



Local Waste Management Arrangements for Emergency Events

Major Milestone 2: Local Government Engagement

March 2018

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WALGA acknowledges the support provided by the State Government of Western Australia to deliver the *Local Waste Management Arrangements for Emergency Events* project, which is jointly funded under the Commonwealth Government's National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience.

Executive Summary

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) has identified numerous situations in Western Australia where recovery efforts have been hampered by challenges associated with waste management. Ineffective waste management has the potential to significantly delay recovery efforts, present a considerable risk to human health and the environment and increase the costs of recovery.

With funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program 2017-18, WALGA is working with the State to embed waste management considerations into local emergency management planning and response mechanisms. This report fulfils the second milestone for this project.

This Report summarises the findings of the Local Government engagement on how waste management considerations are currently imbedded into emergency management structures. It assesses the baseline level of knowledge and expertise in relation to waste management, and provides an overview of the activities undertaken to communicate that the project is underway.

A number of approaches have been used to deliver this report, including desk top research, a survey of Local Governments, presentations to WALGA Zone meetings and direct contact with Local Government. As of March 2018, presentations have been made to 11 of the 17 Zones, effectively engaging 94 Local Governments through this process. Outcomes of engagement with Local Government will inform the development of resources in the next stage of this project, including the development of tools to equip emergency management practitioners in planning for, and responding to, debris generated in various emergency situations.

From the survey results, and an assessment of Local Emergency Management Arrangements, it is clear that Local Government plays a varied role in the management and disposal of waste, dependant on capacity, geographic location, and the individual characteristics of an emergency event. The key findings from this stage of the project are:

- The majority of Local Emergency Management Arrangements that WALGA reviewed did not specifically mention waste management activities.
- The respondents to the survey differed between Local Governments. The role of the respondents appears to have influenced their perceptions on roles and responsibilities for waste management and how internal procurement processes were structured.
- Factors identified most frequently as influencing Local Governments responses to emergency event were capacity (staffing levels), prior involvement with Local Government recovery efforts and the financial position of a Local Government.
- The availability of funding from the WA Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements affected Local Government views on roles and responsibilities in managing waste from residential sources, but did not influence views on roles and responsibilities for managing waste from other sources (Local or State Government and Commercial sources).
- The geographic location of a Local Government influenced perceptions on roles and responsibilities.
- Respondents indicated that there was a need to outsource some waste management tasks in recovery, in particular those relating to the management of hazardous waste.
- There was some diversity in respondents' views on where authority resides for approving the use of external contractors in recovery.
- Local Governments indicated they were generally responding to unlawful waste management practices during recovery on a case by case basis, though existing mechanisms. The type of response was dependant on the scale of non-compliance.

Local Governments also indicated they would refer these matters to various State Government Regulators.

- There is limited understanding of what type of waste management facilities are available locally.
- Less than half of the respondents indicated they had arrangements in place with neighbouring Local Governments to provide assistance during recovery. Only 15% of these arrangements were considered to include waste management.

1.0 Introduction

There have been a range of situations in Western Australia where recovery efforts have been hampered by challenges associated with waste management. Ineffective waste management has the potential to significantly delay recovery efforts, present a considerable risk to human health and the environment and increase the costs of recovery.

With funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program 2017-18, WALGA is working with the State to embed waste management considerations into local emergency management planning and response mechanisms. This Project includes four milestones, identified in Figure 1.

Considerations such as location, the type of hazard encountered, staff capacity, resources and prior involvement with local recovery efforts all influence decision making on what approach will be taken by a Local Government in managing waste in recovery.

For the purposes of Local Government engagement, the term 'emergency waste management' was defined as including hazardous waste identification, emergency containment / confinement of waste, removal of waste, temporary storage, transport, monitoring, treatment and disposal of waste at appropriately licenced facilities. This term includes recovery of materials.

The contents of this Report will inform the development of resources in the next stage of this project that will assist emergency management practitioners in planning for, and responding to, debris generated in various emergency situations. To date, the information provided by the sector has informed the development of a Tender for a WALGA Preferred Supplier Arrangement for Hazardous and Emergency Event Services.



Figure 1: Milestones, activities and time allocated to the NDRP Project - Local Waste Management Arrangements for Emergency Events.

2.0 Survey Results

To ascertain what systems and approaches Local Governments are using to complete emergency waste management activities, WALGA released two surveys to the sector in September 2017. The *Emergency Management Survey* (Appendix 3) was designed to capture the degree to which waste management considerations have been incorporated into Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA), as well as individual views on roles and responsibilities. While the main focus of this Report is on the responses received to this survey, information has also been included from the *Hazardous Waste Survey* on the extent to which external contractors are used by Local Government to assist with the management of waste arising in a range of unexpected and potentially unbudgeted situations.

Complete responses were received from 56 Local Governments and Regional Councils (19 metropolitan, 37 non-metropolitan) to the *Hazardous Waste Survey* (Appendix 1) and 59 Local Governments (12 metropolitan, 47 non-metropolitan) to the *Emergency Management Survey* (Appendix 2). Responses were received from across the following Local Government operational areas:

- *Hazardous Waste Survey*: 41% (23/56) of respondents work directly in the waste management field. 34% (19/56) of respondents were from a regulatory services background. For example, Environmental Health and/or Building and Development Services. 9% (5/56) of respondents were Local Government CEO's.
- *Emergency Management Survey*: 44% (26/59) of respondents worked in emergency management services, with 22% (13/59) CEO's / Deputy CEO's, and 19% (11/59) of respondents working in Environmental Health and/or Building and Development regulatory services.

2.1 Waste Management Considerations in Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Findings:

- **The majority of Local Emergency Management Arrangements that WALGA reviewed did not specifically mention waste management activities.**
- **Those Local Emergency Management Arrangements which did refer to waste management, focused on hazardous waste such as asbestos, service providers and consideration of how facilities will operate or be affected in an emergency situation.**

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* tasks Local Government with developing Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) for its district. From a waste management perspective, it is important that LEMA include considerations that are applicable to the local context, such as the availability and capacity of local waste management infrastructure.

The responses to the *Emergency Management Survey* indicate that Local Governments are planning for multiple prescribed hazards. These are predominately Storm, Fire and Flood (Figure 2). Very few Local Governments have assessed the type and amount of waste that could be generated from these Prescribed Hazards. When questioned, 74% of respondents said this type of assessment had not occurred, with a further 10% unsure. 8 respondents provided information on how waste management considerations were addressed in recovery. In some cases, the operational approach that was discussed by those likely to be responding was not reflected in the LEMA.

Operational approaches were included in:

- A Business Continuity Plan - landfill / transfer station facilities and operational activities
- A Local Recovery Plan - register of Asbestos Contractors, services and limitations
- An Operational Plan - debris management
- An MoU - to accept waste from neighbouring shires if required.

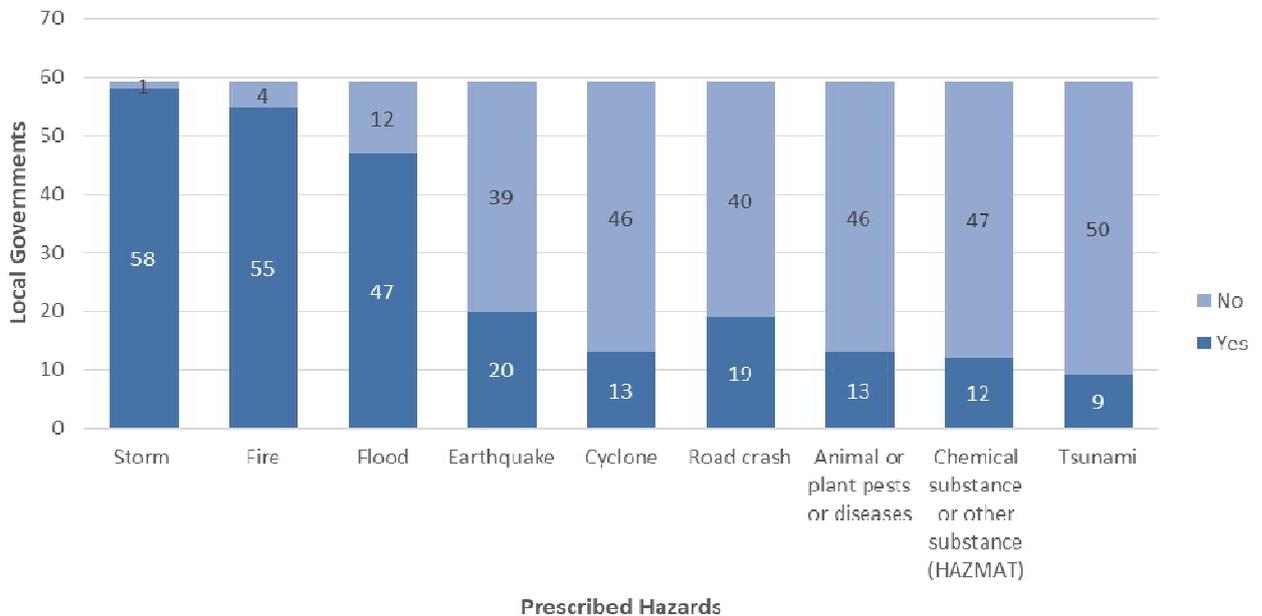


Figure 2: Number of responding Local Governments planning for Prescribed Hazards.

The majority of respondents indicated that their Local Government had a current Recovery Plan that contained a component on communications. However, only 2 respondents indicated their Recovery Plan included guidance on communicating with other parties on how to manage waste that they are responsible for. This finding is interesting, given a number of respondents considered Local Government had a role in providing this type of information to other parties (Section 2.0 Roles and Responsibilities).

The information provided in response to the survey indicates that waste management considerations could be better incorporated into recovery planning. This was confirmed by a desktop assessment of 54 LEMAs provided directly to WALGA by Local Government. In some cases, the entire suite of documents associated with the LEMAs were not provided. Of the documents assessed, 37 sets of the LEMA documentation analysed contained no direct reference to waste management, with the remaining 16 containing some reference to waste management.

2.2 Roles and Responsibilities

The *Emergency Management Survey* canvassed the views of Local Government officers on roles and responsibilities in managing waste from residential, Local Government, State Government, and commercial sources. In situations where WANDRRA funding would not be available in recovery, there was a clear delineation in responses received on which party was responsible for managing waste from Local Government, State Government, and business sources, regardless of the operational area or location that a survey respondent worked in. There was a higher degree of variation in the responses received on which party

was responsible for managing waste from residential sources when WANDRRA funding was not available.

In addition to the responses received on roles and responsibilities through the survey, officers provided feedback on the difficulties of assigning responsibility to a specific party, when categories of waste can overlap and/or become intertwined in recovery. Some respondents reported that in situations where insurers are technically responsible for emergency waste management, there had been delays and disputes on the level of cover provided.

Local Government was considered to have a varied role in the management and disposal of waste. This was largely dependent on capacity, geographic location and the individual characteristics of an emergency event. For example, a Local Government may become involved in managing storm debris from residential and commercial sources when an additional storm front is expected. It was also noted that Local Government may encounter liquid wastes such as sewerage and industrial waste in recovery situations.

2.2.1 Factors Influencing Responses

Findings:

- **The respondents to the survey differed between Local Governments. The role of the respondents appears to have influenced their perceptions on roles and responsibilities for waste management and how internal procurement processes were structured.**
- **Factors identified most frequently as influencing Local Governments responses to emergency event were capacity (staffing levels), prior involvement with Local Government recovery efforts and the financial position of a Local Government.**

As identified in Section 2.0, 44% of respondents to the *Emergency Management Survey* work in the Emergency Management field. 22% of respondents were CEO's / Deputy CEO's, and 19% were from Environmental Health and/or Building and Development regulatory services.

The findings on roles and responsibilities are weighted by the personal experiences and observations of the staff working in these operational areas. Staff from other areas of a Local Government may hold different views – as discovered when multiple responses to the survey were provided from different operational areas of the same Local Government. In the instances where this occurred, there were varying perceptions on roles and responsibilities and internal approval processes. Such differences could result in confusion in recovery. For example, in responding to structural waste, goods and furnishings and vegetation from residential properties (where WANDRRA funding was made available), an emergency management practitioner indicated that Local Government had a role in providing information to others on how to manage waste. A waste management officer from the same Local Government stated that Local Government would coordinate the management of these wastes.

There were also differences in the responses provided by an emergency management officer and a Chief Executive Officer of the same Local Government on who signed off on the appointment of contractors and what resource sharing arrangements were in place with neighbouring Local Governments.

Very few Local Governments have undertaken consultation that would provide an understanding of community expectations regarding the clean-up of waste generated in an emergency. This could potentially result in a mismatch between what a Local Government and its community considers to be Local Government's role in managing various wastes that are generated in an emergency situation.

As part of the *Emergency Management Survey*, respondents were asked to nominate what factors had influenced their answers on roles and responsibilities. Multiple answers could be provided in response to this question. There was a clear preference towards:

- 37/59 capacity (staffing levels)
- 34/59 prior involvement with Local Government recovery efforts
- 31/59 the financial position of a Local Government.

Respondents were less likely to nominate that an existing Local Government policy or procedure (8/59), or even a defined legislative responsibility had influenced their answers (12/59), reflecting both the operational focus of respondents and whether they were from a metropolitan or non-metropolitan Local Government.

2.2.2 Waste from Residential Sources

Findings:

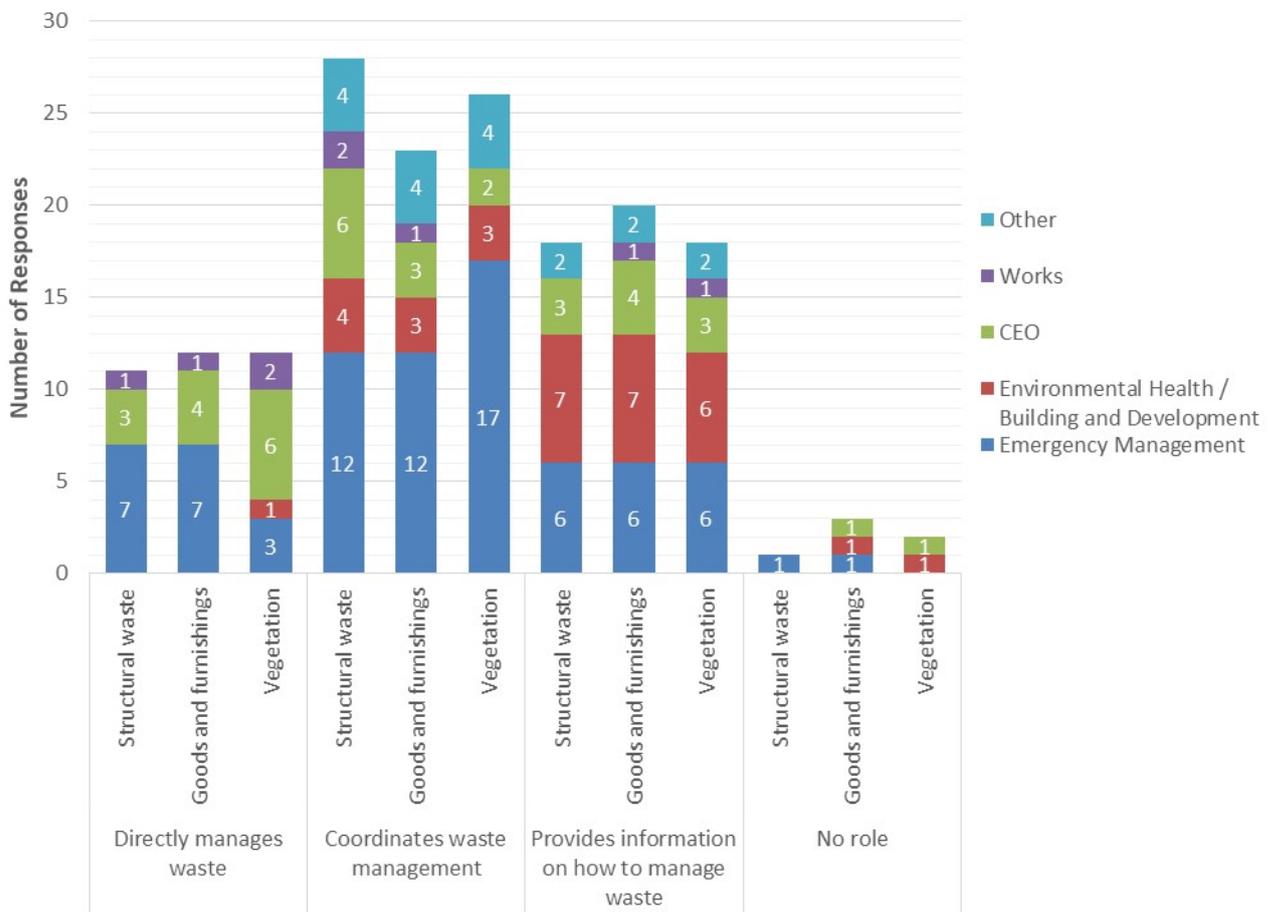
- **When WA Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements funding is activated in recovery, respondents were more likely to identify that Local Government had a role in coordinating, or providing information on how to manage a range of different wastes from residential sources.**
- **Respondents from the metropolitan area, were more likely to consider that Local Government's main role was to coordinate waste management activities. Non-metropolitan respondents were more likely to consider that Local Government had a role in directly managing waste, as well as coordination and information provision.**
- **In situations where WA Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements funding is not activated in recovery, the majority of respondents considered that responsibility for waste management should be assigned to the householder, owner or insurer.**

Where WA Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) funding will be activated in recovery, respondents were more likely to indicate that Local Government has a role in coordinating, or providing information, to other stakeholders on how to manage structural waste, goods and furnishings and vegetation from residential sources. Those respondents that indicated Local Government had a direct role in managing these wastes were predominately from regional and remote areas.

At least 46% (12/26) of emergency management practitioners indicated that Local Government had a coordinating role across all three waste types and would use external contractors to manage waste. Those working in Environmental Health and/or Building and Development regulatory services were more likely to indicate Local Government had a role in providing information to other parties, than either directly managing waste or coordinating the activities of external contractors.

Figure 3 shows respondents views on Local Government's role and responsibility in managing waste from residential sources. The coloured segments of each bar on the chart represent various job titles. Figure 4 shows the difference between perceptions on roles and

responsibilities, based on the geographic location of the Local Governments that provided a response (metropolitan and non-metropolitan). To allow the response data to be directly compared, percentages of the total metropolitan and non-metropolitan responses have been used.



Local Government Roles and Responsibilities

Figure 3: Local Government Roles and Responsibilities – Residential waste.

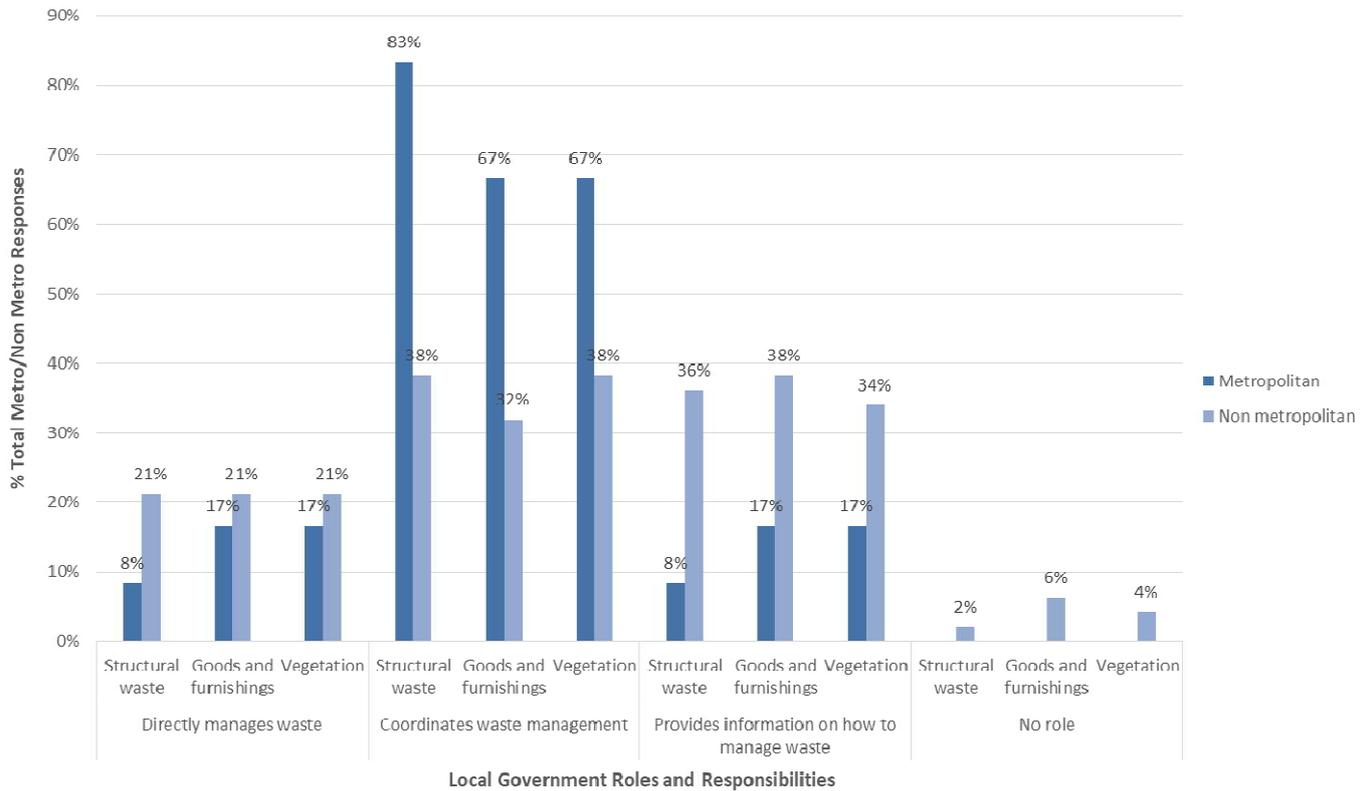


Figure 4: Local Government Roles and Responsibilities – Residential waste.

In situations where WANDRRA funding will not be activated in recovery, differences in views emerged as to which party was responsible for managing structural waste, goods and furnishings, and vegetation from residential sources. While the majority of respondents (62-73% for different material types) assigned responsibility for the management of these wastes to the householder / owner / insurer, there were instances where Local Government was nominated as the responsible party. This response was received from 25% of those that completed the survey, and were more likely to be emergency management practitioners and/or those working in the non-metropolitan area. 5% of respondents were unsure who would be responsible.

2.2.3 Waste from Local Government Sources

Findings:

- **For waste from Local Government sources, all respondents identified that Local Government had a role in directly managing or coordinating the management of waste.**

Respondents indicated that Local Government had either a role directly managing or coordinating the management of structural waste, goods and furnishings and vegetation arising from Local Government sources, regardless of the availability of WANDRRA funding. This response was also provided for debris affecting Local Government infrastructure and services. Respondents from regional and remote areas were more likely to indicate Local Government had a direct role in managing waste. Emergency management practitioners were evenly split in their views on Local Government's role in coordinating or directly managing these waste types.

In terms of municipal waste collection services, respondents were more inclined to indicate that Local Government had a role in coordinating the management of this waste. This

response reflects the fact that many Local Governments already outsource the provision of this service to commercial waste operators.

Figure 5 shows respondents views on Local Government’s role and responsibility in managing waste from Local Government sources. The coloured segments of each bar on the chart represent various job titles. Figure 6 shows the difference between perceptions on roles and responsibilities, based on the geographic location of the Local Governments that provided a response (metropolitan and non-metropolitan). To allow the response data to be directly compared, percentages of the total metropolitan and non-metropolitan responses have been used.

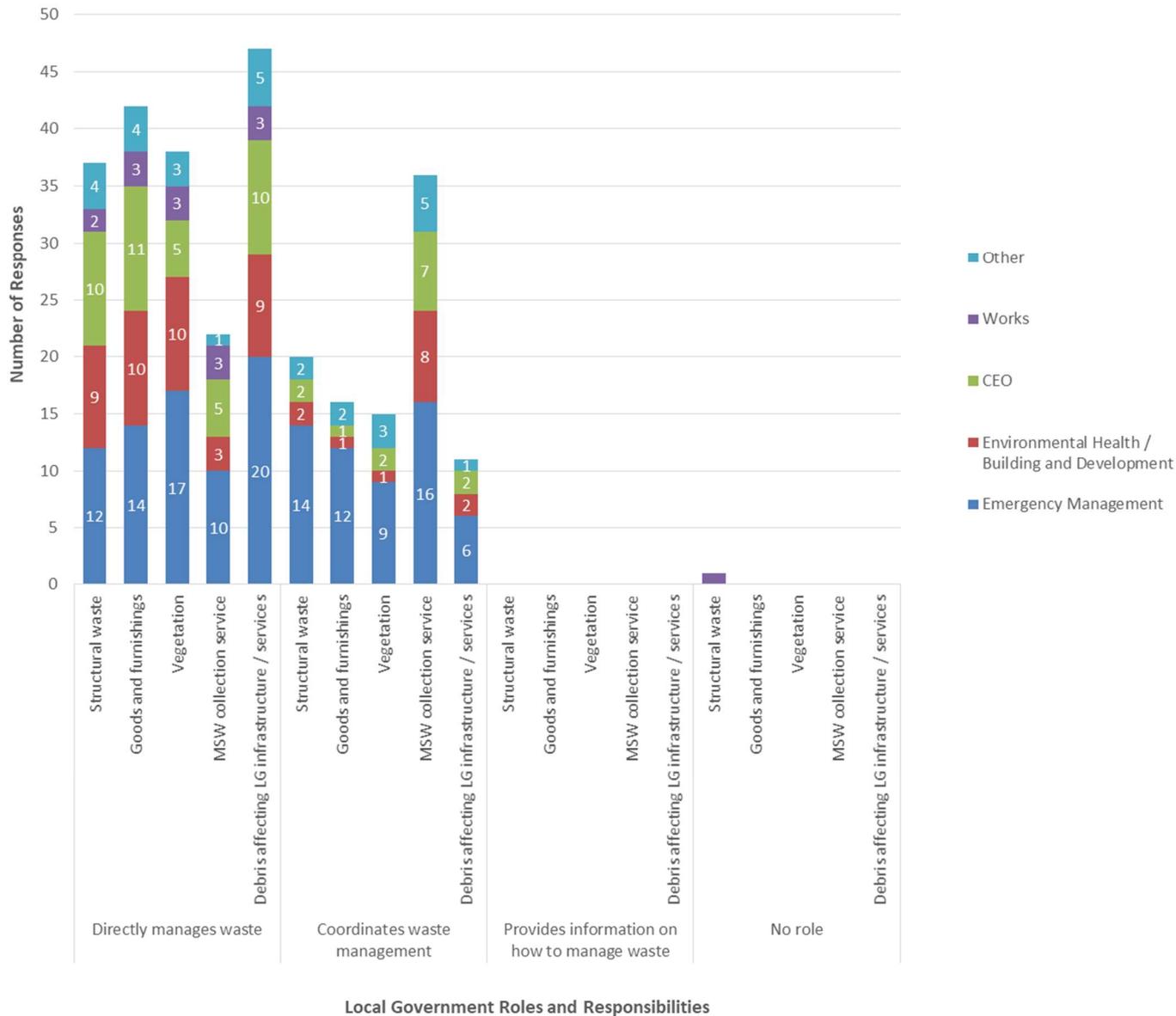


Figure 5: Local Government Roles and Responsibilities – Local Government waste.

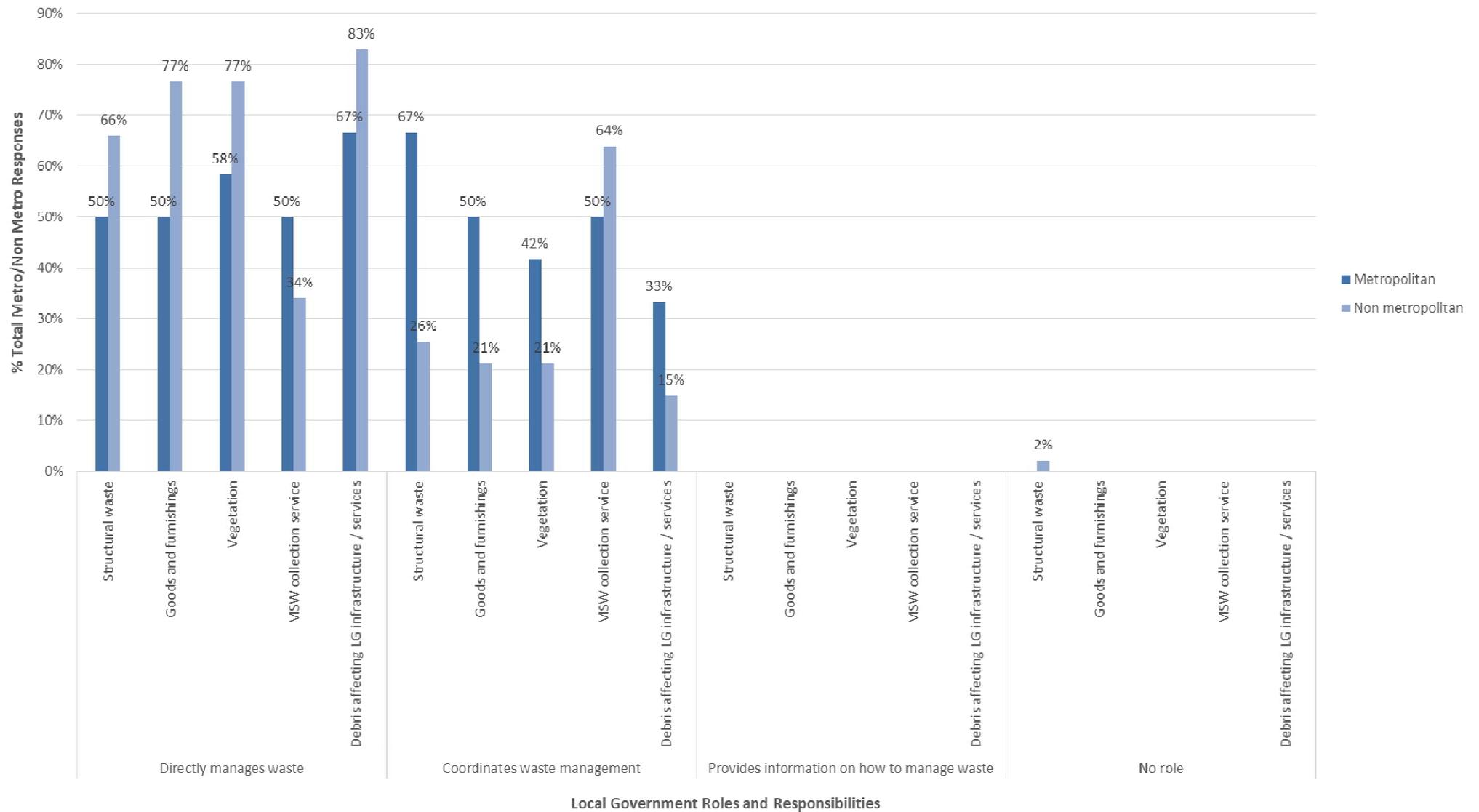


Figure 6: Local Government Roles and Responsibilities – Local Government waste.

2.2.4 Waste from State Government Sources

Findings:

- For waste from State Government sources, most respondents indicated that Local Government did not have a role in managing waste or their role was to provide information on how to manage the waste.

Respondents were most likely to indicate that Local Government either did not have a role in managing waste from State Government sources, or if it did – it was in providing information on how to manage it. There were limited instances where Local Government was considered by respondents to have a role in coordinating or directly managing these waste types. This was predominately in regional and remote areas. These responses were consistently received for when WANDRAA funding was activated, or otherwise.

Figure 7 shows respondents views on Local Government’s role and responsibility in managing waste from State Government sources. The coloured segments of each bar on the chart represent various job titles. Figure 8 shows the difference between perceptions on roles and responsibilities, based on the geographic location of the Local Governments that provided a response (metropolitan and non-metropolitan). To allow the response data to be directly compared, percentages of the total metropolitan and non-metropolitan responses have been used.

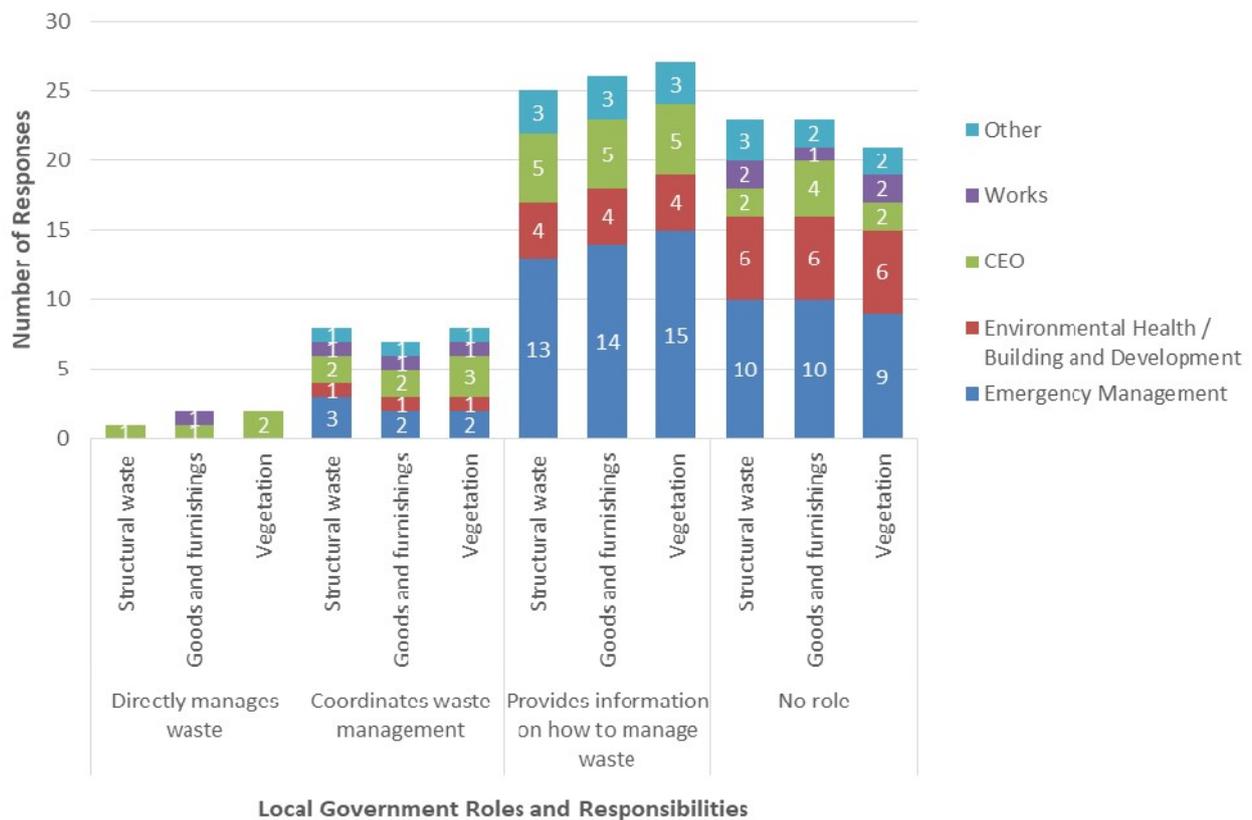


Figure 7: Local Government Roles and Responsibilities – State Government waste.

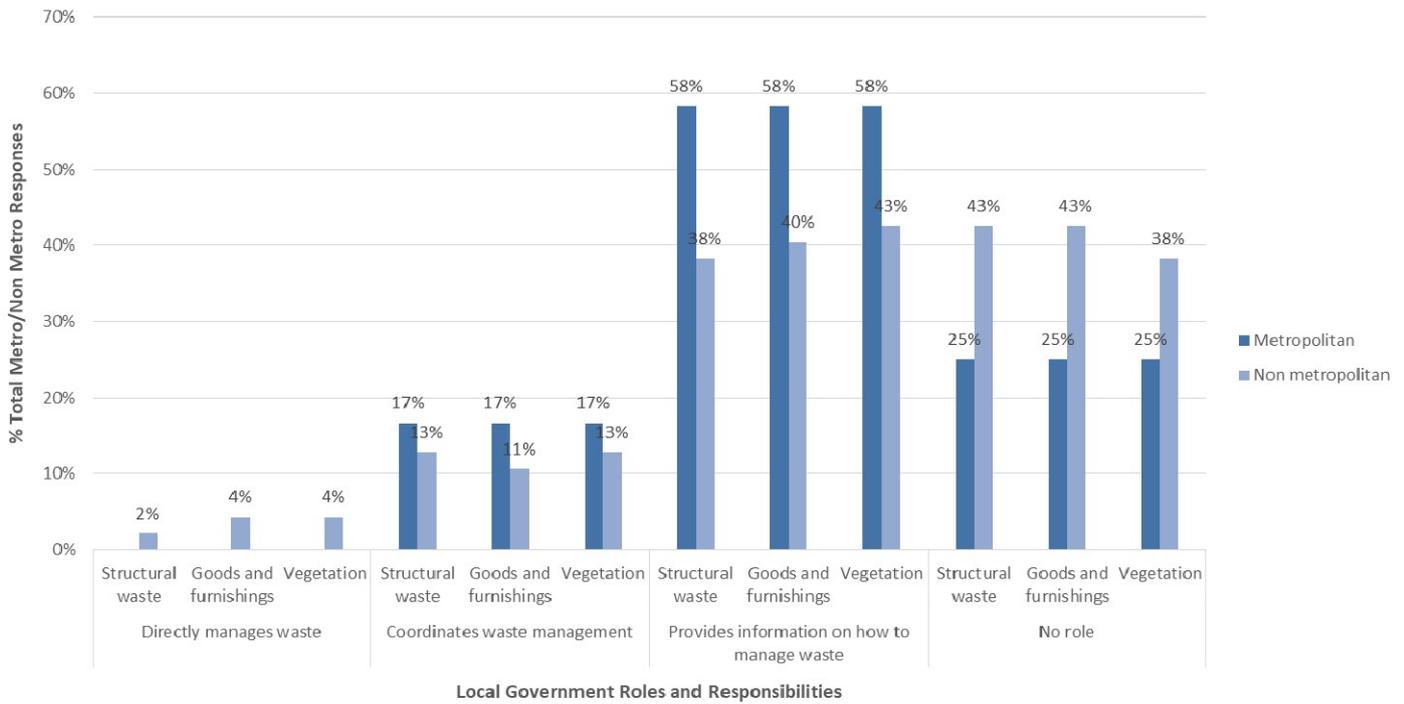


Figure 8: Local Government Roles and Responsibilities – State Government waste.

2.2.5 Waste from Commercial Sources

Findings:

- **For waste from Commercial sources, most respondents indicated that Local Government's role was to provide information to other parties on how to manage this waste.**

Respondents were most likely to indicate that Local Government had a role in providing information to other stakeholders on how to manage structural waste, goods and furnishings and vegetation and/or animal carcasses from commercial sources. Those respondents that indicated Local Government had a direct role in either coordinating or directly managing these wastes were predominately from regional and remote areas.

Figure 9 shows respondents views on Local Government's role and responsibility in managing waste from commercial sources. The coloured segments of each bar on the chart represent various job titles. Figure 10 shows the difference between perceptions on roles and responsibilities, based on the geographic location of the Local Governments that provided a response (metropolitan and non-metropolitan). To allow the response data to be directly compared, percentages of the total metropolitan and non-metropolitan responses have been used.

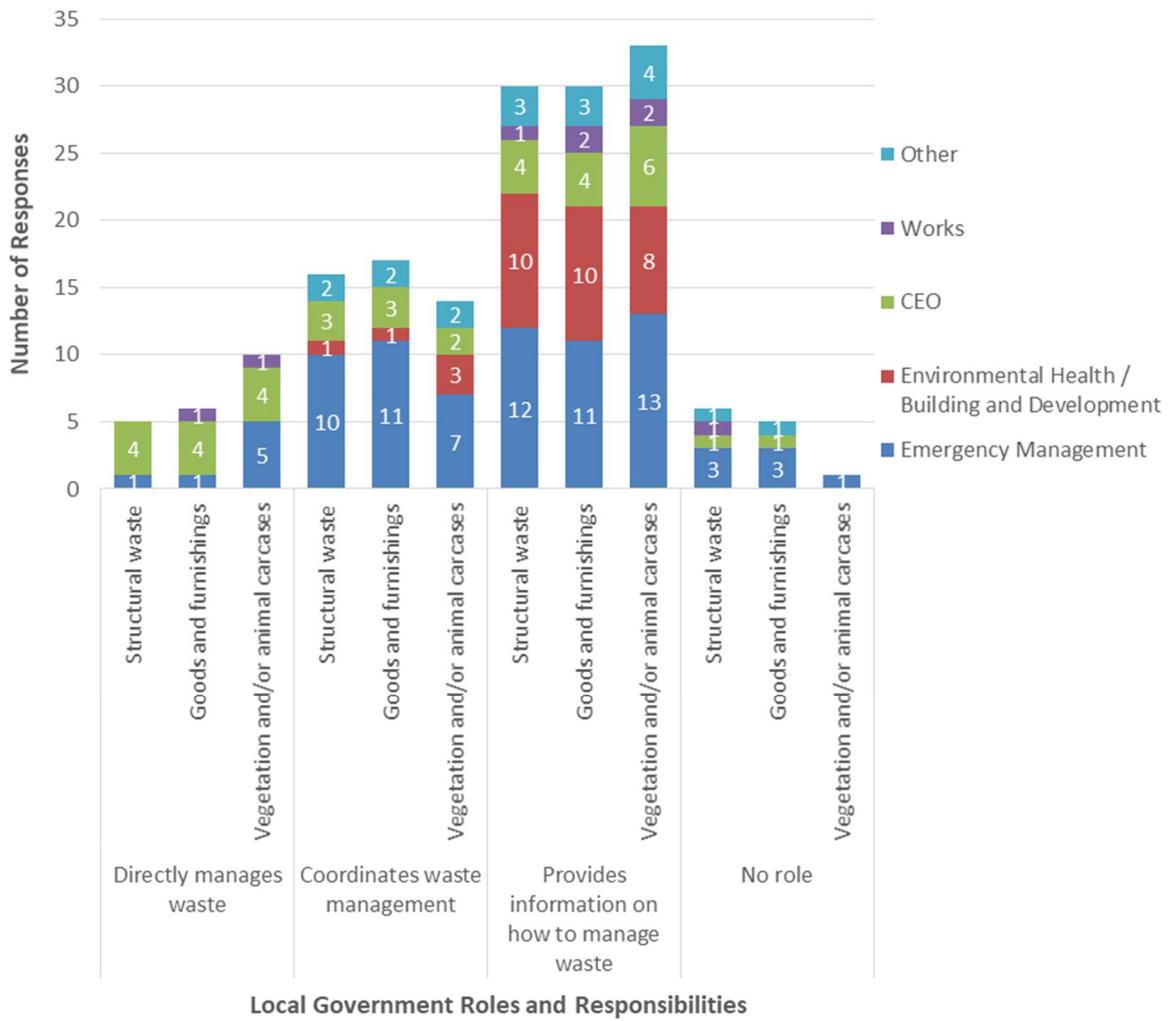


Figure 9: Local Government Roles and Responsibilities – Commercial waste.

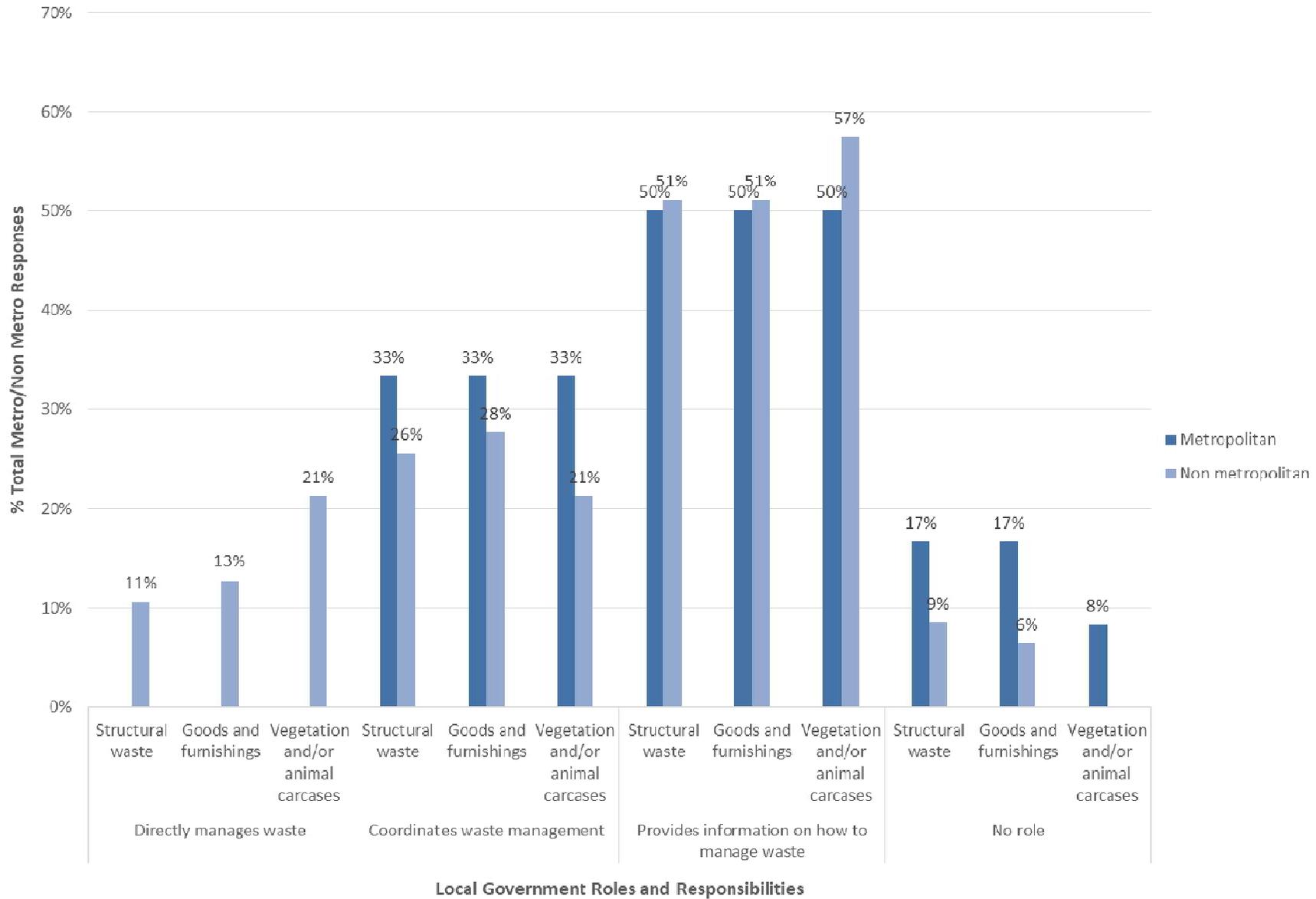


Figure 10: Local Government Roles and Responsibilities – Commercial waste.

2.3 Development of Preferred Supplier Arrangements

Findings:

- Respondents indicated that there was a need to outsource some waste management tasks in recovery, in particular those relating to the management of hazardous waste.
- There was some diversity in respondents' views on where authority resides for approving the use of external contractors in recovery.

The responses received to both the *Hazardous Waste* and the *Emergency Management Surveys* indicate that there is a preference to outsource the management of waste in recovery from certain operational areas of a Local Government (refer to Section 2.2). As part of the *Emergency Management Survey*, Local Government officers were questioned: 'If Local Government is leading recovery, who undertakes the following tasks?' The responses to this question (Table 1) show that officers from across a range of operational areas are more likely to outsource tasks related to the management of hazardous waste:

- 51% (30/59) hazardous waste identification
- 45.7% (27/59) emergency containment / confinement of waste
- 66% (39/59) transport of hazardous material.

Tasks that Local Government officers appear more inclined to complete in-house include:

- 49.1% (29/59) temporary storage of recoverable material (e.g. concrete)
- 40.7% (24/59) transport of non-hazardous material
- 44.1% (26/59) monitoring, treatment and disposal (non-recyclable material)
- 39% (23/59) monitoring, treatment and recovery (recyclable material)

Additional feedback was provided to this question, with respondents commenting that the decision to outsource an activity, or undertake it, depended on the scale of an event, the type of hazard encountered and the capacity available to a Local Government. Others stated that it was the role of the relevant Hazard Management Authority (HMA) to manage certain wastes. For example, 'DFES manage HAZMAT incidents/spills.' This raises an interesting point on the need for a HMA to make a situation safe in the response phase of an emergency, with respect to the Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CIA) handover process. Feedback was also provided on the difficulty of assigning responsibility to a specific party, when categories of waste can overlap and/or become intertwined in recovery.

Table 1: If Local Government is leading recovery, who undertakes the following tasks?

	Local Government would outsource activity	Local Government undertakes activity	Unsure who would do this	Nil response	Not Local Government's role
Hazardous waste identification (e.g. asbestos, chemicals)	30 (51%)	18 (30.5%)	3 (5%)	5 (8.5%)	3 (5%)
Emergency containment / confinement of waste (e.g. containment of spills)	27 (45.7%)	14 (23.7%)	5 (8.5%)	5 (8.5%)	8 (13.6%)
Removal of material	25 (42.3%)	20 (33.9%)	8 (13.6%)	5 (8.5%)	1 (1.7%)
Temporary storage of recoverable material (e.g. concrete)	11 (18.6%)	29 (49.1%)	9 (15.3%)	5 (8.5%)	5 (8.5%)

Transport (non-hazardous material)	17 (28.8%)	24 (40.7%)	4 (6.8%)	5 (8.5%)	9 (15.2%)
Transport (hazardous material e.g asbestos, chemicals)	39 (66%)	4 (6.8%)	4 (6.8%)	5 (8.5%)	7 (11.9%)
Monitoring, treatment and recovery (recyclable material)	16 (27%)	23 (39%)	10 (17%)	5 (8.5%)	5 (8.5%)
Monitoring, treatment and disposal (non-recyclable material)	16 (27%)	26 (44.1%)	8 (13.6%)	5 (8.5%)	4 (6.8%)

Given the emphasis placed by Local Government on contracting out some of the tasks associated with emergency waste management, WALGA has released a Tender for a Preferred Supplier Arrangement for the provision of hazardous and emergency event services, as a tool that Local Governments can use to deliver these type of services in recovery.

Table 2: Contractors previously used to complete waste management activities.

Hazardous Waste Survey	Emergency Management Survey
<i>Hazardous waste identification</i>	
Toxfree Local Government Local contractors Batavia Timber and Salvage Perth Asbestos Removal Action Asbestos Benson's Contracting Steve McKee Asbestos Masters Emissions Assessment Presna	WANDRRA Asbestos contract register LG EHO FESA Toxfree DER ERC ARL HMA
<i>Emergency Containment/ confinement of waste</i>	
DER Toxfree Waste collection contractor Local Government Direct Demolition Main Roads	DFES Wren Oil Local Government Toxfree DER ERC Picton Civil Azi West HMA
<i>Removal of material</i>	
Direct Demolition Local Government Local contractor Asbestos Masters Cleanaway Toxfree Benson's Contracting Steve McKee DPaW Savana Environmental Charuga	Local Government Local contractors Toxfree Suez Cleanaway ERC Organised by land owner
<i>Temporary Storage</i>	
Direct Demolition Local Government Perth Bin Hire	Cleanaway Local Government sites

<i>Transport (non-hazardous)</i>	
Local Government Cleanaway Local contractor Direct Demolition Perth Bin Hire	Local Government Toxfree Local contractors Organised by land owner
<i>Transport (hazardous)</i>	
Local Government Toxfree Asbestos Masters Direct Demolition Steve McKee Charuga Savana Environmental	Local contractors Chem Clear Picton Civil Azi West Toxfree Organised by land owner
<i>Monitoring, treatment and recovery (recyclable material)</i>	
SERS Local Government Direct Demolitions Toxfree	Local Government Cleanaway Local contractors
<i>Monitoring, treatment and disposal (non-recyclable material)</i>	
Local Government SERS Toxfree Direct Demolition	Cleanaway Local Government Toxfree
<i>Other situations</i>	
DWER Byblos Constructions	

There was a great deal of variety in the funds spent on hazardous waste management by Local Governments over the last five years, ranging from \$2,000 to \$80,000. There were a range of views as to who had the authority to appoint contractors in recovery, with 47% indicating this was the CEO.

2.4 Responding to Unlawful Waste Management Practices

Findings:

- **Local Governments indicated they were generally responding to unlawful waste management practices during recovery on a case by case basis, though existing mechanisms. The type of response was dependant on the scale of non-compliance. Local Governments also indicated they would refer these matters to various State Government Regulators.**

The *Emergency Management Survey* questioned how Local Government would respond to situations where other parties had undertaken unlawful waste management and disposal practices during recovery. Feedback indicates that the response would be considered on a case by case basis, with respect to the scale of the issue. For example:

- Referring the matter to the Environmental Regulator or WorkSafe
- Investigating, collecting evidence and taking action as required (i.e. issue infringements or seek to prosecute)
- Prosecute under existing Local Laws, Litter Act, Heath Act, Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Health (Asbestos) Regulations and/or other relevant health legislation (e.g. Health (Pesticide) Regulations - chemical disposal, Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations - commercial operators)
- Facilitating compliance where possible
- The CEO of the Local Government directly approaching local contractors to encourage correct disposal practices.

2.5 Licenced Waste Facilities

Findings:

- **There is limited understanding of what type of waste management facilities are available locally.**

Local Government officers were questioned on the number of licenced waste management facilities operating in their local area. From the responses received, it is clear that emergency management practitioners have limited understanding of what waste management facilities are available locally, or the licenced throughput for these facilities. There was also a low level of understanding of who operates these facilities (Local Government or private industry). Table 3 shows the responses to the question on the number of licenced waste management facilities in the local area. 24 respondents (41%) indicated they were unsure what facilities were available locally, or did not answer this question.

Table 3: Number of licenced waste management facilities operating in the local area.

	Class I Landfill (inert landfill)	Class II Landfill (putrescible landfill)	Class III Landfill (putrescible landfill)	Class IV Landfill (secure landfill)	Transfer Station	C&D waste processing facility	Organic processing facility	Metal recycler	Waste to energy facility
Not sure	5	4	7	9	2	6	3	5	4
Zero	17	13	22	26	18	25	26	22	35
One	10	21	9	3	17	8	9	13	0
Two	5	4	2	0	9	0	0	0	0
Three	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Four	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Five	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Nil response	20	14	19	21	12	20	21	18	20

2.6 Agreements, Understandings and Commitments

Findings:

- **Less than half of the respondents indicated they had arrangements in place with neighbouring Local Governments to provide assistance during recovery. Only 15% of these arrangements were considered to include waste management.**

As identified in Section 2.2.1, there were instances where officers from different operational areas of the same Local Government provided responses that indicate there are different understandings of what Local Government Agreements are currently in place.

42% (25/59) of Local Governments indicated they did have an arrangement in place with neighbouring Local Government/s to provide assistance during recovery. Of these, 15% (9 respondents) specifically included waste management considerations, such as

- General agreements to provide mutual aid during recovery (some agreements did not limit the nature of the aid that could be provided)
- Loan of equipment, staff and assistance with disposal options.

2.7 Additional Feedback

The *Emergency Management Survey* asked respondents if they had any additional comments or concerns relating to emergency waste management. The following responses were provided:

- In an emergency resulting in a considerable amount of waste material, State Government financial support would be required
- Recent emergency events have demonstrated that the management of asbestos and physical donations can be an issue. The Council is exploring the pros and cons of the GIVIT Program
- The responding officer had limited experience in this matter
- There is a need for more standardisation of Local Government processes (e.g. LEMAs) and for a coordinated response procedure between Local and State Government
- There is a need for a waste plan, just as there are plans for other matters
- In relation to Preferred Suppliers, the determining factor for non-metropolitan Local Governments is who can provide services, not necessarily who is on the panel
- Remote Local Governments use unique approaches to address problems, regularly making adjustments to 'normal practice'
- Thanking WALGA for addressing this issue
- Support for the development of a framework for managing waste in recovery
- Expressing a need to develop and implement local policies and procedures to address this issue
- It was difficult during an emergency situation to get any meaningful assistance from the Department of Environmental Regulation relating to prescribed premises and having some flexibility in dealing with waste.
- Identifying that emergency waste management needs to happen quickly, in some cases immediately. A preferred approach would be to establish a reference list of approved contractors which can be engaged without the necessity for a formal process.

In addition to the feedback provided through the survey, one Local Government provided a detailed response which should also be considered:

"...Bear in mind that there are about 600 people in an area a half again the size of the Greater Metro Area within the Shire. We know most of them personally. For this reason the responses that we may offer are different to what you would expect from a large council.

We are unlikely to have major events that require WANDRRA funding outside flood damage to roads which we have claimed this year for the first time in more than 10 years that I know of.

In the Shire, there are only a few businesses, granted that there are ag chemical retailers however the land here is so flat that a rushing flood event is unlikely. Generally we would adopt multiple roles except where funding dictates otherwise. The Shire would operate in a helpful and empathetic manner to help struggling ratepayers.

I can't account for this sort of response within your survey as there would be multiple answers to each question. We may assist ratepayers with their cleanup, we may assist business with theirs too, but we have less than 20 businesses across two towns so the whole thing may not be the problem for us that is seen in say a Joondalup or Stirling with many businesses and residences along with significant local government infrastructure.

I am not sure that you will grasp my meaning in all of this but suffice to say that our residents and businesses would have a greater expectation of the local government given that there is not a single State or Federal service available or represented within our borders.”

3.0 Raising Awareness of the State & Local Projects

In addition to seeking feedback on local approaches from Local Government waste management and emergency management practitioners, the Association has sought to raise awareness of both the State and Local projects on emergency waste management with senior management and Elected Members through the WALGA Zone structure.

As of March 2018, presentations have been made to 11 of the 17 Zones, effectively engaging 94 Local Governments through this process. A presentation on the project was also provided to the Mid-West and Central Wheatbelt Group of environment health officers. Attendees were from the Shires of Bruce Rock, Capel, Chittering, Goomalling, Moora, Northampton, Toodyay and York. By the conclusion of this project, the majority of Local Governments will have been reached. Further detail on zone meetings are provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Zone meeting details and attendees.

	Date	Zone	Location	Meeting Attendees
1	31.10.17	Pilbara	WALGA	City of Karratha, Shire of East Pilbara, Town of Port Hedland and Shire of Ashburton [4]
2	20/21.11.17	Kimberley	Darwin	Shire of Derby West Kimberley, Shire of Broome, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley, Shire of Halls Creek and Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands [5]
3	24.11.17	South West	Donnybrook-Balingup	Shire of Augusta – Margaret River, Shire of Boyup Brook, Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, City of Bunbury, City of Busselton, Shire of Capel, Shire of Collie, Shire of Dardanup, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire of Harvey, Shire of Manjimup and Shire of Nannup [12]
4	27.11.17	South Metro	East Fremantle	City of Cockburn, Town of East Fremantle, City of Fremantle, City of Kwinana, City of Melville and City of Rockingham [6]
5	29.11.17	Peel Country	Murray	Shire of Boddington, City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray, Shire Serpentine Jarrahdale and Shire of Waroona [5]
6	30.11.17	North Metro	Joondalup	City of Joondalup, City of Stirling and City of Wanneroo [3]
7	30.11.17	Central Metro	Vincent	Town of Cambridge, Town of Claremont, Town of Cottesloe, Town of Mosman Park, Shire Peppermint Grove, City of Perth, City of Subiaco and City of Vincent [8]
8	01.12.17	Central Country	Wagin	Shire of Cuballing, Shire of Beverley, Shire of Brookton, Shire of Corrigin, Shire of Cuballing, Shire of Dumbleyung, Shire of Kulin, Shire of Lake Grace, Shire of Narrogin, Shire of Pingelly, Shire of Quairading, Shire of Wagin, Shire of Wandering, Shire of Wickpin and Shire of Williams [15]
9	01.12.17	Great Southern	Plantagenet	City of Albany, Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup, Shire of Cranbrook, Shire of

				Denmark, Shire of Gnowangerup, Shire of Jerramungup, Shire of Katanning, Shire of Kent, Shire of Kojonup, Shire of Plantagnet and Shire of Woodanilling [11]
10	26.02.18	Northern Country	Mingenew	Shire of Carnamah, Shire of Chapman Valley, City of Greater Geraldton, Shire of Irwin, Shire of Mingeneu, Shire of Morawa, Shire of Northampton, Shire of Perenjori and Shire of Three Springs [9]
11	01.03.18	Great Eastern Country	Kellerberrin	Shire of Bruce Rock, Shire of Cunderdin, Shire of Dowerin, Shire of Kellerberrin, Shire of Kondinin, Shire of Koorda, Shire of Merredin, Shire of Mt Marshall, Shire of Mukinbudin, Shire of Narembreen, Shire of Nungarin, Shire of Tammin, Shire of Trayning, Shire of Westonia, Shire of Wyalkatchem and Shire of Yilgarn [16]
Presentations yet to be completed				
12		Goldfields		
13		South East Metro	Canning	
14		East Metro	EMRC	
15		Murchison	Cue	
16		Avon-Midland	Gingin	
17		Gascoyne	Carnarvon	

Appendix 1: Responses to the Hazardous Waste Survey

1	Bunbury Harvey Regional Council	29	Shire of Coolgardie
2	City of Albany	30	Shire of Coorow
3	City of Armadale	31	Shire of Cranbrook
4	City of Belmont	32	Shire of Dalwallinu
5	City of Bunbury	33	Shire of Denmark
6	City of Busselton	34	Shire of Dumbleyung
7	City of Cockburn	35	Shire of Gingin
8	City of Greater Geraldton	36	Shire of Gnowangerup
9	City of Joondalup	37	Shire of Goomalling
10	City of Kwinana	38	Shire of Kellerberrin
11	City of Mandurah	39	Shire of Kent
12	City of Perth	40	Shire of Leonora
13	City of Rockingham	41	Shire of Morawa
14	City of South Perth	42	Shire of Mt Marshall
15	City of Stirling	43	Shire of Mundaring
16	City of Subiaco	44	Shire of Northampton/Shire of Shark Bay/Shire of Chapman Valley
17	City of Swan	45	Shire of Pingelly
18	City of Wanneroo	46	Shire of Plantagenet
19	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	47	Shire of Quairading
20	Mindarie Regional Council	48	Shire of Shark Bay
21	Shire of Ashburton	49	Shire of Wagin
22	Shire of Beverley	50	Shire of Wandering
23	Shire of Boddington	51	Shire of West Arthur
24	Shire of Chapman Valley	52	Shire of Wongan Ballidu
25	Shire of Collie	53	Shire of Woodanilling
26	Town of Bassendean	54	Shire of Yilgarn
27	Town of Claremont	55	Shire of York
28	Town of Mosman Park	56	WMRC

Appendix 2: Responses to the Emergency Management Survey

1	City of Albany	32	Shire of Cuballing
2	City of Bunbury	33	Shire of Cunderdin
3	City of Busselton	34	Shire of Dardanup
4	City of Cockburn	35	Shire of Denmark
5	City of Joondalup	36	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
6	City of Kalamunda	37	Shire of Exmouth
7	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	38	Shire of Gnowangerup
8	City of Kwinana	39	Shire of Harvey
9	City of Mandurah	40	Shire of Irwin and Shire of Coorow
10	City of Melville	41	Shire of Kent
11	City of South Perth	42	Shire of Kondinin
12	City of Stirling	43	Shire of Kulin
13	City of Subiaco	44	Shire of Moora and Victoria Plains
14	City of Swan	46	Shire of Morawa
15	City of Wanneroo	47	Shire of Murray
16	Four LG	48	Shire of Narembeen
20	Shire of Ashburton	49	Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
21	Shire of Augusta Margaret River	50	Shire of Northam
22	Shire of Boddington	51	Shire of Perenjori
23	Shire of Boyup Brook	52	Shire of Sandstone
24	Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	53	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
25	Shire of Brookton	54	Shire of Upper Gascoyne
26	Shire of Broome	55	Shire of Wandering
27	Shire of Bruce Rock	56	Shire of Wyalkatchem
28	Shire of Christmas Island	57	Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
29	Shire of Cocos Keeling Islands	58	Shire of Yilgarn
30	Shire of Coorow	59	Town of Bassendean
31	Shire of Corrigin		7 Local Governments provided incomplete responses (not included)

Appendix 3: Emergency Management Survey Questions

Waste Management in Emergency Events

Thank you for taking the time to provide information on your Local Government's approach to planning for, and responding to, debris generated in emergency events.

This information will be used to guide WALGA activities as it works with the State to better incorporate waste management considerations into Emergency Management structures. The information collected will only be provided to third parties in a consolidated form.

This survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete and closes 5pm, Tuesday 5 September.

*1 Name

*2 Position / Job Title

*3 Email

*4 Local Government

*5 Based on your current Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA's), what prescribed hazards is your Local Government planning for?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cyclone
<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthquake
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flood
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heatwave
<input type="checkbox"/>	Storm
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tsunami
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)

*6 Has your Local Government assessed what types and amounts of waste are likely to be generated from these events?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	If Yes, what were the key outcomes of this assessment?

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Waste Management in Emergency Events

Determining Local Government Responsibilities

The *Emergency Management Act 2005* states that Local Government is responsible for recovery. Recovery is defined as — the support of emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychosocial and economic wellbeing.

WANDRRA is the Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

For this survey, the phrase **‘emergency waste management’** includes hazardous waste identification, emergency containment / confinement of waste, removal of waste, temporary storage, transport, monitoring, treatment and disposal of waste at appropriately licenced facilities. This term includes recycling and recovery of materials.

7 If WANDRRA funding is activated in recovery, what do you consider Local Government’s role is in managing waste from these sources?

	No role	Local Government directly manages the waste	Local Government coordinates the management of waste (e.g. via contractors)	Local Government provides information to other stakeholders on how to manage waste
Residential properties (structural)				
Residential goods and furnishings				
Residential land (vegetation)				
Local Government infrastructure (structural)				
Local Government goods and furnishings				
Local Government land (vegetation)				
Municipal waste collection service (e.g. kerbside waste and recycling collections)				
Debris affecting Local Government infrastructure / services (e.g. vegetation blocking local roads)				
State Government infrastructure (structural)				
State Government goods and furnishings				
State Government land (vegetation)				
Commercial businesses (structural)				
Commercial businesses (goods and furnishings)				
Commercial businesses (vegetation and/or animal carcasses)				
Other (please specify)				

8 If WANDRRA funding is **not** activated in recovery, which party do you consider is responsible for managing waste from these sources?

	Unsure which party is responsible	Local Government	State Government	Householder / owner / insurer	Business owner / insurer
Residential properties (structural)					
Residential goods and furnishings					
Residential land (vegetation)					
Local Government infrastructure (structural)					
Local Government goods and furnishings					
Local Government land (vegetation)					
Municipal waste collection service (e.g. kerbside waste and recycling collections)					
Debris affecting Local Government infrastructure / services (e.g. vegetation blocking local roads)					
State Government infrastructure (structural)					
State Government goods and furnishings					
State Government land (vegetation)					
Commercial businesses (structural)					
Commercial businesses (goods and furnishings)					
Commercial businesses (vegetation and/or animal carcasses)					
Other (please specify)					

*9 In answering the previous questions, was your professional opinion based on:

- The financial position of your Local Government
- The capacity (staffing levels) available at your Local Government
- Your prior involvement with Local Government recovery efforts
- An existing Local Government policy or procedure
- A defined legislative responsibility

Other (please specify)

Waste Management in Emergency Events

Communicating Local Government Responsibilities

10 Has your Local Government undertaken any research/consultation to identify community expectations on the clean-up of waste generated in an emergency?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure

11 Does your Local Government have a current Recovery Plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure

If Yes, does it refer to the need to communicate how other parties must manage waste they are responsible for?

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Waste Management in Emergency Events

Emergency Waste Management

12 If Local Government is leading recovery, who undertakes the following tasks?

	Unsure who would do this	Not Local Government's role	Local Government undertakes activity	Local Government would outsource activity
Hazardous waste identification (e.g. asbestos, chemicals)				
Emergency containment / confinement of waste (e.g. containment of spills)				
Removal of material				
Temporary storage of recoverable material (e.g. concrete)				
Transport (non-hazardous material)				
Transport (hazardous material e.g. asbestos, chemicals)				
Monitoring, treatment and recovery (recyclable material)				
Monitoring, treatment and disposal (non-recyclable material)				
Other (please specify)				

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13 If you have previously been involved in recovery efforts following an emergency, please indicate what contractors were used for the following tasks:

NOTE: Any information you can provide is appreciated.

Hazardous waste identification (e.g. asbestos, chemicals)	
Emergency containment / confinement of waste (e.g. containment of spills)	

Removal of material	
Temporary storage of recoverable material (e.g. concrete)	
Transport (non-hazardous material)	
Transport (hazardous material e.g asbestos, chemicals)	
Monitoring, treatment and recovery (recyclable material)	
Monitoring, treatment and disposal (non-recyclable material)	

14 If your Local Government has used a contractor for hazardous waste management in the last five years, what was the approximate amount spent?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Haven't used this type of contractor
<input type="checkbox"/>	Approximate amount spent

15 How would your Local Government respond to situations where other parties have undertaken unlawful waste management and disposal practices during recovery?

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Waste Management in Emergency Events

Capacity

16 How many of these licenced waste management facilities are operating in your local area?

	Not sure	0	1	2	3	4	5+
Class I Landfill (inert landfill)							
Class II Landfill (putrescible landfill)							
Class III Landfill (putrescible landfill)							
Class IV Landfill (secure landfill)							
Transfer Station							
Construction and Demolition waste processing facility							
Organics processing facility							
Metal recycler							
Waste to energy facility							
Other (please specify)							

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17 Who operates these facilities?

	Not sure	Industry	Local Government
Class I Landfill (inert landfill)			
Class II Landfill (putrescible landfill)			
Class III Landfill (putrescible landfill)			
Class IV Landfill (secure landfill)			
Transfer Station			
Construction and Demolition waste processing facility			
Organics processing facility			
Metal recycler			
Waste to energy facility			
Other (please specify)			

*18 Does your Local Government have an arrangement in place with neighbouring Local Governments, to provide assistance with recovery?

Yes
 No

*19 Are waste management considerations specifically identified in this arrangement?

Yes
 No
 If yes, what waste management considerations are included (e.g. loan of equipment, personnel, landfill space etc)

Waste Management in Emergency Events

Procurement

WALGA can establish Preferred Supplier Arrangements for pre-approved contractors for a range of services. Local Governments can access these Panels, in line with their Procurement Policy, without undertaking a formal tender process. WALGA is investigating developing a panel for hazardous waste management services. This survey will help to inform this process.

*20 Does your Local Government's Purchasing Policy outline what process must be followed to appoint contractors to undertake recovery?

Yes
 No
 Not sure

21 For recovery situations, who within your Local Government makes the decision to appoint contractors?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chief Executive Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Executive / Senior Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)
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*22 If WALGA developed a Preferred Supplier Arrangement for hazardous waste management services, would you use such a Panel?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

23 To assist with the development of a hazardous waste management services Preferred Supplier Arrangement, would you be interested in participating in a reference group?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

24 Are you interested in receiving updates on this project?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

25 Do you have any comments or concerns relating to emergency waste management?

Done