

## **WASTESORTED INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS**

*Statement by Minister for Environment*

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment)** [12.15 pm]: Well done, Minister for Fisheries! I am pleased to advise that new funding to boost Western Australia's recycling and processing infrastructure has just been released. There is \$1 million available through the latest round of WasteSorted infrastructure grants to fund selected recycling infrastructure projects, with up to \$250 000 available for each project. The state government has already provided more than \$7.5 million to reduce waste through the WasteSorted infrastructure and community education grants since 2017. This announcement adds a further \$1 million to that total.

The program prioritises infrastructure projects that recycle and process the focus materials set out in Western Australia's waste strategy, with a particular emphasis on food organics and garden organics, as well as textiles, for this funding round. I am pleased to report that previous WasteSorted infrastructure grants have helped to fund new capacity for plastics recycling, construction and demolition materials recycling, FOGO processing and other projects, including the recycling of paper and glass. The funding will help recycling infrastructure operators to support Western Australia's ability to process and recycle its valuable waste, and the grant is administered through the Waste Authority.

The state government is continuing to invest in increasing WA's recycling infrastructure and ultimately improve environmental management. This is just one of several grant funding programs that the state government is progressing to enable Western Australia to waste less and recycle more, including the recycling modernisation fund, the Food Waste for Healthy Soils programs being run in conjunction with the Australian government, and the Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO grants for local government three-bin FOGO collections, which adds up to tens of millions of dollars invested into waste management and recycling. The state government is committed to making landfill the last resort and to delivering the objectives set out in the state's waste strategy. This WasteSorted infrastructure grants program is another important step towards creating a low-waste, sustainable Western Australia.