

WASTE AUTHORITY

Statement by Minister for the Environment

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for the Environment) [4.25 pm]: I inform the house that a new waste authority has been established under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, which received royal assent on 21 December 2007. The Waste Authority will play a crucial role in providing a strategic direction and in setting the priorities for waste management in Western Australia.

One of the main early tasks of the Waste Authority is to develop a statewide long-term waste strategy for the continuous improvement of waste services and waste avoidance and resource recovery. This will include the setting of targets for waste reduction and resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill. The Waste Authority will have an important role to play in advancing product stewardship and extended producer responsibility in Western Australia. These are new and innovative approaches to addressing the proliferation of product waste in our community.

The Waste Authority will also work closely with local governments to coordinate local efforts to prevent and reduce waste. Local government is a vital partner and its front-line role is critical to achieving success in moving towards producing zero waste in Western Australia.

The chairman of the Waste Authority is Mr Barry Carbon, who was a consultant and former chairman of the Waste Management Board, and the former chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority; the deputy chairperson is Ms Jan Grimboldy, who was a consultant and is a retired local government CEO; and the other members of the authority include Ms Carolyn Jacobson, who is a member of the Murdoch University Senate, a member of the Swan River Trust, and a former member of the Waste Management Board; Mr Marcus Geisler, president of the Waste Management Association of Western Australia and general manager of Theiss Services Pty Ltd, western region; and Professor Paul Hardisty, global director of sustainability and EcoNomics for WorleyParsons Ltd.

The Waste Authority replaces the former Waste Management Board. The Department of Environment and Conservation will provide technical and executive support to the authority. Finally, I place on the record my sincere thanks to the previous members of the Waste Management Board for their tireless work and efforts during its duration.