

ROADS TO REUSE PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Environment

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment) [12.20 pm]: The government is supporting local recycling and Western Australia's transition to a circular economy through the Roads to Reuse program. Roads to Reuse is a market development program for recycled construction and demolition waste—C&D waste—that makes up nearly half of the state's waste stream. Roads to Reuse encourages the use of recycled C&D products in civil applications such as road construction. It does this by supporting the supply of recycled C&D products that meet a product specification designed to protect human health and the environment. Roads to Reuse products meet strict standards for contaminants such as asbestos and heavy metals. Products are independently audited to provide additional assurance for purchasers.

Since 2019, Main Roads Western Australia has used over 100 000 tonnes of Roads to Reuse products in projects such as the Kwinana Freeway widening, the Leach Highway and Welshpool Road interchange and the Tonkin Gap project, and it is committed to significantly increasing the use of recycled materials. There are opportunities to use significant quantities of recycled C&D products in local government projects.

In September this year, I launched the Roads to Reuse: Local Government Incentives program, a \$350 000 program to encourage use of Roads to Reuse products in local government projects. The new funding program provides a payment of \$5 for each tonne of product sourced from an accredited Roads to Reuse supplier and used by a local government. The program is capped at \$35 000 per local government.

The government is supporting other complementary initiatives that encourage local governments to use recycled C&D products. The Waste Authority WA is working with the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia, the Western Australian Local Government Association and Main Roads Western Australia to develop design and construction guidance for local government roads. This will help local governments to understand where and how to use the material. Main Roads Western Australia is also updating the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement to include provisions to preference the use of recycled C&D products in local government road projects.

I am confident that the Roads to Reuse: Local Government Incentives program will help support a circular economy and contribute to waste strategy targets for material recovery while protecting our environment and giving local governments assurance about the use of these products.