



Waste Strategy for Western Australia Checklist

1. Status of this document

This document has been prepared by the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) for the Western Australian Local Government Association (the Association). MWAC is a standing committee of the Association with delegated authority to represent the Association in all matters relating to solid waste management. MWAC's membership includes the major Regional Councils (waste management), and a number of Local Governments. This makes MWAC a unique forum through which all the major Local Government waste management organisations cooperate.

MWAC focuses its work in three main areas, guided by the MWAC Strategic Vision – 'United Towards a Zero Waste Future':

- The proactive development of policy on priority issues;
- Comprehensive representation of Local Government views on legislation, regulations, administrative policy and related issues; and
- The delivery of grant funded programs consistent with Local Government priorities.

2. Purpose of this document

This Checklist has been developed by MWAC to outline Local Government priorities and expectations in regard to the content of the Waste Strategy for Western Australia. The Checklist includes the key issues identified in previous MWAC Submissions, based on extensive consultation with Local Government, on the earlier drafts of the Waste Strategy

3. Checklist for inclusion in the Waste Strategy

1. Consistency with existing legislation and policy	
There are a number of policies and legislation at both a state and national level that guide and complement the purposes of the Waste Strategy. The Waste Strategy should be consistent with the contents of these documents.	
x✓	Recommendation
1.1	The Waste Strategy should address the purpose of the Strategy, as outlined in the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i> .
1.2	The objects of the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i> include promoting the most efficient use of resources, including resource recovery and waste avoidance; and reducing environmental harm, including pollution through waste. The objects of the Act should be reflected in the targets and strategies of the Waste Strategy.
1.3	The Strategy must include definitions for key terms, with reference to existing legislation and policy. Key terms include 'resource', 'resource recovery' and 'waste'.
1.4	The roles and responsibilities of the Waste Authority in regard to the development and implementation of the Strategy should be identified, as outlined in the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i> .
1.5	As outlined in the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i> , the Strategy should include the provision for review. The Association would like a commitment from the Waste Authority that a review of the Strategy be conducted within 2 years of commencement, in partnership with Local Government and relevant stakeholders.
1.6	As outlined in the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i> , the Strategy must include targets for waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill disposal.
1.7	The <i>Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia 2009-2014</i> should be referenced in the Waste Strategy, including the commitment to reduce litter across Western Australia.

	1.8	The Strategy should include the State Government responsibilities and activities identified in the National Waste Policy.
	1.9	The Strategy should include consideration of the upcoming carbon pricing mechanism and the potential impact on the waste management sector.
2. Targets and Strategies		
The following recommendations focus on the development of targets and strategies in the Waste Strategy for Western Australia.		
x✓	Recommendation	
	2.1	The targets in the Strategy should be based on accurate baseline data.
	2.2	The targets in the Strategy should be achievable.
	2.3	The sources of funding for each target and strategy within the Waste Strategy should be identified.
	2.4	The timeline for achieving targets should take into consideration the time required to develop resource recovery infrastructure.
	2.5	Targets should be in place for all waste streams (municipal solid waste, commercial & industrial and construction & demolition).
	2.6	The targets set out in the Strategy should be linked to well-developed strategies to ensure the target is achieved.
	2.7	Roles and responsibility in relation to targets and strategies should be clearly identified in the Strategy.
	2.8	The targets set out in the Strategy should be developed in partnership with those given the responsibility for delivering the target. This will allow for negotiation in relation to constraints and opportunities.
	2.9	Local Government does not support a target to reduce contamination rates of kerbside collections.
3. Content and Projects		
There are a number of issues and concerns that Local Government expect to see addressed within the Waste Strategy, in addition to the continued and potentially increased funding for existing programs. The following points outline key commitments which should be included in the Waste Strategy.		
x✓	Recommendation	
	3.1	The inclusion of a clear rationale identifying the key factors driving the development of the Strategy. For example, reducing waste to landfill and increasing resource recovery.
	3.2	Investigate and implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Schemes (including Container Deposit Systems) in Western Australia.
	3.3	A transparent methodology for determining priority products for EPR should be included in the Strategy.
	3.4	Investment in the collection and management of accurate and consistent waste management data.
	3.5	Improve the profile of the waste industry in Western Australia through community education and communication.
	3.6	Industry development through an investment in training and industry standards.
	3.7	The inclusion of waste management in contingency planning and emergency management.
	3.8	Increasing the inclusion of waste management considerations in other portfolios. For example, within the Department of Planning, the Department of Health and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority.
	3.9	Development of a support scheme for alternative waste treatment (AWT) technologies, including funding of facilities.
	3.10	Establishment of a centre for excellence for waste management in Western Australia.
4. Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Levy		
As outlined in the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i> , the money held in the WARR Account may be applied to fund programmes relating to the management, reduction, reuse, recycling, monitoring or measurement of waste.		
x✓	Recommendation	
	4.1	Local Government supports the hypothecation of all moneys raised from the Levy to fund waste management activities and to adequately fund the objectives of the Strategy.

4.2	There is an expectation that Local Government has a claim on a proportion of the funds raised through the Levy. A fixed proportion of moneys collected from Local Government should be made available to Local Government on a first call basis in the form of project money to support the objectives of the Strategy.
4.3	The Association recommends that, if an increase in the Levy is pursued and justified, the State Government develops a pre-determined schedule for any increases. The Association also recommends that the Waste Authority consult with Local Government before giving advice to the State Government on any potential increase in the Levy in order to adequately ascertain the potential impacts.

4. Local Government expectations

In addition to the concerns outlined above for inclusion in the Waste Strategy, there are a number of other considerations that Local Government anticipates the Waste Authority will take into account when developing the Strategy.

Consideration of the constraints on non-metropolitan Local Governments

Regional and remote Local Governments are currently disadvantaged in regard to the resourcing of waste management activities and infrastructure. Due to the low rate-base in these communities – sometimes due to a high proportion of Crown Land and farming land in these areas limiting the opportunities to raise addition rates and the distances to deliver services – many Local Governments have difficulty funding services. In addition, these communities also have the added disadvantage of being geographically isolated; the distance needed to travel to recycle or dispose of waste in addition to waste collection places additional burden on Local Government time, finances, staffing and other resources. As a result, many regional and remote Local Governments are unable to provide more than basic waste management services.

In developing targets and strategies for a Waste Strategy, Local Government expect that the Waste Authority take into account other constraints on non-metropolitan Local Governments such as the accuracy and consistency of data used to inform baseline figures. Many non-metropolitan landfills do not have weighbridges, and may not be staffed full-time. Many non-metropolitan Local Governments are responsible for collecting and disposing of not only waste from households but commercial material. These volumes are only set to increase following the implementation of the State Government’s Super Towns, and the expansion of mining interests in the regions.

Consideration of the constraints on metropolitan Local Governments

Local Governments and Regional Councils in the Metropolitan area face specific challenges in regard to the management of waste due to the volumes of waste they receive. As volumes of waste increase, the potential environmental impacts of the waste are also increased. This means more comprehensive (and consequently costly) environmental controls are necessary.

The expectations regarding the approach to waste management are also different in the metropolitan area. As a result of strategies to mitigate environmental impacts and fulfil the expectations regarding recovery rates, large infrastructure has been developed (and will continue to be developed) to address these volumes. For Local Governments, funding the development and ongoing operational costs can be difficult, especially when funds are limited to those received through rates, or a ‘user pays’ system.

State Government leadership

The Association and Local Government strongly support the State Government leading by example. The Association recommends that the State Government require its agencies and government owned instrumentalities to reduce waste, as well as encourage the use of recycled materials in their operations.

Ongoing partnership with the Waste Authority

The Association acknowledges the support received from the Waste Authority through a Strategic Partnership Agreement. This Agreement allows the Association to actively engage Local Government and provide constructive input into policy and program development