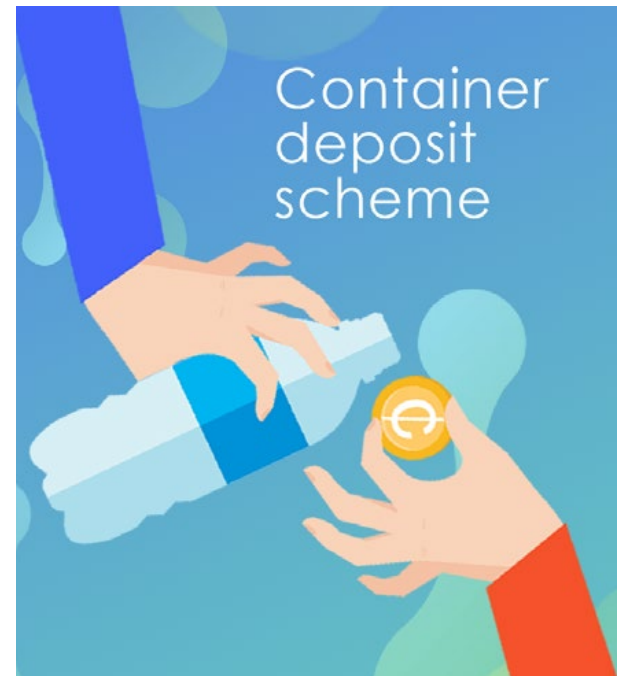
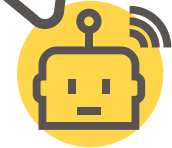
Western Australian Climate Policy
A plan to position Western Australia for a prosperous and resilient low-carbon future

Emerging technologies

Two large-scale WtE facilities are expected to start operation shortly. Together, these facilities are licensed to receive more than 700,000 tonnes of waste per annum and have the potential to significantly reduce the volume of residual waste being sent to landfill.



What do you think are WA's strengths and opportunities which we could harness to improve our waste and recycling performance? How do you think we can best harness these strengths and opportunities?



Part 2: Looking forward

This section sets out areas the Waste Authority proposes to focus on in our review. It seeks your views on the current waste strategy and priorities for the future.

The waste strategy review provides an opportunity to look forward. Earlier in this directions paper we confirmed the State Government's ongoing commitments to long-term actions, and identified some key developments since 2019. We also highlighted WA's strengths and opportunities, and discussed how these may inform future priorities for the state.

We would like to know what you think about the key elements in our current waste strategy (including the vision, objectives, targets and principles) and priorities for the future.



2.1 Our waste strategy – vision, objectives, targets and principles

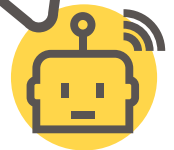
Our vision

A clear vision is important in setting a long-term direction towards a more sustainable WA. Our current waste strategy contains a vision for WA to become a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which public health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.

This vision was developed to support a strategy with a 2030 horizon. However, we also recognise the importance of a vision which carries us further into the future, beyond 2030, and helps to guide policy over the longer-term.

We are keen to explore a longer-term vision – one which resonates with Western Australians, is inspirational, aspirational, reflects societal issues such as climate change, and recognises future generations.

Does the current vision in the waste strategy reflect your ambitions for a sustainable WA?



we recognise the importance of vision which carries us further into the future.

Our objectives

Our objectives are to **avoid** the generation of waste, **recover** resources at their highest value and **protect** the environment from the impact of waste management and disposal.



The objectives are designed to give effect to the waste hierarchy and circular economy. They play a key role in communicating priorities to guide actions and decisions.

The waste strategy's objectives align with the National Waste Policy which contains the following principles:

- Avoid waste
- Improve resource recovery
- Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products
- Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
- Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

The objectives also broadly align with the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible production and consumption](#), which includes the following 2030 commitments:

- Achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- Halve per capita global food waste
- Substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse
- Ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

We want to understand whether our current objectives capture the right focus for a modern waste strategy.

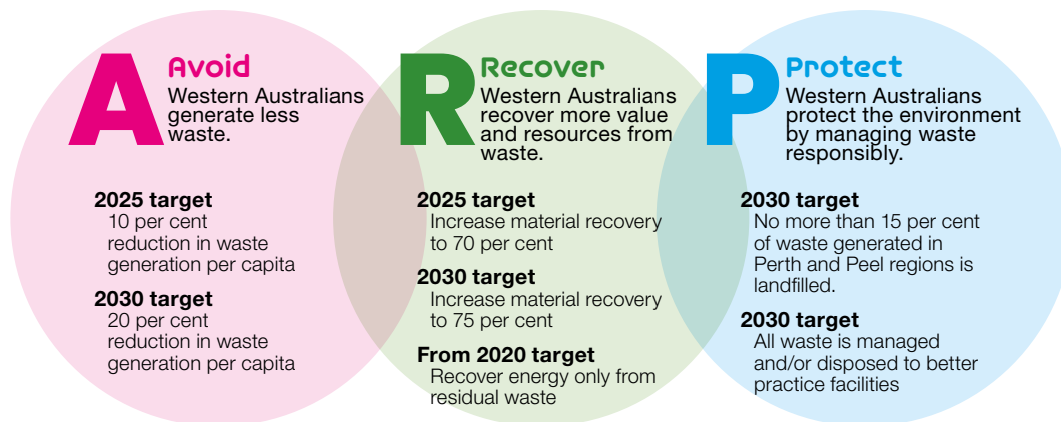


Our targets

Targets are important for moving us towards a common goal and allowing us to measure progress.

Our current waste strategy's headline targets (as shown in the diagram below) are designed with reference to requirements in the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* and *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and are informed by benchmarks of performance that can be achieved with the application of better practice systems and services.

The targets provide us with a metric to track how we are performing against the objectives and aim to provide certainty to the market, including investment certainty. The headline targets are also broadly aligned with national targets and targets in other parts of Australia.



We want to hear your views on our current waste strategy targets.

Do they help reflect the relative priority that we place on each objective? Do we need additional targets to help us understand and monitor our performance?

Changes to waste strategy objectives will naturally trigger a rethink of the targets – because targets measure performance against objectives – and we want to hear your feedback on this.



Our principles

Principles play a critical role in framing our current waste strategy and supporting consistent decision-making over the long term.

Our principles align with legislation and underpin our approach to actions and decision-making.

We want to ensure our principles are clear, comprehensive and useful in order to support decision-making by government, industry and the community.

Additional principles may be required to help frame the strategy, for example principles which link to other priorities such as First Australians, climate change, or economic development.





2.2 Our priorities

Reflecting on the issues identified earlier in this paper, we would like to know what you think about priorities. Section 1.2 sets out some ongoing areas of focus which will continue to be prioritised going forward. However, this review process provides an opportunity to consider an updated list of priorities and focus areas, ensuring these remain aligned with the expectations of the community.

The Waste Authority has identified the following areas as being a particular focus for the review, and we welcome your comments on this. We also invite comment on any other areas you believe to be important for supporting waste strategy objectives and targets.

Materials

The current waste strategy identifies materials which are the focus of actions and measurement. These materials are typically, but not always, solid wastes. The materials were identified as important to achieving the objectives and targets in the strategy. For example, some materials (such as single-use plastics and food waste) provide particular opportunities for avoidance; materials that are high in volume or value provide opportunities for recovery; and materials which present risks or hazards are important to the protect objective.

Good progress has been made to date with materials such as C&D waste, organics, plastics and packaging. We expect to see stronger action on e-waste and textiles as part of national product stewardship commitments, and increased support for materials affected by Australia's waste export bans is also expected.

Materials such as tyres and e-waste are currently attracting significant attention, and there will likely be emerging waste streams such as wastes generated from a growing renewable energy sector.

We want to understand your views about the value of identifying priority materials.

Do you think it is important to identify priorities by material type and, if so, which materials do you consider a priority? How will better management of identified materials contribute to objectives and targets in the waste strategy?

Is it useful for the waste strategy to identify focus materials? If so, which materials are most important for delivering the objectives and targets in the strategy?

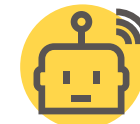


Photo: Main Roads WA

Sectors

Waste is commonly grouped into three streams: MSW, C&D and C&I. Our current waste strategy contains targets for each of these streams.

There has been a significant focus on actions which directly target MSW and C&D waste, and we intend to remain focused on these streams.

Actions which directly address C&I waste have been limited. Initiatives such as the waste levy, infrastructure planning/investments, and market development influence C&I performance. However, we are keen to understand priorities in the C&I sector. Opportunities

might be identified by service type (e.g. providing FOGO services to commercial premises), industry type (e.g. hospitality and manufacturing) or by material type.

What are the priorities for C&I waste? What types of actions could best support better C&I performance?



MSW

We have supported better practice MSW through the release of guidelines for kerbside, verge-side and drop-off services. These three services collect almost all of the MSW stream in WA. We have encouraged the adoption of better practice MSW services through funding mechanisms (Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO) and the use of local government waste plans.

C&D waste

Roads to Reuse is our flagship program to support the use of high-quality C&D products in civil construction. The Waste Authority's C&D Rollout Plan, informed by an expert reference group, builds on these commitments.

Collection systems

There may also be opportunities to consider how we engage with sectors such as mining and agriculture. Waste generated by these sectors is often not captured in our waste and recycling data because this waste is typically managed on-site, rather than entering mainstream waste and recycling systems. Nonetheless, there may be opportunities to recover certain waste streams from these sectors (such as tyres or general waste from the mining or agricultural sectors) or benefit from their expertise and technologies.

Reflecting on the 'Our strengths and opportunities' section of this directions paper, **we want to understand how other sectors in WA might contribute to better waste and recycling outcomes.**



Are there other sectors (outside of MSW, C&D and C&I) that we should engage with to improve our waste and recycling performance?

How can we capture the innovation and expertise already in WA, for example in the mining and agricultural sectors, to improve our performance?

Our current waste strategy supports better practice waste collection systems. The Waste Authority is supporting better practice collections for MSW through the rollout of FOGO services and release of guidance material for verge-side and drop-off services. However, there are opportunities to refocus our efforts on improving collection systems for all waste sectors, and better align services with planning and urban development demands in growing population centres.

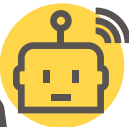
Initiatives including our Containers for Change program and national product stewardship schemes (such as for paint, batteries and e-waste) are driving an expansion of drop-off facilities. These schemes are delivering benefits, particularly in regional areas which may not previously have had access to recycling services.

What are the priorities for delivering better waste collection systems for the future? What opportunities do we have to implement these priorities in growing population centres?



The growth of these schemes provides a foundation to further develop collection systems across WA. For example, a growing network of drop-off sites – which delivers physical infrastructure and transport logistics – provides an opportunity to collect other materials.

We want to identify opportunities – such as leveraging off a growing network of drop-off points – to develop waste collection systems which provide more recycling options for Western Australians.



How do you think we can leverage off existing schemes (such as Containers for Change) to further improve waste collection systems across WA?

Regional and remote communities

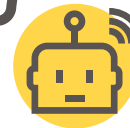
The issues faced by regional and remote communities, including remote Aboriginal communities, are complex and multi-dimensional. Many residents in remote communities, particularly remote Aboriginal communities, don't have the infrastructure or support to manage their waste. Areas with low populations present unique challenges for waste and recycling. Recycling options are typically less available, and the cost and impacts of transporting materials can be prohibitive. Local governments servicing regional or remote communities, including remote Aboriginal communities, face challenges in providing services to small populations over vast areas, usually with a low-rate base.

Waste infrastructure across the entirety of WA should protect public health and the environment. Given the lack of viable recycling options in some areas, this may require a focus on better landfill standards and management practices.

There may also be opportunities for bespoke options to manage priority waste streams generated in certain communities.

We want to understand waste management priorities in regional and remote communities, and what approaches can be adopted to deliver better outcomes for these areas.

What sort of opportunities might be effective in delivering better waste outcomes in regional and remote communities, including remote Aboriginal communities?



Aboriginal engagement

Indigenous Australians have sustainably managed their land and its resources longer than any other culture. The Waste Authority acknowledges the importance of this knowledge and connection, and its potential to contribute to the sustainability of WA. We also acknowledge opportunities to better align our updated waste strategy with existing Aboriginal engagement and community policy.

How do we harness and apply the skills and experience of Indigenous Australians to an updated waste strategy? In addition, what approaches will support better waste management outcomes for Indigenous Australians?



Waste levy

The waste levy has been an important tool in driving behaviour change and incentivising resource recovery.

There are two objectives of the levy. It functions as an economic instrument for influencing waste management practices, including reducing waste to landfill, by increasing the price of landfill disposal. The funds raised by the levy are used to support waste-related programs that work to reduce waste to landfill.

The department recently progressed a review of the waste levy which resulted in an increase to the levy rate, in line with inflation. This increase will take effect from 1 July 2024.

Measuring the role and significance of the levy in supporting achievement of current waste strategy objectives requires further investigation as part of our review. The review will allow the levy to be considered as one of a number of levers to achieve waste outcomes.

We want to understand if you think further increases to the levy are required to support the objectives and targets of the waste strategy.

We also want to hear how you think the levy can more effectively influence waste management practices, for example by applying a different rate to streams such as putrescible, inert or residual waste.

A levy on metropolitan waste was first introduced by the *Environmental Protection (Landfill) Levy Act 1998* and was subsequently incorporated into the WARR legislation (2007). The levy's purpose was stated as:

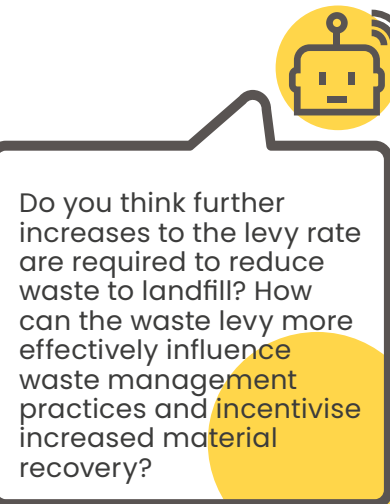
- influencing waste management practices, including reducing waste to landfill, by increasing the price of landfill disposal
- raising funds to support waste-related programs, which have the effect of reducing waste to landfill.

Responding to emergencies

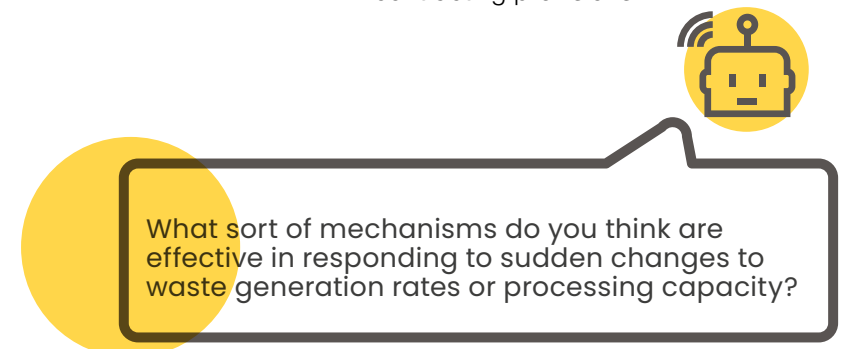
Events such as COVID-19, natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, and breakdowns at waste/recycling facilities have highlighted the importance of contingencies in the waste and recycling sector. These events can increase waste generation rates (e.g. caused by floods or a pandemic) or reduce processing capacity (e.g. fires or breakdowns at recycling facilities).

It is important that we have systems in place to accommodate irregularities in waste generation and processing capacity. Ideally, systems would bring people together to address unforeseen events quickly and efficiently.

Contingencies might include statutory provisions (such as emergency management powers or exceptions), planning provisions or contracting provisions.



Separately, work is being undertaken by the department to develop and consult on options for expanding the levy to locations outside the metropolitan area. A consultation regulatory impact statement will be released later in 2023.



Next Steps

We welcome your submissions in response to this directions paper to help shape our updated waste strategy for WA.

Outcomes from this consultation phase will be compiled and published on the Waste Authority website. The consultation report will inform the development of an updated waste strategy which will be released for consultation later this year.

We thank you for your submission and contributions throughout this process.

Making a submission

The consultation for Phase 1 (comments in response to this paper) closes at **5pm on Tuesday 11 July 2023.**



Electronic submissions (preferred) can be lodged through the [online consultation survey](#) available on the department's website, and accessible through the Waste Authority website, or

by email to wastestrategyreview@dwer.wa.gov.au



Hard copy submissions can be mailed to:

Waste Strategy Review
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 10,
Joondalup DC WA 6919

For further information on this consultation please contact: (08) 6364 6965.





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