Draft Waste Action Plan

Consultation Draft June 2019

Tasmanian Government

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Minister's Foreword

The Hodgman Liberal Government is committed to working with local government, the waste industry, local businesses and the broader community to improve waste management and resource recovery in Tasmania and believes that all of us have a role to play in managing the waste we produce.

It is encouraging to witness the changes that many businesses and consumers are now making to address unsustainable resource consumption and the environmental impacts of our waste. Our Government understands it has an important role to play to help people make informed choices and support innovative waste and recycling initiatives.

In response to some of Tasmania's most pressing waste issues, our Government has already acted through investing in controlled waste and tyre processing facilities, tightening regulation of waste tyres and assisting the roll-out of national product stewardship schemes for e-waste, paint, tyres, batteries and packaging.

New challenges and opportunities continue to develop, like dealing with increasing volumes of e-waste, finding ways to divert organic waste from landfills to reduce emissions, and helping councils and businesses adapt to recent restrictions on the importing of recyclable materials into China following the introduction of the China National Sword policy. These changes are having an impact on waste and recycling businesses and local governments across Australia.

Governments and industries both nationally and globally are seeking ways to create resilient reuse markets and increasingly this means moving towards a Circular Economy across a range of sectors. In December 2018, Australian governments through the Meeting of Environment Ministers endorsed the new *National Waste Policy*. The policy incorporates a range of commitments made by Ministers in early 2018 to help local government and industry respond to the changing international markets.

It includes a framework to stimulate the resource recovery industry, boost demand for recycled products, and deliver on targets for recyclable, compostable and reusable packaging. This changing policy environment and the challenging markets for recyclable materials have highlighted the need for a new strategic and integrated approach to waste management in Tasmania, in which responsibility is shared between all levels of government, the private sector, and the community.

The Tasmanian Government will work closely with local government, industry and other stakeholders to finalise and implement the Tasmanian *Draft Waste Action Plan*. The Plan sets out a broad framework for waste management in Tasmania and details proposed actions across a number of priority Focus Areas, which cover the major waste and resource recovery issues that we will all need to tackle in the coming years.

I look forward to working with local government, Tasmanian businesses and the community to improve waste management, reuse and recycling in Tasmania.

Elise Archer

Hon Elise Archer MP

Minister for Environment

Have your say

Public submissions are now invited on the Tasmanian *Draft Waste Action Plan*.

Questions are provided in each section of the Plan to help guide your comments, but feel free to provide any other feedback you believe is relevant.

Additional information is available at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/environmental-management

Consultation closes at 5.00pm on 7 October 2019.

Email: WAP.Enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Mail: Policy and Business Branch
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
GPO Box 1550
HOBART TAS 7001

Contents

Executive Summary

In the past decade there have been significant developments in waste policy and the resource recovery sector in Australia. This includes issues such as the problems faced Australia-wide around end-of-life tyres, ongoing work by governments and industry to increase packaging recycling, the introduction of container refund schemes in most states and territories, bans on lightweight plastic shopping bags, and the roll-out of national stewardship schemes for TVs, computers, paint, batteries and other products.

In Tasmania, the Government has invested in facilities for controlled waste and the processing of end-of-life tyres and assigned to the EPA the regulation of large tyre stockpiles. The *Litter Act 2007* is also being amended to provide increased penalties for illegal dumping. Other measures, such as the development of an online application to improve litter reporting, are being introduced. The Government continues to be active at the national level, where waste and resource recovery issues have been priorities for Australian Environment Ministers for some time.

The recent decision by China to impose new restrictions on the import of recyclable materials has had a significant impact on local governments across Australia and parts of the resource recovery industry, bringing a closer focus on how we deal with our waste and recycling. This has led to strong recognition by governments of the economic basis of our waste and resource use challenges. In late 2018, Australian Environment Ministers endorsed the new *National Waste Policy*, which is based on Circular Economy principles. This recognises the need for maximising the use and value of resources at every stage of a product or material's lifecycle.

The Tasmanian Government is working closely with Local Government, industry and other stakeholders to develop a new strategic approach to waste management and resource recovery. Targeted consultation with these groups identified a number of waste management priorities that are shared by governments, industry and the community alike. These priorities – along with key strategies and principles from the *National Waste Policy 2018* – form the basis of the Tasmanian *Draft Waste Action Plan.* The Plan sets out a broad framework for waste management and resource recovery in Tasmania and includes the following key actions and targets:

- Introduce a waste levy by 2021 to fund waste management and resource recovery activities;
- Introduce a Container Refund Scheme in Tasmania by the end of 2022;
- Ensure 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025;
- Reduce waste generated in Tasmania by 5% per person by 2025 and 10% by 2030;
- Achieve a 40% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2025 and 80% by 2030;
- Have the lowest incidence of littering in the country by 2023;
- Work at the national level and with local government and businesses in Tasmania to phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics[1] by 2030; and
- Reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2030.

[1] This includes materials such as packaging or single-use plastic items that are not easy to recycle or cannot be recycled.

Growing Resource Recovery in Tasmania

THE DRAFT WASTE ACTION PLAN AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The Tasmanian Government has taken into account the views of local government and industry over the past two years to develop a new waste strategy for Tasmania. Targeted consultation with these groups has identified the key waste management priorities, which form the basis of the *Draft Waste Action Plan*. The Plan sets out a broad framework for waste management and resource recovery in Tasmania that is underpinned by a set of tangible actions. During the time the Plan was being developed, China began to impose new restrictions on the level of contamination allowed in the recyclable materials they import. This has had a significant financial impact on local government and parts of the resource recovery industry, resulting in increased concern from governments, industry and the community on how we deal with our waste and recycling.

In 2018, Australian Environment Ministers recognised the need to respond to the changing and challenging global markets. In April 2018, the Meeting of Environment Ministers (MEM) committed to a number of actions to stimulate Australia's resource recovery capacity, to increase demand for recycled products through government procurement, to work with industry to have 100% of Australian packaging recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025 and to revise the National Waste Policy. The new *National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources*, which is based on Circular Economy principles, was endorsed by Ministers in late 2018.

A Circular Economy (CE) does not use a traditional linear model of "take" (resources), "make" (products), and "dispose" (waste). Instead it aims to maximise the value and the use of materials and resources at every stage of the life of a product or material. Waste management has traditionally dealt with the disposal step. The growing amount and diversity of waste has created challenges that can only be solved by considering the entire "lifecycle" of a product; from when its constituent parts are taken, to when it is made, to when it is disposed, and then reusing what remains to provide resources for the next economic cycle. The waste hierarchy uses principles similar to those underpinning a CE. [2] CE principles are increasingly being adopted by governments and industries around the world[3], and there is a growing body of evidence that moving to a CE is likely to lead to increased innovation and a more creative, robust and productive economy. Some Australian jurisdictions are also moving to adopt CE principles, both in waste management and more broadly.[4]

---

[2] The waste hierarchy prioritises waste management options in order from most preferable to least, being: avoiding the production of waste, minimising the production of waste, reuse of waste, recycling of waste, recovery of energy and other resources from waste, treatment of waste to ameliorate impacts, and environmentally safe disposal of waste.

[3] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

[4] https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/circular-economy, https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/response-to-china-national-sword/circular-economy-policy; https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/transitioning-victoria-to-a-circular-economy; http://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/about/waste-strategy/

STATEWIDE WASTE LEVY

Moving towards a Circular Economy (CE) will require all levels of government to work closely with industry and the community in an economy-wide effort that goes beyond just the waste and recycling sector. It will require a whole of government approach to develop new and existing waste markets, facilitate efficient transport options, plan for and invest in waste infrastructure, reduce emissions from organic waste, and seek renewable energy options from waste materials where applicable. Key principles are to avoid waste, improve resource recovery, increase use of and demand for recycled products and to improve data collection and support for innovation and market adoption of CE products. Addressing our priority waste management issues and moving towards a CE will require long-term efforts and an effective funding stream.

This has been achieved in Australian and international jurisdictions through the introduction of waste levies. A waste levy is a financial contribution typically paid to the State Government by a landfill or other licensed waste facility operator (usually a local council) for each tonne of waste received. Levies provide an important funding source to invest in waste and resource recovery initiatives and infrastructure and over time achieve an increase in the diversion of waste away from landfill.[5] The absence of a landfill levy, along with the transport challenges from being an island state, means that resource recovery businesses in Tasmania may struggle, particularly during times of market disruption, although there are already some Tasmanian industries focusing on reducing, recycling or repurposing waste material.

In collaboration with the local government and regional waste authorities, industry and the community, the Tasmanian Government will introduce a statewide legislated waste levy by 2021. It is proposed that the new legislated statewide waste levy would replace any existing council levies. The design (including cost) of the statewide waste levy will be developed in consultation with local government, industry, businesses and the wider community with the modelling and analysis, taking into account the potential impact of the proposed levy on households and businesses. The Tasmanian Government will also develop legislation that indicates how the revenue collected from the levy will be directed to waste management and resource recovery initiatives, while ensuring regional authorities continue to derive a revenue stream from the new levy.

Through time, this will provide a pricing signal to waste generators and create an income stream to reinvest in business growth and the planning and development of waste management and resource recovery infrastructure, and other waste management programs, such as initiatives or grants to promote alternatives to landfilling. It will also provide a revenue stream to assist councils with legacy issues associated with old refuse sites. Maximising the value of our products and materials – and what we may have formerly thought of as "waste" – is not only the key to achieving parts of a CE, but also brings employment opportunities.[6]

[5] KMPG, 2012, Review of the NSW Waste and Environment Levy.

[6] For every 10,000 tonnes of waste recycled, 9.2 jobs are created compared with 2.8 jobs from landfilling. Hyder, 2010, Landfill Ban Investigation: Final Report. A five per cent improvement in efficient use of materials across could benefit Australia's gross domestic product by as much as $24 billion. Centre for International Economics, 2017, Final report: Headline economic value for waste and materials efficiency in Australia.

How are waste levies in Tasmania and other jurisdictions used?

A large number of Tasmanian councils already have a locally administered levy of $5 per tonne, which some councils have proposed to increase to $7.50 per tonne by 2019/20, for the disposal of solid waste. This small levy and broader local government contributions have funded a range of waste initiatives such as Rethink Waste Tasmania, which promotes efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.[7]

In other Australian states with a waste levy, substantial funds are redirected to addressing waste management and resource recovery issues faced by local government, industry, and the community. In New South Wales, the levy is used for programs such as the Better Waste and Recycling Fund, which provides funding to local councils and regional council groups to support projects to reduce waste generation, improve reuse and recycling, and address littering and illegal dumping.[8] The levy also provides funding to improve public recycling. For example, the Community Recycling Centre Program has established over 80 recycling centres that make it easier for the community to recycle problem wastes such as paint, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, motor and cooking oils, car and household batteries, and fluorescent tubes and globes.[9]

Other programs funded by the NSW levy, include the Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Fund, which stimulates investment in the waste and resource recovery sector and assists industry with finding new markets.[10] This program has provided funding to businesses and councils for the: development of recycling facilities and installation of equipment for processing construction and demolition waste; sorting and processing mixed glass and plastics; and the production of rubber crumb and granules from waste tyres.[11] Other funded projects include upgrades to existing facilities to increase the production of locally made recycled plastic resin, the purchase of plant to process crushed glass into road base materials and the installation of paper processing equipment to reduce contamination in recycled paper.[12] South Australia uses its levy to fund programs such as the Recycling Infrastructure Grants, transport subsidies for local councils, an Infrastructure Investment Loan Scheme and Business Sustainability Funding.[13]

CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME

To help bolster the recovery of some of the materials currently facing export and other economic barriers, the Tasmanian Government will introduce a Container Refund Scheme (CRS) in Tasmania by 2022.[14] The time required to implement a scheme is based on advice from other jurisdictions that have recently developed their own CRS. They strongly advise that anything less than two years would be rushed and not allow for the necessary infrastructure and adjustments to be made. The CRS will be a key part of meeting

---

[7] http://rethinkwaste.com.au
[8] https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/grants/councils/better-waste-and-recycling-fund,
[9] https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/grants/systems-household-problem-waste/community-recycling-centre-program
[10] https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/grants/infrastructure-fund
[11] https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-support/nsw-environmental-trust/grants-available/major-resource-recovery-infrastructure/grants-awarded-and-project-summaries
[12] https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/grants/infrastructure-fund/product-improvement-program/product-improvement-program-previous-recipients
[13] https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/funding
[14] Container Refund Schemes (also known as Container Deposit Schemes) involve beverage suppliers paying an upfront deposit to a scheme coordinator on all eligible containers at the time of sale. Under a Container Refund Scheme, suppliers pay a deposit to the scheme coordinator, but only on redeemed eligible containers. All current schemes in Australia are container refund-based schemes.

the Government's littering targets and will help to generate cleaner streams of recyclable material with greater value.

This is incredibly important at a time when some of our key international markets are demanding increased quality in imported paper, plastic and other materials. Along with the introduction of a legislated waste levy, the CRS will help to create new and improved markets for some of our most important recycled materials.

Most states and territories in Australia have or are about to implement a CRS. It would seem that a large part of the national retail market has already adapted to having a CRS in place. This is evidenced by Coca-Cola Amatil's recent commitment to doubling its use of recycled plastic packaging to 53% by the end of the year and, by 2020, seven in 10 bottles will be made from recycled PET. Similarly, other major suppliers such as Carlton United Breweries and Lion Breweries are moving towards CE principles via commitments within environmental policies and statements to maximise the use of recycled materials.

The NSW CRS introduced in 2017, has already resulted in a 69% increase in eligible drink containers being collected and recycled, a 44% reduction in eligible drink container litter volume and a 48 per cent reduction in total litter volume across NSW.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RESOURCE RECOVERY TARGETS

The Tasmanian recycling rate in 2016-17 was 49% compared to the national average of 58%[15]. It is also around half the diversion rate of NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT. The levels of recovery of materials from some waste streams, such as construction and demolition (C&D) waste, are significantly lower than the overall average recovery rate for Tasmania. However, by focusing our attention on key waste streams (e.g. organics, C&D) and having an appropriate investment framework in place, it will be possible to make substantial gains in a relatively short period of time. Ambitious recovery targets for the state are set out below. These targets are in line with broader commitments on waste and resource recovery agreed to by Environment Ministers in 2018, strategies from the *National Waste Policy*, priority actions identified through consultation with local government and industry, and Tasmanian Government commitments on littering and illegal dumping. These targets will be regularly reviewed as our data on waste improves and new market opportunities arise:

- Reduce waste generated in Tasmania by 5% per person by 2025 and 10% by 2030;
- Ensure 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025;
- Achieve a 40% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2025 and 80% by 2030.
- Have the lowest incidence of littering in the country by 2023;
- Work at the national level and with local government and businesses in Tasmania to help phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics[16] by 2030; and
- Reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2030.

[15] Blue Environment and Randell Environmental Consulting, 2018, National Waste Report 2018, p.26. If energy recovery from waste is included, the total resource recovery rate for Tasmania in 2016-17 was 53%, compared to a national rate of 62%.
[16] See page 4.

FOCUS AREAS AND ACTIONS

The *Draft Waste Action Plan* identifies seven priority themes or Focus Areas. The Focus Areas are also aligned with the MEM commitments from 2018 and the strategies detailed in the *National Waste Policy*, and are aimed at capturing the views of local government and industry as expressed in various forums in recent years. Specific and tangible actions have been identified for most of the Focus Areas, which aim to address priority waste issues and, where possible, begin to embed CE principles into waste management and the broader economy in Tasmania. The Focus Areas are presented below.

1. Moving to a Circular Economy
2. Governance
3. Data, targets, and innovation networks
4. Infrastructure planning
5. Support for the Resource Recovery Industry
6. Education and community engagement
7. State and National Policy and Regulatory settings

1. Moving to a Circular Economy: Government Priorities and Key Sectors

We are only just at the beginning of the discussion about a Circular Economy in Tasmania. Such a change is intended to be system-wide and economy-wide, and likely to require a range of policy interventions across sectors, industries and communities. Actions from the *Draft Waste Action Plan* alone will not be enough to achieve this transition, but they are a good place to start.

As the solutions to our waste and recycling challenges are strongly market-based, capacity should be developed to support the establishment of recycling and reuse businesses, which would include support for domestic businesses entering national and international markets. While governments can set the policy frameworks and provide supportive structures, it is also up to industry to promote its recycled products and for consumers to buy these products.

There are several Government priorities and industry sectors that could provide opportunities for reducing waste generation and boosting related business and employment opportunities, namely:

- tourism and the development of the Tasmanian brand (amenity, littering and dumping, sustainable tourism, resource-efficient tourism businesses);
- higher education, STEM, research and innovation (State-based expertise and innovation networks, investment in R&D and technology transfer);
- the Bioeconomy (agriculture, aquaculture, agrifood, agritech, biological-cycle based systems);
- renewables and reducing emissions;
- public health (regulation of the movement or storage of controlled waste); and
- regional investment and job creation (all sectors, but with focus on the reuse and recycling industry)

Making connections wherever possible between actions in this Plan and these sectoral priorities will enable us to leverage resources and efforts across the Tasmanian economy (Figure 1).

The "ReSOLVE" model for moving to a CE has six elements: Regenerate, Share, Optimise, Loop, Virtualise and Exchange.[17] Regenerate is partly about the shift to renewables. This is clearly an area where Tasmania is well-advanced, with some 90% of our power coming from renewables. Tasmania became the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve zero net emissions in 2015-16.

The Tasmanian Government has a vision to make Tasmania the Battery of the Nation, through additional interconnection with mainland Australia, releasing the latent capacity of the Tasmanian hydropower system and developing pumped hydro energy systems and facilitating investment in new wind farms and renewable generation. The Australian Government has committed $56 million to the design and approvals phase of Project Marinus, which is investigating the development of more electricity interconnection between Tasmania and the mainland. Through Hydro Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government has committed up to $30 million to advance the first phase of Battery of the Nation pumped hydro to a final investment decision. In the action areas of the Circular Economy related to waste management, there is more work to do in the areas of Sharing (reuse), Optimising (avoiding and removing waste in the supply chain), and Looping (recycling, extracting resources from organic or other wastes).

What do you think?

- What are the key opportunities for reducing waste, developing our resource recovery industry and shifting to a Circular Economy?

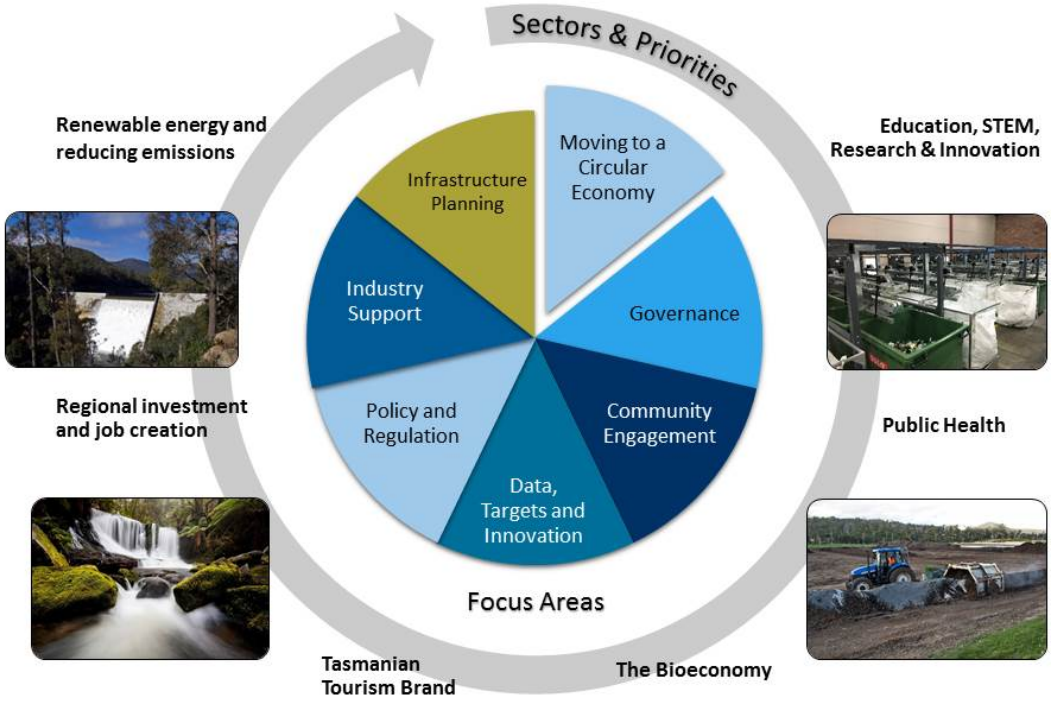

Figure 1. Focus Areas and Key Government Priorities/Sectors. Actions in the Focus Areas (inside) address the key waste challenges in

[17] Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, 2015, Delivering the Circular Economy: A Toolkit for Policymakers v1.1, Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/

Tasmania. The sectors / government priorities (outside) would benefit from the development of links and adoption of circular economy principles.

2. Governance

The introduction of a waste levy will require the establishment of an administrative structure. The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) with support from the Tasmanian Government is currently investigating the feasibility of establishing waste management arrangements to help coordinate and deliver statewide waste policies, strategies, programs and services. A range of models may be considered by State and local government, but the LGAT study will provide an important contribution to the Government's deliberations on governance requirements.

ACTIONS

- Investigate and discuss models for waste management governance with local government.
- Establish a relevant administrative structure.

What do you think?

- What are the primary waste management and resource recovery roles and responsibilities of governments, industry and the wider community?

3. Data, Innovation Networks and Resource Recovery Targets

Many of the actions in the WAP require accurate data on waste generation, landfilling, and the types and quantities of materials landfilled, recovered and reprocessed. There is some data capture that informs state and national reporting, but data is not collected in a standardised fashion across waste facilities. Information on specific parts of the waste stream (e.g. organics waste, C&D waste) is required for short- to medium-term planning. Improved knowledge and data on organics and C&D streams will help facilitate investment in businesses that produce and use these resources.

Tasmania is blessed with an abundance of innovators across the private and public spheres and they are keen to share their expertise for the benefit of the community. Tasmania's agricultural sector, for example, already has some of its waste being used productively and is seeing increased collaboration between research organisations, government and industry to improve resource recovery and maximise the value of materials and products.[18] The interconnectedness of the entire supply chain is now increasingly being considered, leading to formerly separate sectors such as food and agriculture combining into larger sectors like the agrifood industry – a "paddock to plate" or "farm to fork" approach, or simply the Bioeconomy.

Finding innovative approaches to preventing or reusing organic and food waste arise naturally out of the Bioeconomy, which seeks to maximise value chains for products and services. These innovation networks provide research and development and technology transfer opportunities, for example in fit-for-purpose technologies that address specific regional needs, but bring global investment to the State (e.g. agtech or

[18] For example, investigations into the types of packaging that can reduce food waste. See http://www.utas.edu.au/tia/news-events/news-items/delving-delicately-into-ripe-raspberries.

technology to improve processing and separation of recyclable material). The use of these innovation networks will be an important component in Tasmanian waste management.

The Government is also proposing the adoption of a number of targets for resource recovery. These targets are based partly on the commitments made by Australian Environment Ministers in 2018 and on national targets considered during the development of the National Waste Policy.

ACTIONS

- Help to support the establishment of standardised data management systems to capture waste data, to monitor progress against targets and facilitate businesses investment in resource recovery.
- Develop and support waste-related innovation and research networks in the bioeconomy, agritech, tourism, education (STEM), and renewable energy sectors.
- Adopt the following targets for waste and resource recovery:
    - reduce waste generated in Tasmania by 5% per person by 2025 and 10% by 2030;
    - ensure 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025;
    - achieve a 50% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2025 and 80% by 2030;
    - have the lowest incidence of littering in the country by 2023;
    - reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2030; and
    - work at the national level and with local government and businesses in Tasmania to help phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics[19] by 2030.

What do you think?

- What are your key data and information needs on waste and resource recovery?
- How can we best use existing research and innovation networks, or establish new networks, to help address our waste and resource recovery challenges?
- What are your views and suggestions on the targets presented above?
- Which waste streams would provide the best opportunities to make some early progress on the proposed targets?

4. Infrastructure Planning

To achieve our resource recovery targets will require planning for and investment in waste and resource recovery infrastructure. Tasmania is likely to have similar investment priorities to those identified through infrastructure planning processes in other Australian states. These include kerbside source separation bins (particularly for organic waste); processing facilities for organics; drop-off facilities for various recyclable materials; and facilities for Commercial and Industrial waste, C&D waste; and energy from waste infrastructure. Planning our waste and resource recovery infrastructure in Tasmania will require an understanding of existing capacity and rigorous data on waste trends and information on specific waste streams to help facilitate business investment.

[19] See page 4.

The Infrastructure Plan will identify potential investment opportunities at council resource recovery centres or transfer stations that would improve the recovery of a wider range of materials (C&D waste, household hazardous waste, e-waste, batteries) and also improve data collection at facilities.

ACTIONS

- Develop a Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan by 2021.
- Work with Local Government to address potential planning issues around waste management and resource recovery infrastructure.

What do you think?

- What do you consider are the highest priority infrastructure requirements for waste management and resource recovery in Tasmania?

5. Support Resource Recovery across Industry

A key lesson coming out of jurisdictions that are introducing CE frameworks is the need for a whole of government and whole of industry approach. Increasing recovery rates is not possible without supporting new and existing waste and recycling businesses. This needs to be at both a level of the individual business, but also by providing a broader strategic approach to developing these markets in Tasmania, and helping to facilitate access to mainland or international markets.

In the short-term this support will come primarily through existing Tasmanian Government business development and support programs. Over the life of this Plan the introduction of waste levy will help to stimulate resource recovery through appropriate price signals and the creation of an investment stream for waste management and resource recovery activities. In Tasmania, the organic waste stream offers some promising opportunities. For example, diversion of domestic garden and food organics would reduce household waste by 20-30%, and put Tasmania in a strong position to achieve its organic waste target.[20] The establishment of a Container Refund Scheme and introduction of a waste levy are also key parts of this Focus Area. The Australian Government's four-year, $100 million *Environment Restoration Fund* includes the clean-up, recovery and recycling of waste as a priority.[21]

ACTIONS

- Develop capacity across Government to support business development in the waste and recycling industry.
- Establish a loan scheme for businesses and local government that helps grow locally based and innovative recycling and processing facilities which increase recycling rates while also delivering new jobs across Tasmania.

---

[20] Key actions from the Tasmanian Government's climate change strategy include reducing emissions from waste and increasing the resource efficiency of business and industry. See Tasmanian Climate Change Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2017, Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017–2021, pp. 18-19.

[21] https://www.environment.gov.au/environment-restoration-fund

- Support industry to use materials effectively, resuse materials and to understand the business case to improve resource recovery.
- Develop an Organic Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy by the end of 2020.
- Develop a Tasmanian Market Development Study by the end of 2021.
- Continue to investigate and provide appropriate support for Energy from Waste and Bioenergy options, which includes the management and utilisation of forest residues.[22]
- Support the investment in industrial waste sorting – in particular construction and demolition waste.
- Boost demand for recycled products through adoption of sustainable procurement practices across State and local government.

What do you think?

- How can governments, businesses and the community best support the development of the resource recovery industry in Tasmania?

6. Education and Community Engagement

Local government in Tasmania has indicated that the State's kerbside recycling system is not as effective as other states, despite similar collection arrangements being in place. Community engagement and education can achieve waste avoidance, improve landfill diversion and change community behaviour. Boosting the resources available for community education will also help to decrease contamination levels in our kerbside recycling. The private sector also has a large role to play by marketing products with recycled content and making them attractive and acceptable to consumers. The introduction of a waste levy will require a program of targeted engagement with waste facility operators, businesses and non-government organisations, such as charities and the community.

ACTIONS

- Provide support to local government and the regional waste groups to continue their targeted education and grant programs for schools, businesses, householders and other stakeholders such as charitable recycling organisations.

What do you think?

- Are you aware of any existing education materials that could be adapted for the Tasmanian context? (Please provide examples).

7. State and National Policy and Regulatory settings

The key legislative mechanism to achieve the targets in this Plan will be the introduction of a statewide waste levy. Through time the levy will provide a pricing signal that will make resource recovery preferable

[22] https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/energy_and_resources/energy/bioenergy, https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/energy_and_resources/forestry/residues.

to landfilling and generate a funding stream for a range of waste management and resource recovery activities. This will lead to increased business and employment opportunities in the sector. The Container Refund Scheme will also help boost the market for clean streams of recyclable material and achieve a reduction in the volume of litter in Tasmania. A number of associated regulations will be revised within the life of this Plan, including the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2010* and the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Controlled Waste Tracking) Regulations 2010*. The revision of these regulations, along with proposed minor amendments to the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA) will also provide an opportunity to consider the waste streams that may be more responsive to the proposed pricing signals, such as C&D waste, which generally has more alternatives available to landfilling.

The laws and policies of the Australian Government are critical for addressing waste management issues in Tasmania. Policy tools available under national legislation like the *Product Stewardship Act 2011* could potentially be used more effectively, and existing stewardship schemes reviewed and improved. Another role for national regulation or policy includes the setting of standards and specifications for recycled materials that promotes the reuse of waste rather than virgin resources. Along with changes to procurement across government and the private sector, this could help increase demand.

ACTIONS

- Work with local government to introduce a statewide waste levy by 2021 to fund waste management and resource recovery activities.
- Introduce a Container Refund Scheme into Tasmania by the end of 2022
- Work with the Australian Government to ensure that reviews of relevant legislation, such as the *Product Stewardship Act 2011*, result in effective programs that enhance resource recovery.

What do you think?

- Which policy or regulatory settings will help us achieve the targets in this Plan and help stimulate the resource recovery industry?
- Do you have other comments on the *Draft Waste Action Plan*?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Australian Government, 2018, National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources

Blue Environment and Randell Environmental Consulting, 2018, National Waste Report 2018

Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, 2015, *Delivering the Circular Economy: A Toolkit for Policymakers* v1.1, Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/

KMPG, 2012, Review of the NSW Waste and Environment Levy.

Lifecycles, EconSearch, Colby Industries and the University of Queensland, 2017, Creating Value: The Potential Benefits of a Circular Economy in South Australia.

MRA Consulting Group, 2017, LGAT Waste and Resource Management Strategy.

Rawtec, EconSearch and Jensen Planning Plus Design, 2016, *South Australian Waste and Resource Recovery Plan: Waste projection and economic assessment, Final Report.*

Sustainability Victoria, 2017, *Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan Victoria 2017-2046*.

Tasmanian Climate Change Office, Department of Premier and Cabinet, 2017, *Climate Action 21: Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017–2021*.

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Phone: (03) 6165 4599

Email: WAP.Enquiries@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au