Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Environment

In accordance with section 23 of the Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Act 2007, I submit the Waste Authority Annual Report for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, for presentation to Parliament.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006.

Marcus Geisler
Chairman
Waste Authority
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The 2017–18 financial year has seen Western Australia take great strides towards ensuring a cleaner, greener, more sustainable State both now and into the future. The State Government recognises the importance of how we will deal with our waste into the future and considers it to be a high priority.

From the introduction of the statewide plastic bag ban promoting behaviour change and the continuation of the Better Bins Kerbside Collection Program (Better Bins) – which has now been adopted for implementation across more than 40 per cent of the Perth metropolitan region – to increased recycling levels in the construction and demolition (C&D) waste stream, we are successfully decreasing our waste to landfill by reducing, reusing and recycling instead of simply consuming and disposing.

These achievements should be celebrated, yet we cannot forget that we still have a long way to go.

C&D waste recycling has increased to 77 percent, meeting the State’s 2020 target of 75 per cent; however, recycling in the commercial and industrial waste stream is currently sitting at 46 per cent – a marked improvement, but still a long way off the State’s 2020 target of 70 per cent. Similarly, contaminated recycling in the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream and a lack of new services continues to hold back improvements to recycling rates – showing our message on the importance of correct separation of waste at home, into the correct bins, is still not connecting fully with the community. Increased consistency in services will add to the ease of messaging.

While household waste recycling is up from last year – to 38 per cent this financial year – it is still well below the State’s 2020 target of 65 per cent, and contamination by non-recyclables in our yellow lid bin is a growing concern.

Further improvements in MSW diversion rates can only be achieved if local governments (LGs) commit to rolling out better collection systems, such as food organics and garden organics (FOGO) which are promoted through the Waste Authority’s Better Bins program.

Supplying these services must be linked with a comprehensive community education campaign to ensure residents know what should go into each bin and what should be avoided.

The Waste Authority has developed the WasteSorted Toolkit which can be used by LGs when rolling out a Better Bins collection service. The toolkit supports the Better Bins program by providing LGs with a range of consistent communications tools and templates that can be customised and rolled out to educate residents on how to effectively and correctly use a three bin system. Awareness and education are key is key to ensuring proper separation of waste at the source – the home – and avoiding contamination of recycling streams.
Just remember: if in doubt, leave it out and contact your local government directly to find out which bin to put the item in.

The Waste Authority performs an advisory role and makes recommendations to the Minister for Environment on waste management matters. However, everyone plays an important role in improving waste management practices and behaviours.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the efforts of all Western Australians – community, industry, government, Waste Authority members, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation – in our continued effort to move WA towards being a low-waste society. It is imperative we change our attitude and keep materials circulating in our economy. A move towards a circular economy is a joint effort that can only be achieved through strong leadership – we must all join forces and do our bit to divert waste from landfill and commit to sustainable procurement choices that will benefit the environment, the State and our communities as a whole.

We are progressing in the right direction, and with continued commitment from us all we will ensure our State’s environmental sustainability long into the future.

Marcus Geisler
Chairman
Performance highlights

Review of the waste strategy

During 2017–18, the Waste Authority undertook broad public consultation as part of the State Government’s revision of the waste strategy, in accordance with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 (WARR Act).

For more information on the revised waste strategy, please refer to the Significant issues impacting the Waste Authority section of this annual report.

Better Bins Kerbside Collection program

The Better Bins Kerbside Collection Program (Better Bins) aims to implement best practice by funding local governments to provide residents with improved collection systems – helping increase recycling rates and diverting waste from landfill. Two-thirds of the rubbish bin is organic material which must be recycled instead of wasted. During the year, six more local governments signed up to participate in the program, comprising the cities of Joondalup, Melville and Subiaco; towns of East Fremantle and Mosman Park; and the Shire of Gingin.

A total of 16 local governments have taken up the program, with Better Bins systems being implemented across more than 40 per cent of households in the Perth metropolitan region.

Household Hazardous Waste program

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program provides local governments with funding to assist with the collection, storage and recovery/disposal of hazardous waste generated by households. The program is managed by the Waste Authority on behalf of the State Government, in partnership with the Western Australian Local Government Association, and aims to have a network of drop-off facilities throughout Western Australia.

Since 2008, thousands of tonnes of materials have been collected from 13 permanent facilities (eight metropolitan, five non-metropolitan) and through temporary collection events. In 2017–18, around 550 tonnes of materials including acids, batteries, flammable liquids, paint and cleaning products were collected for safe recovery or disposal.

A program review delivered in 2017–18 informed the design of an updated and improved five-year program, set to be delivered from 2018 to 2023, at a cost of $9 million.
During 2017–18, Waste Wise Schools (WWS) carried out professional learning workshops, school visits and project and partnership development across the Perth metropolitan and regional areas to reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill by schools, as well as encourage waste reduction behaviours. Highlights included:

- A total of 341 schools were accredited as WWS in 2017–18, including 41 newly accredited schools. During the financial year, 34 grants totaling $105,578 were provided to accredited schools for projects including recycling systems for paper and plastics; composting and worm farming; Waste Wise vegetable gardens; and reuse collection infrastructure.

- Twenty-six professional development workshops were delivered and 55 schools engaged with educational waste audits and other student activities.

- Funds were provided to support waste management activities in schools in the Kimberley, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Mindarie Regional Council, as well as the delivery of waste education workshops at early years learning services.

- The development of a Year 12 Australian Tertiary Admission Rank geography curriculum unit on waste management in Perth was completed and will be published in 2019. Development of a Primary School food waste curriculum guide also commenced.
Performance overview

The 2015–16 data was the most recently published data available to the Waste Authority in the 2017–18 financial year. It is anticipated that 2016–17 waste and recycling data will be released in late 2018. In 2015–16, Western Australia (WA) is estimated to have generated 5.2 million tonnes of solid waste of which 2.5 million tonnes – or 48 per cent – was recycled. Per capita, waste disposed of to landfill is estimated to have declined by 45 per cent since 2010–11. This decline in waste disposal was associated with scheduled increases in the waste levy and an anecdotally reported increase in stockpiling of unprocessed construction and demolition (C&D) waste.

Recycling in the commercial and industrial (C&I) waste stream is estimated to have increased significantly from 28 per cent in 2010–11 to 46 per cent in 2015–16 – edging closer to the State’s 2020 target of 70 per cent, as outlined in the Western Australian Waste Strategy: "Creating the Right Environment" (the waste strategy). While the waste levy provides an incentive to increase C&I recycling, the quantity of this recycling has also been driven by international market prices for scrap metal.

Recycling in the C&D waste stream has been responsive to increases in the waste levy since January 2015. Diversion from landfill has increased by 15 per cent since 2010–11 while the landfill diversion rate for C&D waste is estimated to have more than doubled from 31 per cent in 2010–11 to 64 per cent in 2015–16, moving towards the State’s 2020 target of 75 per cent. However, there is anecdotal evidence of increased stockpiling of unprocessed C&D materials in the Perth metropolitan region, which is not included in measures of landfill and recycling, the exclusion of this waste is likely to be the primary cause of the reported decrease in waste generation. Increased waste minimisation and reuse together with falling construction activity are also likely to have contributed.

The diversion rate for the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream generated in the Perth metropolitan region is estimated to have declined from 39 per cent in 2010–11 to 35 per cent in 2015–16 – well below the State’s 2020 target of 65 per cent. The decline has mostly been driven by a dramatic decrease in the amount of recycled C&D materials reported in the recycled MSW stream. Improvements in MSW diversion rates will require more local governments to roll out better collection systems, such as the third bin food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collections which are promoted and preferred through the Waste Authority’s Better Bins program. Community education and engagement to encourage household behaviour change that reduces waste and increases source separation are also essential.

The Waste Authority’s parallel report, The census of Western Australian local government waste and recycling services, which focuses only on household waste, provides important information on local government waste services and which services achieve the highest recovery performance. It has shown an increasing trend in recycling household waste – with recycling estimated to be up from 31 per cent in 2010–11 to 34 per cent in 2015–16, but still well below the State’s 2020 target rate of 65 per cent.

Diversion rates for the MSW stream generated in major regional centres have remained around 30 per cent, consistent with the State’s 2015 target rate of 30 per cent but well below the 2020 target of 50 per cent. In 2015–16, diversion rates varied between 7 per cent and 61 per cent among major regional centres. The best-performing centre provided residents with a FOGO kerbside collection service.
Published data indicate that there has been a steady decline in waste generation and landfill per capita (although stockpiling of C&D waste may be contributing to these trends). While it is encouraging to see that the State is sending less waste to landfill, more progress is still needed to meet the State’s landfill diversion targets for 2020.

**Table 1 – Landfill diversion**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recovery rate</th>
<th>Metro MSW</th>
<th>Major regional centre</th>
<th>C&amp;I</th>
<th>C&amp;D</th>
<th>State diversion rate</th>
<th>Per capita generation (kg per person)</th>
<th>Per capita diversion (kg per person)</th>
<th>Per capita landfill (kg per person)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>2,764</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–12</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>2,658</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>1,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012–13</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>2,486</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>1,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–14</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>2,659</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%4</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>2,437</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>1,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>1,999</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>1,040</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State targets 2015: 50% 30% 55% 60%

State targets 2020: 65% 50% 70% 75%

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1. All figures are from the *Recycling activity in Western Australia annual reports* except MSW performance (major regional centres) which is from *The census of Western Australian local government waste and recycling services*.
2. Landfill diversion and recovery rate are expressions of the same measure.
3. Some historical data has been revised. The data presented here supersedes all previous versions.
4. Excludes one major regional centre due to data verification issues.
Summary of Western Australia's performance against State targets*

- **2016 Actual**: 5,417kt
- **2020 Target**: 70%
- **2020 Target**: 65%
- **2016 Actual**: 56%
- **2016 Actual**: 57%
- **2016 Actual**: 36%

### Waste Generation

- **C&I (Commercial and Industrial)**: 32% (1,713kt)
- **C&D (Construction and Demolition)**: 38% (2,039kt)
- **MSW Metro (Municipal Solid Waste, Metropolitan)**: 21% (1,122kt)
- **MSW Non-metro (Municipal Solid Waste, Non-Metropolitan)**: 10% (543kt)

### Diversion Rates

- **Recycled 2016**: 1,166kt
- **Gap to 2020 Target**: 363kt
- **Recycled 2020 Target**: 1,166kt

### Totals and Notes

- Totals subject to rounding.
- 2016 = 2015–16.

* Data presented represents the 2015–16 financial year, as data for the 2016–17 financial year were not published in 2017–18.
Operational structure

A primary purpose of the WARR Act was the establishment of the Waste Authority. The Authority has a wide range of general powers and functions associated with waste established by sections 19 and 20 of the WARR Act, with 17 functions being set out in full in Schedule 2 including:

- Advising and making recommendations to the Minister on matters relating to the WARR Act.
- Inquiring into and advising the Minister or CEO on any matter relating to the WARR Act on which the Minister or CEO requests advice.
- Advising and making recommendations to the CEO on the regulation of waste services.
- Advising and making recommendations to the CEO with respect to subsidiary legislation under the WARR Act.
- Seeking the advice of other entities the Waste Authority thinks fit for the purpose of providing advice to the Minister in relation to the setting and variation of a levy.
- Acting as an advocate for the objects of the WARR Act.
- Developing, promoting and reviewing the waste strategy and coordinating its implementation.
- Monitoring and assessing the adequacy of, and reporting to the Minister on the operation of, the waste strategy, product stewardship plans and extended producer responsibility schemes.
- Promoting community awareness and understanding of resource efficiency, waste avoidance and resource recovery.

The Waste Authority monitors implementation of programs in the annual business plan – approved by the Minister – and provides advice to the Minister as requested.

The Waste Authority aims to identify and promote the economic and environmental benefits from improved waste avoidance and resource recovery practices. It also works to ensure the community understands the benefits of resource recovery and avoiding waste generation.

The Western Australian Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account (WARR Account) is credited with at least 25 per cent of the forecast waste levy. During 2017–18, administrative support, functions and services, and the management of programs funded from the WARR Account were provided by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) through a service level agreement.

In addition to establishing the Waste Authority, the WARR Act provides for waste avoidance and resource recovery and waste services by local government, and makes provision for a waste levy on waste disposed of to landfill. The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007 (WARR Levy Act) imposes a levy on certain waste.

Responsible Minister

The Waste Authority reports to the Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, as the Minister responsible for the WARR Act.
DWER provided services to the Waste Authority, as well as functions to support the implementation of the annual business plan.

In August 2014, the then Governor of Western Australia appointed the members of the Waste Authority for five-year terms.

Members

Chairman Marcus Geisler has corporate experience in the waste and recycling industry in Australia and overseas, particularly in the recycling of construction and demolition waste. Marcus has held senior management positions with Coates Hire, Thiess Services and SITA. Marcus has been a Waste Authority member since 2008 and was Deputy Chairman in 2011–12. As Chairman, he has developed a strong and broad engagement platform to bring together State and local governments, industry and the community to enable implementation of the State’s waste strategy, and to cater for WA’s waste infrastructure and management for the next 30 years and beyond. Marcus is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is currently leading the State waste strategy review process.

Deputy Chair Jenny Bloom is director of a change management and strategic planning consultancy, and owner and operator of small to medium-sized enterprises. With previous experience as an elected local government councillor, Jenny adds a regional perspective to the Waste Authority and has strong interest in how waste is processed regionally. This includes the growing resources industry and the delivery of municipal services to remote communities.
Members

Member Victoria Bond is a chartered waste manager with 13 years’ experience in the public and private sectors as a waste management expert. She has extensive international experience, having worked for global consultancies in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East. She brings technical and commercial expertise to the Waste Authority, along with knowledge of international best practice. She has an interest in waste education and behaviour change through effective communication to achieve positive results with regard to waste avoidance, increased recycling and decreased contamination.

Member Neil Foley is a town planning consultant who previously worked as a planner for Western Australia’s agencies responsible for planning, and in local government. He also teaches at the University of Western Australia. Neil has promoted the integration of planning for waste infrastructure in the State to be included in the State planning framework.

Member Glen McLeod is an environmental and town planning lawyer with over 40 years’ experience. He has held senior positions in major Australian, English and American law firms. In July 2012, he established his independent niche firm, Glen McLeod Legal, where he practices in the areas of environmental and town planning law. He is also a member of the WA Environmental Protection Authority; the Immediate Past Chair of the International Bar Association’s Environmental, Health and Safety Committee; and a member of the WA Law Society’s Environment Town Planning and Local Government Committee. He is an Adjunct Professor at Murdoch University where he teaches units in environmental and town planning law. He is a member of the Advisory Group to the Murdoch Dean of Law and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. In 2016, he was a recipient of the WA Law Society’s Lawyer of the Year Award. Glen is the General Editor of the national loose leaf publication, Planning Law in Australia, and an editor of the Local Government Law Journal.
Performance management framework

Contribution to State Government goals

Under an outcome-based management framework, the Waste Authority contributes to three of the State Government’s strategic goals.

Table 2 – Mapping Government goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Government strategic goal</th>
<th>Waste strategy strategic objectives</th>
<th>Waste Authority role</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Social and environmental responsibility                  | 1 Initiate and maintain long-term planning for the waste and recycling processing industry, and enable access to suitably located land with buffers sufficient to cater for the State’s waste management needs. | Apply WARR Account funds to develop and deliver a range of programs and initiatives to promote waste avoidance, reuse and recycling to support:  
• attitude and behaviour change; and  
• an environment in which infrastructure investments are more likely to be made. |
|                                                          | 2 Enhance regulatory services to ensure consistent performance is achieved at landfills, transfer stations and processing facilities. | Funds are applied:  
• through open and competitive processes;  
• assessed against financial and technical capability and risk; and  
• measured against the objectives of the WARR Act and delivery of the waste strategy. |
|                                                          | 3 Develop best practice guidelines, measures and reporting frameworks and promote their adoption.    |                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                          | 4 Use existing economic instruments to support the financial liability of actions that divert waste from landfill and resource recovery. |                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                          | 5 Communicate messages for behaviour change and promote its adoption, and acknowledge the success of individuals and organisations that act in accordance with the aims and principles in the waste strategy and assist in its implementation. |                                                                                                                                                    |
| Financial and economic responsibility                    |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                    |
| Stronger focus on the regions                            |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                          |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                    |
Financial operation

In accordance with the WARR Act, the WARR Account is to be credited with not less than 25 per cent of the forecast waste levy revenue in the State Budget. The Minister determines the amount to be credited to the WARR Account annually. The forecast landfill levy amount in 2017–18 was $76 million and the Minister approved the allocation of $19 million to the WARR Account. The levy was paid to the operating account of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). In addition to the waste levy, the WARR Account received interest calculated on its balance and other program refunds. The WARR Account had an opening balance of $33.2 million. WARR Account expenditure must be consistent with the annual business plan or as approved by the Minister. The WARR Account revenue and expenditure is summarised in the statement of cash flows in Table 7.

Snapshot

In 2017–18, the WARR Account was credited with $19 million from waste levy receipts and $0.86 million of account interest and other miscellaneous revenue. The 2017–18 WARR Account expenditure was $14.5 million (76 per cent of the operational budget). The opening balance of the WARR Account was $33.2 million and the closing balance as at 30 June 2018 was $38.5 million. The WARR Account’s 2017–18 financial activity result is disclosed in DWER’s annual report under the restricted cash accounts of the financial statements. The Auditor General provided an independent audit opinion on DWER’s financial statements and key performance indicators that included the WARR Account.

Governance

Processes are in place within DWER to monitor and audit the financial performance of the WARR Account, as required by section 81 of the WARR Act and in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006. The management of the WARR Account is regarded as a DWER service for the purposes of sections 52 and 53 of the Financial Management Act 2006.

Funding principles

The application of funds from the WARR Account, through programs set out in the business plan, is a key mechanism for delivering the waste strategy. The Waste Authority has adopted a set of funding principles that help ensure funds are applied effectively in relation to the waste strategy by providing a reference against which program design can be measured.

These funding principles:

- Promote the most efficient use of resources and prioritise the avoidance of waste by reusing, reprocessing, recycling and energy recovery, over disposal.
- Reduce environmental harm including pollution through waste.
- Ensure consistency with the WARR Act and the Environmental Protection Act 1986.
Outcome principles

- **Deliver benefits**
  Funded activities should result in a reduction in waste generation or an increase in landfill diversion against State target.

- **Address market failures**
  Funded activities should target and address a pre-identified market failure.

Process principles

- **Be efficient and effective**
  Funded activities should be cost-effective, efficient and deliver a net benefit to the State.

- **Be informed**
  Funded activities should be developed and evaluated using an evidence-based approach informed by the collection and reporting of relevant data and information.

- **Be collaborative**
  Funded activities should involve collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders where it is likely to lead to an outcome that is associated with greater benefits for the State and/or deliver outcomes more efficiently.

- **Integrity and accountability**
  Funded activities should be conducted in a manner that exhibits integrity and accountability and adheres to appropriate funding and governance processes.

- **Stakeholder engagement**
  Funded activities should be informed by stakeholder engagement and designed and implemented in a way that is supported by relevant stakeholders.

- **Manage risk**
  Funded activities should be designed and implemented with appropriate identification, evaluation and management of risk.
Strategic objective 1

Initiate and maintain long-term planning for waste and recycling processing, and enable access to suitably located land with buffers sufficient to cater for the State’s waste management needs.

Planning

The Waste Authority reinforced the importance of waste infrastructure planning within the State planning system through liaison with the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

In 2017–18, the Authority supported planning for waste infrastructure and services through input into a range of different land use planning instruments, including development control policies, district structure plans, local planning strategies and position statements. Key documents included:

- Draft State Planning Policy 4.1 – Industrial Interface guides planning decisions to protect the long-term operation of industry and infrastructure facilities, by avoiding encroachment from sensitive land uses and potential land use conflicts.
- Draft Leeuwin Naturaliste and Guilderton to Kalbarri Sub-regional Planning Strategies – overarching planning documents that guide future planning and development in growing areas of regional WA.
- Waste Authority submissions on the draft Development Control Policy 2.2 – Residential Sub-division and Draft Waterloo Industrial District Structure Plan to the Acting Chair.
- Submission on the Western Australian Planning Commission’s Position Statement: Housing on Lots Less than 100m².

Development of guidance to support local government to update planning strategies and schemes to ensure compliance with the waste-related provisions of the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 is ongoing.

Strategic objective 2

Enhance regulatory services to ensure consistent performance is achieved at landfills, transfer stations and processing facilities.

Strategic policy and regulatory initiatives

In 2017–18, DWER received WARR Account funds to deliver key strategic policies including:

National initiatives

A range of national initiatives – including product stewardship schemes – support resource recovery and operate in Western Australia. Product stewardship schemes contribute to diverting waste from landfill.

Product stewardship schemes that operated during 2017–18 included the Australian Packaging Covenant, the National Television Computer Recycling Scheme, the tyres product stewardship scheme, and the Paintback collection scheme for paint. Product stewardship is also being explored for other products including photovoltaic systems and batteries.

The Australian Product Stewardship Act 2011 has been undergoing a review to determine where improvements can be made.

Recent issues with national and global recycling markets have highlighted a need for increased collaboration between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories. In April 2018, Environment Ministers committed to take action on recycling and agreed to reduce the amount of waste generated and make it easier for products to be recycled. Government will work with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation to deliver this commitment.

WA has been working to align local recycling initiatives with national efforts to improve recycling.

Other national initiatives include development of a National Food Waste Strategy aiming to halve food waste by 2030, an industry voluntary phase-out of microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products, and the release of a National Market Development Strategy for Used Tyres.
Compliance and enforcement

Levy funds were applied to deliver a waste levy compliance and enforcement program within DWER.

The objective of the program is to ensure compliance with the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008 (WARR regulations). This is achieved through targeted premises inspections and, when appropriate, enforcement action.

In 2017–18, 143 inspections were carried out targeting waste levy compliance. This total comprises 95 waste levy compliance inspections and/or audits of levy return forms, and 48 compliance monitoring inspections of associated industries, targeted premises and in response to complaints received.

Updating the WARR regulations

In August 2017, the discussion paper – Waste levy and waste management: Proposed approaches for legislative reform was released by DWER for public comment for a period of 12 weeks, from 25 August to 16 November 2017. The paper proposed reforms for improving the waste levy framework and environmental protection regime to support improvements in Western Australia’s diversion of waste from landfill.

DWER also undertook work to progress reforms on consistent methodology for measuring waste by way of mandatory use of weighbridges, and the application of the levy to waste storage premises to address issues associated with long-term storage of waste. Work to amend the WARR regulations to enhance the completeness of waste and recycling data continued.

Container deposit scheme

The McGowan Government has committed to implementing a container deposit scheme (CDS), with the scheme scheduled to commence in 2020. The CDS is an example of an extended producer responsibility scheme which allows consumers to return empty, eligible beverage containers to a refund point and receive a ten cent refund in exchange. The objectives of CDS are to reduce litter, improve recycling and support social enterprises and community organisations through their participation. The CDS will complement the waste strategy and the Litter Prevention Strategy for Western Australia 2015–20. The Waste Authority has provided comment on the CDS Discussion Paper.

Plastic bags ban

The McGowan Government implemented the lightweight plastic bag ban on 1 July 2018. A ban was considered the most effective option to reduce the number of plastic bags entering our environment. Implementing the ban on lightweight plastic bags and promoting the benefits of avoiding single use plastic is consistent with the objectives of the waste strategy.
In 2017–18

• In 2017–18, the City of Melville – with support from other Southern Metropolitan Regional Council members – signed a Better Bins agreement to undertake a trial of a three bin food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection system (a first in the Perth metropolitan area) with about 7,000 households. Early feedback from the trial was positive, and indicated the potential for significant savings to residents in their waste collection services.

• In June 2018, the City of Joondalup signed a Better Bins agreement to roll out three bin collections to 59,000 households. The State Government has committed $1.77 million to support this major project.

Better Bins

The $20 million Better Bins program continued to support local governments to implement better practice kerbside collection systems to achieve higher resource recovery. There has been increasing interest from local governments in participating in the Better Bins program, although not within the original timeframe. In February 2018, the deadline for applications from local governments was extended from 30 June 2018 until 31 December 2018.

The program provides local governments with up to $30 for each household that receives a best practice kerbside collection service. The program encourages the transition to a three bin system in which general waste is collected in a red lid bin; co-mingled recycling in a yellow lid bin; and green/organic waste in a lime green lid bin. The three bin system is designed to help householders separate waste and increase recycling – helping WA achieve its landfill diversion target for MSW.

Better Bins encourages greater uniformity of waste and recycling systems across local governments. Consistency will support more efficient awareness and engagement communication, making it easier for people to recycle. Recycling rates in local governments that have a well performing three bin system are commonly around 50 per cent, and can exceed 65 per cent where food waste is collected.

Sixteen local governments have received funding commitments worth $9.3 million through the program to date, covering close to 370,000 households. The local governments are:

Metropolitan Perth: Cities of Bayswater, Cockburn, Joondalup, Melville, Rockingham, Stirling and Subiaco; Towns of Cambridge, Cottesloe, East Fremantle and Mosman Park.

Outside Perth metropolitan area: City of Bunbury; and Shires of Capel, Collie, Donnybrook-Balingup, and Gingin.

Grow Circular Economy

In 2017–18, the Western Australian Government committed $17 million to support the ‘Grow Circular Economy’ program. This program seeks to improve local government waste management services by facilitating the development of more efficient kerbside waste management services. In 2017–18, $10.5 million was committed to support local government actions that help reduce waste sent to landfill and support recycling. In 2017–18, $1.2 million was also committed to support the Western Australian Government’s再利用/reuse and recovery initiatives.
WasteSorted toolkits

The State Government’s $20 million Better Bins program supports local governments to introduce best practice kerbside collection systems, encouraging the use of a three-bin FOGO system to support householders to separate waste and increase recycling.

During 2017–18, a consultant was engaged to develop WasteSorted toolkits to support the implementation of the Better Bins program. The toolkits provide local governments with a wide range of communications tools and templates which can be used to support and educate residents when rolling out a three bin kerbside service.

The toolkits are accessible through the WasteSorted, Own Your Impact and Waste Authority websites.

Toolkit monitoring and evaluation

In November 2017, a consultant was engaged to develop and undertake monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the WasteSorted toolkits materials on community attitudes and behaviours. Twenty-three residents participated in an online bulletin and 652 residents participated in baseline surveys to establish current household knowledge, attitudes and behaviours on waste. Surveys and evaluations will be conducted following the implementation of the toolkits including the effectiveness of specific elements, the toolkits as a whole, and take up by local governments.

Vergeside and drop off services

The primary collection methods for municipal solid waste are kerbside, vergeside and drop off services. The Waste Authority is supporting better practice approaches to these collection methods. This work commenced with the introduction of the Better Bins program which supports best practice kerbside services.

In 2017–18, the Waste Authority reviewed vergeside collection services across Australia with the aim of establishing best practice benchmarks and guidelines. The research identified the characteristics of services that are consistent with better practice. The research was provided to a vergeside working group established by the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

The Waste Authority also undertook preliminary research into drop off services, also for the purpose of identifying best practice approaches to resource recovery.

Work is continuing as part of the Waste Authority’s commitment to support best practice local government services.
Strategic objective 3 (continued)

Household Hazardous Waste

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program provides local governments and regional councils with funding to assist with the collection, storage and recovery/disposal of hazardous waste generated by households. The program is managed by the Waste Authority on behalf of the Government, in partnership with the Western Australian Local Government Association.

Since 2008, thousands of tonnes of materials have been collected from 13 permanent facilities (eight metropolitan, five non-metropolitan) and through temporary collection events. In 2017–18, around 550 tonnes of materials including acids, batteries, flammable liquids, paint and cleaning products were collected for safe recovery or disposal.

HHW describes products used in and around the home that are flammable, toxic, explosive or corrosive. If not disposed of correctly, HHW can pose a threat to public health or the environment.

HHW review

The HHW program has been funded through the WARR Account since 2008. The HHW review proposed a five-year strategic plan to transition the program towards best practice. Engagement with local government helped to clarify the reasons the program needed to be revised.

A program review delivered in 2017–18 informed the design of an updated five-year program set for delivery from 2018 to 2023, at a cost of $9 million. The revised program continues to provide local governments with funding to assist with the collection of HHW. However, the new program contains clearer objectives to protect the environment and public health and is more targeted, focusing on priority materials and providing greater coverage.

The new program is flexible to respond to changes in the waste and recycling sector and contains strengthened monitoring and reporting mechanisms to improve accountability. The program is also expected to deliver better value through competition and more targeted services.

Program highlights

In 2017–18, almost 550 tonnes of HHW were recovered and safely recycled or disposed of including approximately:

- 216 tonnes of paint (at a cost of $354,068 – which is 33 per cent of the total cost of material disposal);
- 83 tonnes of batteries; and
- 89 tonnes of propane gas bottles.

- The program collected and recycled, or disposed of, approximately 125 tonnes of highly hazardous materials, including acids, pesticides and flammable liquids.

Paint collection at four sites was transitioned to the product stewardship scheme Paintback, allowing for more funding under the HHW program to be made available for other priority materials.
Strategic objective 4

Use existing economic instruments to support the financial viability of actions that divert waste from landfill and recover it as a resource.

Levy schedule

The waste levy results in a diversion of the amount of waste being disposed of at landfills and encourages investment in alternative waste treatment options and other government initiatives to support increased recycling.

Increases to the waste levy first commenced from 2010, with a five-year schedule of rate increases within the WARR regulations. The final scheduled increase will take effect from 1 July 2018.

Charitable Recyclers Rebate

Western Australian charitable recycling organisations routinely dispose of materials left at their facilities (at donation bins or shop fronts) that have been illegally dumped or cannot be recycled or reused.

The Charitable Recyclers Rebate program provides a rebate for the cost of the waste levy incurred by charitable recycling organisations in the metropolitan area when disposing of unusable material left at their bins and premises.

The program, which has been running since 2016, supports the continued efforts of charitable recycling organisations to divert waste from landfill and recognises that, for some items, disposal may be the only option because reuse, recycling or recovery may not be available or feasible.

Charities can claim the rebate in quarterly periods. Six charities are currently participating in the program, and are supported by rebates totalling $239,948 in 2017–18.

Clean Communities

Voluntary litter and weed clean-up activities provide a valuable community service that benefits WA communities and the environment. Litter collections result in tidy, litter-free public parks and community spaces, while weed collection supports natural functioning of the State’s parks and wetlands. However, the waste that is collected during voluntary clean-ups is often sent to landfill.

The Clean Communities program is delivered by the Waste Authority in partnership with the Keep Australia Beautiful Council of WA and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The program contributes to the objectives of the waste strategy by providing coloured collection bags to volunteer community groups, and offering small grants of up to $500 to encourage groups to sort and, where possible, recycle the waste they collect. The collection bags provided are consistent with Australian Standard bin colour labels: recycling (yellow); garden organics (green); and general waste (red).

During the year, the seven organisations that applied for the program filled 595 bags and received $2,506 in grant funding.
Community and Industry Engagement

The Community and Industry Engagement program (CIE) funds organisations to implement projects that divert waste from landfill, recover it as a resource, and contribute to achieving the objectives of the waste strategy.

The program, which commenced in 2016, supports industry, business, local governments, regional councils, peak industry organisations, research and education organisations, and community groups to promote better waste management behaviours, practices and awareness.

In 2017–18, CIE provided $310,000 to 9 initiatives that worked towards:

- minimising food waste;
- minimising plastic waste;
- increasing the use of construction and demolition products;
- changing attitudes to consider waste as a resource; and
- education and engagement.

Projects supported in 2017–18 include:

- City of Gosnells Young Re-inventor of the Year – a program that challenges young people to think differently about waste and encourages reuse, repurposing, rethinking, upcycling and reinventing waste into something new over disposal.
- Curtin University’s feasibility study – researching the effectiveness of the use of construction and demolition waste as a complete replacement of raw natural aggregates in concrete.
- City of Cockburn’s Better Bins three bin rollout – including a source separation and education program, and a community education and engagement program to complement its green waste kerbside bin implementation.
- The Western Australian Local Government Association’s project to develop a better practice guideline for managing waste from multiple dwelling developments. The guideline will include information on planning, development, correct separation of waste and reducing illegal dumping.
- Denmark Green Skills – a local initiative that upcycles old, stained or normally unusable clothing and fabrics that would otherwise go to landfill into the SEW COOL! range of clothing.

Community Grants Scheme

The Community Grants Scheme supports community groups to reduce waste generation, recover resources and reduce the impact of waste on the environment. Funding was allocated to projects that addressed the strategic waste focus areas detailed in the waste strategy.

One funding round was offered in 2017–18, with successful recipients announced in financial year 2018–19. This provided funding to a variety of projects including recycling second hand items to remote communities in WA; waste awareness through art; a small-scale regional community recycling centre; composting facilities and programs in community gardens; and community workshops on waste.

Recycled Construction Products Program

The Recycled Construction Products Program (RCPP) provides an incentive to metropolitan local governments, regional councils, State Government and private sector entities to use recycled construction and demolition (C&D) products in civil construction projects, such as road base.

The RCPP aims to transition the construction products market so that recycled products are accepted and preferred over raw materials in civil construction applications, promoting a circular economy model.

RCPP is a three-year, $10M program with $8M nominal allocated to metro local governments calculated on population, and $2M for open expressions of interest for the private and public sectors.

Materials funded by the RCPP must meet the program’s product specifications to ensure the environment is protected. During 2017–18, work progressed to refine product specifications. This included interdepartmental collaboration with Main Roads Western Australia and the Department of Health. This work is expected to be completed in the 2018–19 financial year and will facilitate funding applications for users of recycled C&D products.

In addition, the City of Canning submitted a policy promoting the use of recycled C&D products in construction projects. This enabled the City to claim a $10,000, one-off payment – making it eligible to receive higher incentive payments per tonne for use of recycled materials under the RCPP.
Keep Australia Beautiful WA

Keep Australia Beautiful WA is mainly funded through an annual WARR Account grant for implementation of the State Litter Prevention Strategy 2015–20. The funding agreement covers six areas of work comprising research and data; education, awareness and training; enforcement; incentives; collaboration and partnerships; and administration.

Key achievements in 2017–18 included the delivery of:

- Two National Litter Index audits at 151 sites across the State.
- Education and training events such as clean-ups and displays, the Clean Schools program and workshops in partnership with the Western Australian Local Government Association.
- The Litter Report Scheme through which 2,295 litter reports were received with a 91 per cent conversion rate to infringements and payment. The number of litter reporters increased to 13,172, with 1,057 Western Australians registering to become litter reporters.
- The Adopt-a-Spot program, which had 1,027 groups registered with over 30,630 volunteers as at 30 June 2018. Members were provided with over 41,000 bags in the past year. Each bag is capable of holding up to 15 litres of rubbish. As a result of member efforts, it is estimated that approximately 610,000 litres of rubbish was removed from the environment in 2017–18.
- The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards had 42 registrations in 2017–18 – culminating the efforts of 7,680 volunteers. Over 82,000 hours of volunteer participation drove the projects entered, helping to sustain the environmental, economic and social structure of these communities.

Further detail on Keep Australia Beautiful WA’s work can be found in its 2017–18 annual report.
Waste Wise Schools carried out professional learning workshops, school visits and project and partnership development across the Perth metropolitan and regional areas, helping reduce the volume of waste that schools send to landfill and encouraging waste reduction behaviours. Highlights included:

- A total of 341 schools were accredited in 2017–18, including 41 newly accredited schools. Thirty-four grants were provided to accredited schools for projects such as recycling systems for paper and plastics; composting and worm farming; Waste Wise vegetable gardens; and reuse collection infrastructure. A total of $105,578 (including GST) was awarded to schools during the financial year.

- Twenty-six professional development workshops were delivered, while educational waste audits and student activities were undertaken at 55 schools.

- Funds were provided to support waste management activities in schools in the Kimberley, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Mindarie Regional Council, as well as the delivery of waste education workshops at early years learning services.

- Waste management curriculum material continued to be developed and provided to schools, to support teachers in the delivery of waste wise education to Western Australian students.

2017 Infinity Awards

The Infinity Awards celebrate innovative solutions to reducing waste and increasing reuse and recycling.

Awarded every year, the Infinity Awards provide public recognition and encouragement to individuals, business, local and regional governments and State Government agencies, and community organisations that demonstrate innovation and commitment to reducing waste and increasing re-use and recycling.

The 2017 Infinity Awards winners were announced during a Waste Authority breakfast at the Waste and Recycle Conference on 14 September 2017. Environment Minister Stephen Dawson and Waste Authority Chairman Marcus Geisler presented the awards.

The Northern Agricultural Catchments Council took out the Community Award, while Esperance Farm Training Centre won the Waste Wise Schools Award.

The WasteLess Pantry claimed the overall top spot, named Waste Champion for the year.

Other winners included Soft Landing WA, the City of Stirling and WA Police.

Toolkit monitoring and evaluation

A request for tender was issued in January 2017 to develop and undertake monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the toolkit materials on community attitudes and behaviours. The evaluation of the communications toolkit will increase understanding of how communication and engagement affects waste attitudes and behaviours. The effectiveness of specific elements of the toolkit, the toolkit as a whole and its take up by local governments will be evaluated.
Authority performance (continued)

Strategic objective 5 (continued)

Garage Sale Trail

The Waste Authority supported local governments to participate in the national 2017 Garage Sale Trail by offering a 50 per cent subsidy of the cost of participation, calculated on a population basis.

Held in October 2017, Garage Sale Trail provided local governments with the opportunity to participate in a national community event which focused on waste avoidance and materials reuse as part of the focus on a circular economy. Thirty-three local governments across metropolitan and regional WA participated in the event.

There were 3,790 garage sales in WA with 71,000 people participating as either sellers (5,300) or shoppers (64,700). There were 434,834 items listed for sale across the State. On average, household garage sales made $265 each, with approximately $95,374 raised for local charities and community groups.

As a result of participation in Garage Sale Trail, 75 per cent of participants reported they were more conscious about waste and understood their role in reducing it.

An Engagement in Action tender was undertaken seeking service providers to develop and deliver a statewide, evidence-based initiative designed to change the WA community’s behaviour around waste avoidance and the reuse of materials. Garage Sale Trail was the successful respondent and was awarded a contract in February 2018 for delivery of the program in 2018 and 2019.

Local Government Week

The Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition was held between 2-4 August 2017 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. On 3 August, 2017 Marcus Geisler delivered an address outlining the Authority’s activities and priorities for 2017–18, focusing on RCPP and Better Bins. Waste Authority members made themselves available at a booth during the event, where they promoted Waste Authority program initiatives and engaged with delegates on a wide range of issues.

Shared responsibilities with other agencies

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Under sections 16 (1) and 17 (1) of the WARR Act, the Minister must ensure the Waste Authority is provided with the services and facilities reasonably necessary to perform its functions.

DWER provides strategic policy, administrative and program management support, and delivers funded programs. A service level agreement between the parties governs the funding of functions carried out for either party in its respective role under the WARR legislation.

In June 2018, the Waste Authority appointed (through DWER) Ernst and Young to review the governance charter, develop the risk and performance committee terms of reference and update the service level agreement.
Significant issues impacting the Waste Authority

Current and emerging issues/strategic focus in 2017–18

The review of the waste strategy was a major focus in 2017–18. On 31 October 2017, a waste strategy consultation paper and an online survey were released by the Waste Authority, on behalf of the State Government, inviting stakeholders to make submissions on a revised waste strategy by 1 March 2018.

The paper introduced priority areas (with targets) to provide greater focus; adjusted existing targets and established new targets out to 2030; reframed existing terminology to help support the waste strategy’s focus; and placed greater emphasis on linkages between the waste strategy and other State Government priorities, including key projects (such as METRONET) and a move towards a circular economy.

Nine consultation workshops were held across the State in the Perth metropolitan region and six in regional centres (Bunbury, Albany, Narrogin, Port Hedland, Kalgoorlie-Boulder and Geraldton).

The Waste Authority will consider the submissions and prepare a modified draft revised waste strategy. A final waste strategy is expected to be released in late 2018.

A Public Accounts Committee hearing followed from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) report: *Western Australian Waste Strategy – Rethinking our Waste* (Report No. 23 – October 2016). Waste Authority Chairman, Marcus Geisler and Deputy Chair, Jenny Bloom addressed the committee on 20 June 2018 and gave evidence regarding the implementation of the OAG report. On 29 June 2018, the Committee requested responses from Marcus Geisler to a number of follow-up questions.

The Waste Authority is currently reviewing its Governance Framework, and in conjunction with DWER, undertaking an extensive review of the Service Level Agreement, to optimise resource allocation and service delivery in accordance with the WARR Act 2007.

Waste Authority members remain concerned over the level of support and priority given to Authority initiatives, the speed and process of a business case and business plan approval, and the delay in progressing governance tools by DWER.

There is a need for increased adoption of best practice. The Waste Authority continues to promote the need for commitment by all waste generators and managers to adopt best practice management and engagement. Stakeholders need to ensure transition toward better practice is implemented in a timely manner. For local governments, this transition should be captured in waste planning activities.

Errors were discovered in the *Recycling Activity in Western Australia* 2015–16 report that affected reported performance against State landfill diversion targets. A corrected report was published in 2017–18. The main cause of the error was that waste stream origins of landfilled waste generated outside the Perth metropolitan region were incorrectly allocated by the consultant who prepared the report. In correcting this error, the opportunity was taken to further review and improve the accuracy of other aspects of data and readers should refer to the report for more details.

This report also saw the adoption of a new approach to estimating landfill activity outside the Perth metropolitan region during 2015–16. This involved extrapolating from data collected through a voluntary survey of large landfills with weighbridges outside the Perth metropolitan region. Prior to 2015–16, Perth metropolitan region per capita waste generation rates were used to derive non-metropolitan waste generation and landfill data. A change of methodology was required following the commencement of scheduled increases to the waste levy on waste generated in the Perth metropolitan region and disposed to landfill, which dramatically affected waste flows.

The stockpiling of unprocessed C&D waste and its impact on waste generation and landfill diversion rates is also a significant issue that impacts our ability to measure the State’s performance against State landfill diversion targets. Addressing this issue will be a priority in future Recycling Activity reports.

More generally, the timeliness and accuracy of data on waste and recycling is a significant issue given its role in informing government and industry decision making. These issues are shared by all Australian jurisdictions. A waste data strategy was drafted in the 2017–18 financial year to guide future initiatives aimed at improving Western Australia’s waste data. It is anticipated to be released following the release of the final revised waste strategy.
Disclosures and legal compliance

Ministerial directives

Under the WARR Act, the Minister for Environment may give written directions to the Waste Authority, either generally or in relation to particular matters.

The Waste Authority did not receive any ministerial directions during 2017–18.

The Waste Authority received a statement of ministerial expectation during 2017–18. The statement, which does not constitute a ministerial direction, and the Waste Authority's response in the form of a statement of intent are published on the Waste Authority website.

Pricing policies

The Waste Authority does not apply fees or charges for goods or services.

Waste levy collection

In 2017–18, $73.95 million in waste levy was collected. There were 26 landfill premises monitored in relation to the waste levy, the majority of which were in the Perth metropolitan area.

The disposal of metropolitan waste to non-metropolitan landfill facilities increased from 28 per cent of total waste disposed of to landfill in 2016–17, to 44 per cent of total waste disposed in 2017–18. Such waste remains liable for payment of the waste levy which was received on the due dates.

Remuneration

The remuneration of the Waste Authority members is determined by the Governor of Western Australia, on recommendation of the Public Sector Commissioner, in accordance with the Public Sector Management Act 1994. Annual remuneration is outlined in Table 3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period of appointment</th>
<th>Annual remuneration</th>
<th>Gross remuneration*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Marcus Geisler</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$40,973</td>
<td>$51,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Chair</td>
<td>Jennifer Bloom</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$25,433</td>
<td>$25,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Victoria Bond</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$20,425</td>
<td>$20,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Neil Foley</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$20,360</td>
<td>$20,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Glen McLeod</td>
<td>19 August 2014–25 June 2019</td>
<td>$20,360</td>
<td>$20,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes benefits (such as travel allowances and superannuation) and goods and service tax.

Director and officer liability insurance

Waste Authority members are insured under DWER’s insurance arrangements. Details on the Department’s public liability, professional indemnity and employment practices insurance are included in its 2017–18 annual report.
Employment and industrial relations

The Waste Authority is not an employing authority and does not employ staff.

Other legal requirements

Advertising

Section 175ZE of the Electoral Act 1907 requires the inclusion of a statement detailing all advertising expenditure incurred by the Waste Authority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Grants Scheme</td>
<td>Adcorp</td>
<td>13,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Grants Scheme</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>1,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and Industry Engagement – National Recycling Week</td>
<td>Adcorp</td>
<td>13,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Review of the Waste Strategy</td>
<td>Adcorp</td>
<td>11,783</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statutory Review of the Waste Strategy</td>
<td>State Law Publisher</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Review of the Waste Strategy</td>
<td>Independent and general</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$41,520</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public sector principles

In June, the Public Accounts Committee, Legislative Assembly conducted a hearing on the implementation of recommendations from the Auditor General’s report Western Australian Waste Strategy: Rethinking Waste, at which the Chairman and Deputy Chair of the Waste Authority presented evidence.

Government and public sector relationship

A communications agreement between the Waste Authority and the Minister for Environment was signed on 3 May 2018.

Meetings

The Waste Authority held 12 meetings during 2017–18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Meetings attended*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marcus Geisler</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Bloom</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Bond</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Foley</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen McLeod</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three ‘resolution without meetings’ were recorded pursuant to Schedule 1, Division 2, clause 11 of the WARR Act on:

- 12 July 2017 for delegation of Waste Authority submissions on the draft Development Control Policy 2.2 – Residential Sub-division and Draft Waterloo Industrial District Structure Plan to the Acting Chair;
- 9 May 2018 for the Waste Authority submission on the Western Australian Planning Commission’s Position Statement: Housing on Lots Less than 100m²; and
- 21 May 2018 for delegation of the endorsement of funding recommendations for the Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction program 2017–18 to the Chairman.
Disclosures and legal compliance (continued)

Governance disclosures

The Waste Authority’s corporate governance arrangements ensure transparency in decision-making and operation, as well as accountability to stakeholders. The following three disclosures of potential conflicts of interest were made by members of the Waste Authority:

- During the 2 August 2017 meeting, member Neil Foley declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to the agenda item for the 2017 Infinity Awards recommendations. As the City of Stirling was an applicant for the awards, and Neil had recently completed a town planning consultancy (not related to waste) for development applications for the City, a disclosure of interest form was completed by Neil and signed by the Chairman. Neil did not vote during the item.

- During the 2 November 2017 and 7 December 2017 meetings, member Glen McLeod declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to the agenda items for a waste to energy position statement. Glen is a member of the Environmental Protection Authority. A disclosure of interest for both meetings was completed by Glen and signed by the Chairman. Glen excused himself from the meetings for all discussions on the position statement.

Ethics and integrity

The Waste Authority Code of Conduct was peer reviewed by officers of the Public Sector Commission and approved by the Waste Authority in February 2016.

Procurement practices follow State Government guidelines and procurement policy.

Organisational structure

Section 16 (1) and 17 (1) of the WARR Act provides that the Minister for Environment shall ensure the Waste Authority is provided with the services and facilities reasonably necessary to enable it to perform its functions. Section 16 (2) provides that the Minister may, by arrangement with DWER, allow the Waste Authority to make use of the services of any officer in the Department.

Services provided by staff are employed by DWER under provisions of the Public Sector Management Act 1994, pursuant to section 16 (1) of the WARR Act. Officers are subject to DWER’s human resources policy, information technology and administrative processes, and other policy matters regulated by the Financial Management Act 2006 and Treasurer’s Instructions.

A service level agreement (SLA) for the provision of services between DWER and the Waste Authority was signed on 30 August 2017. The SLA sets out the parties’ mutual understanding of their respective statutory and other legal functions and obligations through a statement of expectations and performance deliverables for provision of services for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020. The Waste Authority noted that administrative changes around staffing have impacted on the filling of all positions identified in the SLA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Waste services functions delivered by DWER under the SLA</th>
<th>FTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waste strategy division</td>
<td>25.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other functions</td>
<td>34.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Authority members (not FTE)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disclosures and legal compliance (continued)

Communication

The Waste Authority's Code of Conduct outlines how the Waste Authority ensures official information remains confidential, describes the process for public interest disclosure, and provides guidance on freedom of information. The Waste Authority ensures that records of decisions and all other documentation are securely retained. Minutes of Waste Authority meetings are circulated to members with meeting agenda papers. In addition to maintaining the Waste Authority and the Waste Wise Schools websites, DWER provides services to the Waste Authority for its publications, such as a bi-monthly e-newsletter, as well as media relations. The Minister for Environment approved the 2017–18 Waste Authority Annual Communications Plan in June 2017. The plan outlines measures that will be undertaken to increase awareness of WARR Account funded programs.

Recordkeeping plan

The Waste Authority complies with the State Records Act 2000 through adherence to DWER’s recordkeeping plan. The Waste Authority follows the procedures required under the Act.

Waste Authority publications

During 2017–18, the Waste Authority published:

- Business Plan 2017–18
- Better practice guidelines for charitable recyclers and supporting documentation
- Community Grant Scheme (CGS) guidelines and supporting documentation
- eNewsletter editions published in Oct 2017 and April 2018
- Recycling Activity in Western Australia 2015–16 report
- Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about CGS waste grants (updated)
- Guidelines: Clean Communities Program (updated)
- Community and Industry Engagement program guideline (updated)
- Guidelines Charitable Recyclers Rebate program
Summary of income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2018

Table 7 – Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2018

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017–18 ($000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waste levy</td>
<td>19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receipts</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,861</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017–18 ($000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provision of services</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services provided by Waste Strategy and DWER</td>
<td><strong>7,415</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program names</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food waste initiatives</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal dumping community education campaign*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory review of the waste strategy</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of the Waste Wise Schools Program*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology for approved manner for the provision of data*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop off and vergeside service trials*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled products policy</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better bins kerbside collection</td>
<td>1,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household hazardous waste program</td>
<td>1,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community and industry engagement</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Wise Schools</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled construction products program</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for testing recycled construction and demolition products</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WasteSorted toolkit</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community grants scheme</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable recycling organisational rebate</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement in action</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government waste plans*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable recyclers dumping reduction program</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean communities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household hazardous waste review*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data strategy*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding principles*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste data collection (Recycling Activity, LG Census)</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,861</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account Expenditure (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funded activities</th>
<th>2017–18 ($000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Container deposit scheme</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single use lightweight plastic bag ban</td>
<td>934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic analysis of the waste levy*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National initiatives*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,114</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</th>
<th>2017–18 ($000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,530</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other activities</th>
<th>2017–18 ($000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>5,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period</td>
<td>33,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,578</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** *Indicates where staff resources were applied but no operational program expenditure occurred. All staff costs are listed against the line item ‘Services provided by Waste Strategy and DWER.*