In accordance with section 23 of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007, I submit the Waste Authority annual report for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, for presentation to Parliament.

Reg Howard-Smith
Chair, Waste Authority
Contents

Chair’s report  4
Performance overview  6
Operational structure  8
Performance management framework  12
Waste Authority performance  14
Significant issues impacting the Waste Authority  27
Disclosures and legal compliance  30
Chair’s report

We remain focused on the waste strategy’s three key objectives: waste minimisation; improved recovery of valuable resources; and the protection of human health and the environment from the harmful effects of waste. The five- and 10-year targets in the waste strategy are both ambitious and inspiring, and our many stakeholders are working collaboratively to attain these important goals.

COVID-19 is likely to affect the rate of progress towards these targets. In addition to the obvious health impacts, the pandemic will have significant economic repercussions on global markets, transport, manufacturing, innovation, levels of investment and consumer behaviour. Household waste is likely to increase given more people are working from home, while the commercial sector is expected to go through a sustained downturn with subsequent impacts on waste generation. There are both opportunities and risks in the uncertain times ahead. The economic stimulation measures in Australia, including government investment in infrastructure such as roads and other construction projects, provide some opportunities. These lie in market development and increased demand for recycled materials where they are available and cost-effective compared with virgin raw materials. On the flip side, if the oil price reduces, a flow-on effect on demand for recycled plastics is likely, as manufacturers often make decisions based on the lowest cost of raw materials.

We are looking at ways to respond to the fluctuating, and often shrinking, Australian and international material markets and to improve recycling, reprocessing and manufacturing facilities in Western Australia to ensure a more sustainable future. Governments at federal, state and local levels must continue to work together to find solutions, particularly in these times of increased national protectionism. Industry has a key role in innovative supply and demand solutions to ensure waste generation is minimised, resource recovery is maximised, and the environment and human health are protected from the harmful effects of disposed waste.

Our focus on behavioural change and recycling outcomes strongly aligns with the Council of Australian Governments’ ban on waste exports starting from 1 January 2021 and the State Government’s call for expressions of interest for grants to help boost the processing capacity of Western Australia’s plastic, tyres, mixed paper and cardboard waste.

The waste levy is an economic instrument that reduces waste to landfill and generates funds for a range of waste and environmental purposes. The current levy in 2019–20 is $70 per tonne and at least 25 per cent is allocated to support the waste strategy and related Waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy action plan 2030 (the action plan). In 2019–20, waste levy revenue of $20.75 million was used to deliver important programs such as Better Bins, Household Hazardous Waste, Roads to Reuse, Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction, WasteSorted communications, WasteWise Schools and grants for education and infrastructure. Funding was also allocated for waste data collection systems, waste policy advice and reforms, compliance and enforcement, and initiatives such as the container deposit scheme, consultation on single-use plastics, the Keep Australian Beautiful Council and the Plastic Free Foundation.

In addition to the delivery of these initiatives, it is important to recognise the vital work of other government agencies in supporting the waste strategy as described in the action plan. I would
like to thank everyone directly involved in meeting the inaugural action plan’s commitments, and for their continued efforts to contribute over the years to come. Development WA, for example, has demonstrated through projects such as the deconstruction of Subiaco Oval and the Hamilton Hill Senior High School that forward planning can lead to very high recovery rates.

A key target of the waste strategy is to achieve a 75 per cent recovery rate in reuse and recycling of materials. The current rate is an unverified 57 per cent with likely under-reporting of stockpiled materials and waste sent to landfill. New reporting regulations and continued compliance and enforcement work by the department will help improve data quality. To achieve our targets, we continue to support the department as it introduces reforms such as video monitoring at waste facilities and the mandatory use of weighbridges at landfill sites. Reliance on market forces alone will not address the increasing and complex issues of waste generation, rates of recycling and material recovery, and disposal to landfill. We recognise that government must continue to play a role both as supporter and regulator of the waste industry.

The Waste Authority embraces the positive local developments in advanced waste systems and welcomes initiatives such as the Kwinana and East Rockingham waste to energy projects, which will collectively divert more than 700,000 tonnes of waste from landfill to produce 65 megawatts of electricity. We are committed to the waste hierarchy, which encourages better-practice waste management to maximise material recovery, and support only the use of residual waste in waste to energy facilities.

Together with the Minister for Environment and the department, we have focused on the development of statewide communications and behavioural change; the delivery of consistent three-bin kerbside collection systems that include food organics and garden organics; and the provision of funding to promote the recovery of more value and resources from waste.

The increased use of recycled construction and demolition (C&D) waste is key to meeting the state’s targets for landfill diversion. C&D waste makes up around 40 per cent of our waste stream and represents about 49 per cent of material recovered for recycling. The Waste Authority strongly encourages the inclusion of recycled products, including C&D, in infrastructure contracts in the private, state and local government sectors.

The Waste Authority does not underestimate the global pandemic’s effects on the waste business, and in addition to recognising both the opportunities and risks as noted above, we worked through the COVID-19 restrictions in 2019–20 with some manageable delays to our programs. A six-month extension has been given to local governments to submit their waste management plans, which are now required by March 2021. The Waste Wise Schools Program was also adjusted to help teachers develop online curriculums and keep the program relevant and accessible during COVID-19.

A Program Risk and Performance Committee (PRPC) was established to support the Waste Authority. The PRPC meets quarterly and is charged with providing oversight and guidance to the Waste Authority on risk management, program evaluation and financial reporting. It is important to evaluate programs to ensure that spending delivers value and improved outcomes.

This year a review of the Waste Wise Schools Program showed it had been delivered efficiently and had helped schools avoid and recover waste. We have approved formal program evaluations for 2020–21 and the next four financial years.

I would like to thank the Minister for Environment and his staff; my fellow Authority members Lee Broomhall, Josh Byrne, Kelly Howlett and Tim Youé; and the department’s Director General Mike Rowe and his excellent team for their support of the waste strategy and the Waste Authority. The challenges and opportunities ahead of us are significant and I am confident that collectively we are well-placed to move towards a more sustainable, low-waste future based on circular economy principles.

Reg Howard-Smith
Chair, Waste Authority
Performance overview

Waste and recycling data for the 2018–19 financial year showed that Western Australia generated 4.9 million tonnes of solid waste, of which 2.8 million tonnes – or 57 per cent – was recovered, up from 31 per cent in 2010–11.

The total quantity of waste generated in Western Australia declined by 25 per cent between 2010–11 and 2018–19, with the biggest decline seen in the disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste to landfill (an 84 per cent decrease). Declining C&D waste disposal has coincided with scheduled increases in the waste levy since January 2015 and is understood to be related to increased stockpiling of C&D waste and waste levy avoidance activities.

The material recovery rate for the C&D waste stream was 81 per cent in 2018–19, exceeding the target in the Waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy 2030 (waste strategy) of 75 per cent for 2020. However, the recovery rate is likely to be inflated due to the stockpiling of C&D waste and waste levy avoidance.

Material recovery from the C&D waste stream has increased significantly from 28 per cent in 2010–11 to 51 per cent in 2018–19, falling short of the target in the waste strategy of 70 per cent for 2020. While the C&D waste sector has been responsive to increases in the waste levy, material recovery performance in this sector is also closely tied to international market prices for waste products.

The material recovery rate for the municipal solid waste (MSW) stream generated in the Perth metropolitan region continues to underperform and was 34 per cent in 2018–19, well below the waste strategy target of 65 per cent. A review of the waste stream sources of recycled paper and cardboard also saw historical recovery rates in the MSW stream revised down about three percentage points for the preceding three years. A headline strategy in the waste strategy is the adoption of three-bin food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection systems across the Perth and Peel regions. These systems have been shown to improve MSW recovery rates both in Western Australia and other jurisdictions.

The waste strategy includes an initiative to improve the quality and timeliness of waste data for assessing and reporting against its targets. Liable persons must now undertake waste data reporting under the revised Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008 (WARR Regulations). This data will be collected by way of an online reporting system, with the first of these mandatory reports due by October 2020 for the 2019–20 year.
### Table 1: Landfill material recovery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Metro MSW</th>
<th>Major regional centres</th>
<th>Commercial and industrial</th>
<th>Construction and demolition</th>
<th>Statewide recovery rate</th>
<th>Per capita generation (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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011–12</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>2,658</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013–14</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>2,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–15</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>2,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015–16</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>1,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016–17</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>1,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017–18</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>1,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018–19</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>1,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State targets 2020</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State targets 2025</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State targets 2030</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. All figures are from the Recycling activity in Western Australia annual reports, except MSW performance (major regional centres) which is from the annual census of Western Australian local government waste and recycling services.
2. Some historical data has been revised. The data presented here supersedes all previous versions.
3. Excludes one major regional centre due to data verification issues.
Operational structure

Organisational structure

Sections 16(1) and 17(1) of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* (WARR Act) provide that the Minister for Environment will 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 the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department), allow the Waste Authority to make use of the services of any officer in the department.

Services are provided by staff employed by the department under provisions of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, pursuant to section 16 (1) of the WARR Act. Officers are subject to the department’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 for the provision of services and functions between the department and the Waste Authority has been agreed and is reviewed annually. The service level agreement includes both section 16 services and section 80 functions that are approved by the Minister. The agreement 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.
Membership
In July 2019, the Governor of Western Australia appointed the members of the Waste Authority for three-year terms.

Chair Reg Howard-Smith
Reg Howard-Smith is an industry advocate who has provided representation to the highest levels of government, the private sector and academia within Australia and internationally. He has considerable experience in shaping the strategic direction and policy of organisations, has been a member of numerous boards, and is known for his ability to evolve and cultivate strong relationships with leaders and stakeholders. Reg was also appointed Chair of the Building and Construction Training Board in March 2020.

Reg was the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Chamber of Minerals and Energy for more than a decade, where he positioned and maintained the chamber as a leading resource sector organisation in Western Australia with a membership larger and more diverse than any other in the sector, Australia-wide.

Deputy Chair Lee Broomhall
Lee Broomhall is the CEO of Workpower and has held this role since 2012.

Workpower is a not-for-profit organisation that owns and operates several large-scale commercial businesses in Western Australia. Its enterprises exist to employ and support people with disability.

With a 22-year tenure, Lee was previously the Deputy CEO and held executive roles such as the Executive Manager People, Performance and Strategy and Chief Operating Officer.

In 2010 Lee was the Western Australia winner of the Telstra Business Women’s Awards. Lee holds qualifications in human services, business management and professional coaching. She is a Fellow of Leadership WA and is the current Chairperson of the Western Australian Disability Enterprise (WADE) Alliance.
Member Dr Josh Byrne
Josh Byrne is an environmental scientist with a national profile as a consultant, researcher and communicator in urban sustainability. He holds a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Environmental Science and a PhD in Environmental Engineering.

Josh is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow with the School of Design and the Built Environment at Curtin University where his research activities focus on sustainable urban development. He has authored a number of academic publications in this field, in addition to industry guidelines and books.

Josh’s approach as a sustainability practitioner is leadership through demonstration. He engages in projects that provide opportunities to test innovation, build capacity and share learnings with stakeholders and the broader community. He has demonstrated this across a diverse range of projects, both in state and local government planning and the private sector.

Member Kelly Howlett
Kelly Howlett is the CEO of Pilbara charity, Bloodwood Tree Association Inc. Bloodwood Tree is a wholly Aboriginal-controlled organisation that provides services to people experiencing disadvantage, unemployment or alcohol and other drug problems in the Port/South Hedland and broader Pilbara areas.

Kelly has made her life and career in the Pilbara, and served as Mayor of the Town of Port Hedland for almost seven years until 2016. An active and passionate environmental and sustainability practitioner, Kelly founded and is still today the Chair of the local Care for Hedland Environmental Association.

Kelly was inducted into the Western Australian Women’s Hall of Fame in March 2018 in recognition of her lengthy contribution to the Pilbara environment and community. She has extensive governance experience and a keen interest in social issues, the natural environment and sustainability. Kelly has a Bachelor of Science (Environment)/Bachelor Forest Science (Honours) and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors’ course.

Member Tim Youé
Tim Youé is the CEO of the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC), a statutory local government authority delivering innovative and sustainable waste management solutions and climate change abatement measures on behalf of the communities of East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana and Melville.

He previously held senior management roles in the global logistics sector with a focus on business development, sales and marketing.

Tim is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors’ course and holds Bachelor degrees in Sociology and Politics from Murdoch University and a Masters of Business Administration from Curtin Graduate School of Business.
Enabling legislation

The WARR Act establishes the Waste Authority. We have a wide range of general powers and functions associated with waste, established by sections 19 and 20 of the Act, with 17 functions set out in full in schedule 2, including:

- advising and making recommendations to the Minister for Environment on matters relating to the Act
- inquiring into and advising the Minister for Environment or CEO on any matter relating to the Act on which the Minister for Environment 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 Act
- seeking the advice of other entities that we think fit for the purpose of advising the Minister for Environment in relation to the setting and variation of a levy
- acting as an advocate for the objects of the Act
- developing, promoting and reviewing the waste strategy and coordinating its implementation
- monitoring and assessing the adequacy of, and reporting to the Minister for Environment 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, which is approved by the Minister for Environment, and provides advice to the Minister as requested.

We aim to identify and promote the economic and environmental benefits of improved waste avoidance and resource recovery practices. We also work to ensure the community understands the benefits of resource recovery and avoiding waste generation.

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account (WARR Account) is credited with at least 25 per cent of the forecast waste levy. During 2019–20, the department provided administrative support, functions and services, as well as the management of programs funded from the WARR Account as articulated in the service level agreement and the business plan.

Responsible Minister

The Waste Authority reports to the Minister for Environment, Hon. Stephen Dawson, MLC, as the Minister responsible for the WARR Act.
Performance management framework

Funding principles
The application of funds from the WARR Account, through programs set out in the annual business plan, is a key mechanism for delivering the waste strategy. The Waste Authority has adopted a set of funding principles to ensure the effective application of funds in relation to the waste strategy. These provide 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 (EP Act).

Table 2: Funding principles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Promote the most efficient use of resources and prioritise the avoidance of waste (by reusing, reprocessing, recycling and energy recovery) over disposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Protect the environment by reducing environmental harm, including pollution through waste.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Be consistent with the principles set out in section 4A of the EP Act.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shared responsibility and partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded activities should result in a reduction in the impact of waste generated and protection of the state’s environmental resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation and growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded activities should consider innovation that enables and expands our waste management capacity and know-how.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded activities should promote better-practice approaches in waste management, taking into account the full costs, benefits and impacts of waste management decisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste as a resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded activities should consider the waste hierarchy, avoiding waste generation where possible, maximising waste recovery, and protecting the environment from the impacts of disposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergenerational equity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded activities should ensure the health, diversity and productivity of our environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Table 2: Funding principles cont.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process principles</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be efficient and effective</td>
<td>Funded activities should be cost-effective, efficient and deliver a net benefit to the state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity and accountability</td>
<td>Funded activities should be conducted in a manner that exhibits integrity and accountability and adheres to appropriate funding and governance processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be collaborative</td>
<td>Funded activities should involve collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders where it is likely to lead to an outcome that involves greater benefits for the state and/or delivers outcomes more efficiently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be informed</td>
<td>Funded activities should be developed and evaluated using an evidence-based approach informed by the collection and reporting of relevant data and information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder engagement</td>
<td>Funded activities should be informed by stakeholder engagement and designed and implemented in a manner supported by relevant stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage risk</td>
<td>Funded activities should be designed and implemented with appropriate identification, evaluation and risk management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be flexible and responsive</td>
<td>Funded activities should operate within the anticipated budget; however, there is a need to remain flexible and responsive to changing circumstances. A 25 per cent variation (up or down) in any given line item is permitted with the Chair’s approval, on the basis that the overall expense limit for the year is not exceeded. If a variation of more than 25 per cent is required, Ministerial approval will be sought.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Waste levy collection**

The waste levy is payable for all waste disposed of at category 63, 64 and 65 landfills within the metropolitan region and for metropolitan waste disposed of to landfills outside the metropolitan region. In 2019–20, $78.39 million in waste levy was collected, a small increase on the $77.57 million collected during the 2018–19 financial year. Thirty landfill premises were monitored in relation to the waste levy, most of which were in the Perth metropolitan region.
Waste Authority performance

The WARR Act sets out requirements for the Waste Authority to develop a waste strategy for Western Australia. The waste strategy is a long-term plan for continuous improvement of waste services, waste avoidance and resource recovery. It sets targets for waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill disposal.

The first waste strategy, *Creating the right environment*, was released in March 2012. The current waste strategy was released in February 2019. It is accompanied by an action plan that is reviewed annually.

The waste strategy aims for Western Australia to become a sustainable, low-waste circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste. The strategy has objectives to avoid waste, recover more value and resources from waste, and protect the environment and human health from the impacts of waste.

The targets specified to achieve these objectives are ambitious and important to reach.

This section of the annual report sets out the key achievements of the Waste Authority for 2019–20 against the headline strategies set out in the waste strategy. It also refers to some of the achievements of the department and other agencies in relation to the Waste avoidance and resource recovery strategy action plan (the action plan).

While this report cannot recount in detail other agencies’ achievements, we gratefully acknowledge the important work undertaken by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC), the Water Corporation, the Department of Finance (DoF), the Department of Communities and Main Roads WA. Some of their contributions include:

- DLGSC’s progress on the sustainability plan for the Perth Cultural Centre, which will include options to reduce single-use plastics, minimise waste generation and increase recovery.
- DLGSC’s work towards including Better Bins infrastructure and messaging at sporting and cultural venues.
- DoF’s completion of the State Supply Commission disposal of goods policy, amendment of the guidelines on the disposal of goods, and completion of the State Supply Commission sustainable procurement policy, gazetted on 13 March 2020, which will ensure waste reduction through government procurement.
- The Water Corporation’s progress on reducing waste and pollutants from wastewater, despite some delays because of COVID-19. The Water Corporation committed to employing a waste coordinator to improve waste practices at its construction sites and the management and reuse of organic waste from its operations. Voluntary C&D waste data collection continued both internally and with capital project contractors. A waste awareness session occurred in June 2020 and further sessions are being planned.
- Main Roads WA’s leadership in using thousands of tonnes of recycled C&D materials in various infrastructure projects, and its commitment to progressively increasing the use of recycled materials in future projects.

### Overall objectives and state targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avoid</th>
<th>Recover</th>
<th>Protect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Western Australians generate less waste</strong></td>
<td><strong>Western Australians recover more value and resources from waste</strong></td>
<td><strong>Western Australians protect the environment by managing waste responsibly</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[●] 2025 – 10% reduction in waste generation per capita</td>
<td>[●] From 2020 – Recover energy only from residual waste</td>
<td>[●] 2030 – No more than 15% of waste generated in Perth and Peel regions is landfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[●] 2030 – 20% reduction in waste generation per capita</td>
<td>[●] 2025 – Increase material recovery to 70%</td>
<td>[●] 2030 – All waste is managed and/or disposed to better-practice facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[●] 2030 – Increase material recovery to 75%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WasteSorted communications toolkit

The WasteSorted toolkit supports local governments and regional councils to communicate with residents about the importance of sorting waste correctly to reduce contamination in kerbside bins and increase material recovery and recycling.

We regularly consult with local governments, regional councils and other stakeholders to inform the ongoing development of the WasteSorted toolkit to ensure it meets their needs. This includes working with the Western Australian Local Government Association’s (WALGA) Consistent Communications Collective to ensure consistent messaging is used for the WasteSorted templates and icons.

The WasteSorted toolkit was updated in 2019–20 to include additional FOGO materials, such as banners, posters, kitchen caddy graphics, truck decals, bus backs, shopping centre advertisement panels and social media animations.

In 2019–20 we also launched the WasteSorted ‘be a good sort’ social media images. These messages were designed to reinforce correct waste sorting behaviours and rebuild trust in the recycling process. All messages were framed positively to highlight best-practice behaviours, such as rinsing recyclable materials and taking batteries and other household hazardous waste (HHW) to appropriate processing facilities. The WasteSorted materials were made available free of charge on the WasteSorted website for all local governments and regional councils to distribute (with the aim of amplifying these messages through their regular channels). In 2019–20, $210,000 was invested in developing WasteSorted materials and evaluation.

Local governments receiving WARR Account funding as part of the Better Bins and Better Bins Plus programs were encouraged to use the WasteSorted communications materials.

In 2019–20, 18 local governments and regional councils used the WasteSorted materials including Eastern Metropolitan, Southern Metropolitan, Western Metropolitan and Bunbury-Harvey regional councils; the cities of Albany, Armadale, Busselton, Swan and Wanneroo; and the Town of Bassendean. Kings Park and Botanic Garden also installed vibrant signage using the WasteSorted toolkit to introduce its new recycling bins to its almost six million annual visitors. WasteSorted signage was also installed in the department’s Joondalup office and the Waste Wise Schools Program developed WasteSorted signage for use in schools. An interactive WasteSorted display was also used at the September 2019 Waste & Recycle Conference in the Waste Authority’s booth.

Monitoring and evaluation of the WasteSorted toolkit was undertaken in June 2020, with 650 residents responding to a survey that measured waste sorting knowledge, attitudes and behaviours.

Initial results indicated that those surveyed held positive attitudes towards sorting waste. However, while the residents intended to sort waste correctly, evidence showed that many do not always do so. Many residents lacked confidence in their waste-sorting knowledge and indicated a desire for more information, particularly about less-common items or those perceived to be difficult to sort. The evaluation results will be considered as the WasteSorted toolkit is developed. A behaviour change campaign, using WasteSorted as the call to action, began in 2019–20 with a focus on five priority waste-sorting behaviours identified through this and other research.
Behaviour change

The Waste Authority instigated a behaviour change campaign in 2019–20. The WasteSorted campaign will be managed by the department, and funded by the WARR Account.

Social research into household waste behaviours in Western Australia was commissioned in 2019–20 to ensure an evidence-based creative development process. In 2019–20, $186,754 was invested in developing behaviour change research and starting the creative campaign.

The WasteSorted behaviour change campaign is designed to reframe waste as an issue that can be collectively solved, promote high-level waste sorting behaviours and normalise the concept of ‘waste to landfill as the last resort’ after residents have taken better-practice waste avoidance and sorting actions. The campaign will begin in 2020–21 and focus on recycling, disposal of organic wastes, avoidance of waste generation, and correct disposal of items into either specialist drop-off facilities or kerbside bins.

Recently we reviewed existing WARR Account-funded programs and activities which have behaviour change components. Following on from this, our 2020–21 programs that can positively influence community behaviour will be aligned with WasteSorted to provide consistent messaging to the community and industry stakeholders.

The website and social media content for Own Your Impact, a program launched in 2018 to support waste-related behaviour change, will transition to WasteSorted. WasteSorted seeks to positively influence community behaviour and provide information on the Waste Authority’s ongoing programs, especially those relating to waste avoidance; resource recovery including FOGO; reducing contamination of kerbside recycling; awareness of the benefits of recycling; and the use of recycled products.

National Recycling Week

The Waste Authority contributed to a supplement on recycling in The West Australian during National Recycling Week 2019. In 2019–20, we invested $16,404 in promoting this important awareness event.

The Waste Authority and the department collaborated with 12 local governments and regional councils on content to focus the reader on important recycling behaviours. This collaboration showed support for the consistent messaging identified as a priority in the waste strategy.

The rollout of three-bin kerbside collection systems including FOGO was featured and images from the WasteSorted toolkit were used in the supplement.

Main Roads WA contributed to an article which described the success of the Roads to Reuse program and explained how recycled materials were being used in road construction. The supplement also included a message from the Minister for Environment.

We also supported the publication of digital content on Perth Now including a quiz on recycling aimed at behaviour change.

Garage Sale Trail

Garage Sale Trail promotes waste avoidance and reuse through garage sales across Australia over one weekend in October. The Garage Sale Foundation was awarded a contract to deliver the Garage Sale Trail event in Western Australia in 2018 and 2019, receiving $36,420 in 2019–20.

Thirty-five local governments from across the state participated in the 2019 event, held on 19–20 October 2019.

In 2019, 5,098 registered garage sales were held in Western Australia with 1,380,552 people participating as either sellers or shoppers. On average, household garage sales made $303 each with an estimated 653 tonnes of unwanted items being redistributed across the state.

Eighty-nine per cent of participants in the Garage Sale Trail reported they intended to change their behaviour to avoid more waste.

Plastic Free July

The Plastic Free Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers the annual Plastic Free July challenge whereby Western Australians are encouraged to avoid single-use plastics for the month of July. In 2018–19, the foundation entered into a
funding agreement with the State Government for $326,625 to deliver the Plastic Free July campaign over three years from 2019–21, including $139,200 for 2019–20. Lotterywest also contributed to the Plastic Free Foundation.

About 270,000 Western Australians participated in Plastic Free July in 2019. Evaluation of the campaign showed these participants were more likely to avoid takeaway plastic containers and coffee cups, straws and plastic produce bags as a result.

Household Hazardous Waste program

The HHW program provides local governments and regional councils with funding to help collect, store, recover and dispose of hazardous waste generated by households. The program is managed by WALGA and administered by the Waste Authority on behalf of the State Government. In 2019–20, we provided WALGA with funding of $1,813,800 to support this program.

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 2019–20, 378 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, these products can pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Better-practice local government waste services

The primary collection methods for MSW are kerbside, vergeside and drop-off services. Better-practice work began with the introduction of the Better Bins program, which provided funding to support local governments to conduct better-practice kerbside collection services, focusing on a three-bin system to encourage greater source separation and higher resource recovery. Better Bins encouraged services consistent with the Waste Authority’s Better Bins kerbside collection guidelines (2014).

In 2019–20, we released the Better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines as part of our waste strategy commitments to increase the recovery of organic materials through three-bin systems that include a separate FOGO bin.

We are now developing guidance for vergeside and drop-off services.

Charitable recycling organisations

Western Australian charitable recycling organisations continued to access WARR Account funding through the Charitable Recyclers Rebate Program and the Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction Program.

Charitable recycling organisations routinely have to dispose of materials left at their facilities (at donation bins or shop fronts) which have been illegally dumped or cannot be recycled or reused. This is a costly exercise. To help these charities, the Waste Authority manages a Charitable Recyclers Rebate Program, which provides a rebate for the cost of the waste levy incurred by these organisations in the metropolitan region when they dispose of unusable material. The program 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 participating in the program, and in 2019–20 were supported by a total of $349,413.

In 2019–20, three Western Australian charities received a total of $41,859 through the Charitable Recyclers Dumping Reduction Program. This program aims to reduce illegal dumping and littering, and to prevent unusable items – which ultimately end up at landfill – from being left at donation sites. Charitable recyclers accessed funding to support demonstration projects that implement and evaluate methods to reduce illegal dumping and littering.

Alinea Inc, in partnership with Good Samaritan Industries, received $19,984 to install sensor lighting and optical surveillance equipment at four collection sites in the metropolitan region. Anglicare WA received $21,875 to purchase and install 10 high-security donation bins at four sites in the metropolitan region.
This was the second round of program funding, which built on findings from the first round. The program enables research to inform better practices by charitable recyclers, with outcomes from the first round being shared with recyclers during the year.

Reducing littering and illegal dumping at donation sites is a key priority for the State Government. As such, the Waste Authority supports charitable recycling organisations in their efforts to reduce donations of unusable goods, which in turn reduces littering, illegal dumping, and the amount of material needing to be disposed of to landfill.

Waste Wise Schools expansion
The Waste Wise Schools Program targets schools in Western Australia with educational strategies for avoiding waste, recovering waste as a resource, and reducing waste to landfill, while developing positive environmental values in students and the whole school community. These schools model responsible environmental behaviours through hands-on learning experiences that are linked to the Western Australian curriculum. Waste Wise Schools delivered professional learning workshops and school visits, and conducted project and partnership development across the Perth metropolitan and regional areas. We invested $450,592 in the program in 2019–20, which included the following highlights:

- accrediting a total of 214 schools, including 43 new schools
- providing grants to 56 accredited schools for projects such as recycling systems, composting and worm farming, and reuse collection infrastructure to a total of $148,000
- delivering nine professional development workshops, as well as educational waste audits and student activities at 41 schools
- providing funds to further support waste management activities in schools in the Kimberley and Kalgoorlie-Boulder regions and Perth’s southern suburbs
- delivering waste education workshops within early years learning services
- further developing waste management curriculum material for schools, to support teachers to deliver waste education to students
- recognising 18 schools for 10 consecutive years of Waste Wise Schools accreditation.

Infinity Awards
The Infinity Awards acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Western Australians working towards a better waste future through improved waste practices and innovative waste solutions. The awards are an initiative of the State Government and are coordinated by the Waste Authority.

We received a total of 106 nominations for the Infinity Awards; however, the judging scheduled for April 2020 was impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. The awards event scheduled for 6 May 2020 did not proceed because of the pandemic and ticket holders received a full refund.
FOGO position statement
The Waste Authority FOGO position statement released in May 2019 provides details about FOGO services and benefits, and confirms our support for FOGO collection systems provided by local governments to households.

Better Bins and Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO
The Better Bins program began in 2014 as a pilot and then ran from 2016–19. The program provided an incentive for local governments to introduce a three-bin system to encourage greater source separation and higher resource recovery rates. Better Bins accepted its final intake of applicants in 2019. Since the launch of the program, $16.8 million has been committed to 29 local governments across the state. A total of $3.058 million was awarded to 14 of these local governments in 2019–20.

During 2019–20, the Waste Authority continued to manage Better Bins agreements with 21 local governments, at varying stages of implementation. Of these, six of the local governments were in regional Western Australia and four were early adopters of FOGO kerbside services.

The Minister for Environment announced the Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program on 5 May 2020. This new program builds on Better Bins by encouraging the next shift towards better practice – from a three-bin system to a three-bin FOGO system. Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO offers local governments up to $25 for each household that receives a better-practice three-bin FOGO collection service, consistent with the Better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines.

The State Government has allocated $20 million over six years for three-bin FOGO kerbside collections to be provided to households.

Plan for a three-bin FOGO system rollout
In 2019–20, the Waste Authority established a FOGO Reference Group comprising representatives from state and local government and the waste and organics industry. The group supports the Waste Authority by advising on the rollout of FOGO services.

The FOGO Reference Group supports the development of a FOGO rollout plan (available on the Waste Authority website) which focuses on creating a market for FOGO-derived products, and implementing actions to match processing capacity with FOGO generation rates.
Reducing waste through procurement

On behalf of the Waste Authority, the department contributed to DoF’s better-practice procurement framework, including guidelines on sustainable procurement practices, as well as on the disposal of goods purchased by public authorities. The State Supply Commission sustainable procurement policy was gazetted on 13 March 2020.

The department has also, on behalf of the Waste Authority, helped DoF update common use agreements to reduce waste and promote opportunities for agencies to reduce their purchasing of single-use plastics.

Similarly, the department supported DoF to identify how the State Government could lead by example and use its purchasing power to encourage suppliers to adopt sustainable practices, and thus foster the development of markets for sustainable products and services. The Waste Authority and the department are working closely with DoF to identify opportunities to use recycled materials in major projects such as those relating to transport infrastructure, which have been fast-tracked as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery package.

Roads to Reuse pilot project

The Waste Authority worked with the department, Main Roads WA, the Department of Health and the Waste and Recycling Industry Association of Western Australia to deliver the Roads to Reuse (RtR) pilot project.

RtR supplies the market with recycled C&D products that meet the environmental standards set out in the RtR product specification. The program supports C&D producers to meet the specification and includes an independent audit regime to provide additional confidence to purchasers and users. An allocation of $394,000 was approved for this program in 2019–20; however, demand was lower than expected and $73,000 was spent this financial year.

The program began as a pilot to test the extent to which recyclers could meet the RtR product specification, confirm the effectiveness of the auditing regime, and determine buyers’ confidence (in this case, Main Roads WA) in using recycled product produced by the RtR program.

The pilot used 31,550 tonnes of recycled C&D products in road construction projects such as the Kwinana Freeway Widening and Murdoch Drive Connection projects.

Main Roads WA reported significant benefits from using recycled products in full-depth asphalt as opposed to virgin materials, including:

- savings in time and labour
- reduced water consumption
- superior durability and life span.

The Waste Authority will continue to work closely with our partners in government and industry, especially within the recycling and construction sectors. This will involve building on the success of the pilot phase, and encouraging more recycled C&D to be made available and used for building and construction applications.
Support and guidance for local government waste plans

The Waste Authority has recognised the crucial role of local governments in achieving waste strategy targets by making the implementation of local government waste plans a headline strategy. Waste plans are the mechanism through which local governments will contribute to, and achieve, the waste strategy’s targets and objectives. Waste plans are intended to:

- align local government waste management activities with the waste strategy’s objectives and targets
- increase consistency in waste planning across local government
- positively impact MSW recovery rates
- encourage local governments to adopt better practice and preferred approaches to waste management.

In the initial phase of the rollout of waste plans, local governments and regional councils in the Perth and Peel regions and major regional centres are required to develop waste plans.

To help local governments create their waste plans, the department, in consultation with the Waste Authority and local government, developed a waste plan resource kit that includes waste plan templates and a guidance document. In November 2019, local governments were notified that they must develop a waste plan. To support this process, in December 2019 the department held two workshops and a webinar.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on local government operations, the original waste plan submission deadlines have been extended by six months. The revised key dates are:

- 30 September 2020: local governments can submit their draft waste plans to the department for review and the department will provide feedback within 30 days of receipt.
- 31 March 2021: final waste plans must be submitted to the CEO of the department.
- 1 October 2022: first annual report on the implementation of waste plans for the 2021–22 financial year is due.

At 30 June 2020, a total of 20 local government draft waste plans had been submitted for initial review.
Litter strategy

Keep Australia Beautiful WA is mainly funded through the WARR Account so that the Litter prevention strategy for Western Australia 2015–20 (litter strategy) may be enacted. The 2019–20 allocation to Keep Australia Beautiful WA was $861,000, managed under a funding agreement, which covers six areas of work: research and data; education, awareness and training; enforcement; incentives; collaboration and partnerships; and administration.

Key achievements in 2019–20 included the delivery of:

- Two National Litter Index audits at 151 sites across the state, which provided the data for the National Litter Index report for Western Australia 2019–20.
- The Bin Your Butt campaign, which ran from 3 September to 24 November 2019.
- Education and training events such as clean-ups and displays, the Clean Schools program and workshops in partnership with WALGA.
- A social media campaign addressing littering outside charity shops and charity bins, which was developed and supported for inclusion in the WasteSorted campaign toolkit.
- The Litter Reporter Scheme, which received 1,585 litter reports with a 93.6 per cent conversion rate to infringements and payment. The scheme was impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, with fewer drivers on the roads between March and May. The number of litter reporters increased to 15,527, with 1,280 Western Australians registering to become reporters in 2019–20.
- The Adopt-a-Spot program, which has 1,485 registered groups, supported by more than 43,000 volunteers since the program began in 2009. The Adopt-a-Spot program was suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions between March and May 2020.
- The Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards, which celebrated 50 years in 2019–20. There were 45 registrations, showcasing the efforts of local government and not-for-profit groups including 2,955 volunteers. More than 62,000 hours of volunteer participation drove the projects entered, helping to sustain the environmental, economic and social structure of these communities.
- An educational video, which was filmed to support the Community Litter Grants program and included the participation of the Minister for Environment.

For further details on Keep Australia Beautiful WA's work, see its 2019–20 annual report.

Improved regulatory framework for waste

The Waste Authority acknowledges the department’s progress towards an improved regulatory framework for waste to support the waste strategy’s implementation. Many of the initiatives and programs delivered through the Waste Authority rely on improvements to the regulatory framework.

On 20 February 2020, the department released two waste reform consultation papers: Closing the loop: waste reforms for a circular economy and the Review of the waste levy.

Closing the loop outlined legislative proposals to improve waste management in Western Australia, including:

- reforming landfill and solid waste storage facility licensing under the EP Act
- reviewing the application of the waste levy at waste facilities, including new measures to reduce long-term solid waste stockpiling
- targeting illegal waste disposal through new compliance and enforcement mechanisms
- strengthening waste reporting and tracking in Western Australia to ensure the proper disposal of waste.
The Review of the waste levy canvassed broader strategic issues related to the waste levy’s design, including its geographical boundaries, and a schedule of future levy rates. Given the impacts of COVID-19, the consultation period for both papers was extended to 15 July 2020.

The waste levy aims to divert the amount of waste being disposed of at landfills by making alternatives more financially viable. It supports investment in sorting and waste treatment options and related initiatives to increase recycling.

A five-year schedule of rate increases set out in the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008 (WARR Levy Regulations) was completed on 1 July 2018 when the levy reached $70 per tonne at putrescible landfills and $105 per cubic metre at inert landfills. With the review of the waste levy underway, the Minister for Environment determined that the waste levy would not increase for 2020–21.

In May 2019, the department released for public comment the consultation paper Mandatory use of weighbridges by landfill premises to calculate leviable waste. The paper proposed reforms to achieve a consistent methodology for measuring waste by way of mandatory use of weighbridges, and that a levy on waste storage premises be applied to address issues associated with long-term waste storage. After further consultation with industry stakeholders in 2019–20, the department is finalising a consultation summary report and preferred approach.

The department is also developing a proposed legislative framework for waste-derived materials, following public consultation in 2019 on the issues paper Waste not want not: valuing waste as a resource. The reforms will support the reuse of waste materials and Western Australia’s move to a circular economy. After considering the submissions, further public consultation is anticipated on the proposed waste-derived materials framework in late 2020.

The WARR Account funds the department’s waste operations branch to deliver a compliance and enforcement program to reduce the harmful impacts of waste on the environment. The program aims to ensure compliance with the waste-related provisions of the EP Act and the WARR Levy Regulations. This is achieved through targeted inspections of licensed premises and illegal waste dump sites and, when appropriate, enforcement action.

Throughout 2019–20, the department’s inspection program continued to focus on waste levy compliance at licensed landfills and the transportation of waste to and from associated industries.

Waste infrastructure planning

The department is leading a joint project with the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to develop a land-use planning instrument for waste infrastructure.

The aim of the land-use planning instrument is to guide decision-making authorities and developers on the appropriate siting, location and design of waste infrastructure, and to clarify the approvals process for proponents and decision-makers.

The project was formally endorsed by WAPC in May 2019. The department and DPLH held discussions with key waste industry stakeholders in late 2019, and will talk further with local governments to ensure the scope, application, structure and content of the planning instrument meet industry and community expectations. The draft planning instrument is being developed, and will undergo public consultation.

The department and Waste Authority have also begun preparatory work for the state waste infrastructure audit, needs analysis and infrastructure plan to begin in 2020–21.
Waste data strategy

The Waste data strategy is a key supporting document of the waste strategy. It will guide the actions of the Waste Authority and the department both to improve waste data management in Western Australia and to ensure the waste data needs of stakeholders are met.

The department, on behalf of the Waste Authority, invited industry and local government to provide written submissions on the draft strategy over an eight-week period to 6 September 2019. The Waste data strategy was revised following this process and published on the Waste Authority website in January 2020.

The Waste Authority will report annually on the progress of the actions in the Waste data strategy.

Mandatory reporting of waste and recycling data

Regulation 18C of the WARR Regulations requires liable persons to report waste and recycling data to the CEO of the department each year in accordance with approved procedures. The first mandatory reporting period began on 1 July 2019 and ended on 30 June 2020 with annual returns from liable persons due by 1 October 2020.

Annual returns under 18C of the WARR Regulations will replace the voluntary surveys of recycling activity and local government waste and recycling services that the department previously conducted on behalf of the Waste Authority.

The 2018–19 Recycling activity in Western Australia and Census of local government waste and recycling services reports were published in September 2020.

Online system for waste reporting

An online reporting system was developed with an approved investment of $500,000 in 2019–20. This system was completed by 30 June 2020 and is now available for liable entities to lodge their annual returns as required under 18C of the WARR Regulations.

MyCouncil reporting waste data

The department, on behalf of the Waste Authority, provided local government waste and recycling data for 2018–19 to DLGSC for publication on MyCouncil. Publishing was delayed because of DLGSC priority work associated with COVID-19 but will go ahead in the second half of 2020.
Product stewardship

Containers for Change

The container deposit scheme (Containers for Change) is an example of a state-based product stewardship approach referenced in Action 8.1 of the action plan. Funding to establish Containers for Change is allocated from the WARR Account and from State Government consolidated revenue.

Legislation to establish Containers for Change was introduced in 2019, and the necessary regulations were gazetted on 17 December 2019. The scheme coordinator, WA Return Recycle Renew Ltd, was appointed in July 2019. Refund point operators have been identified across the state and the first group was announced on 16 January 2020. A $200,000 community grant program, funded by the State Government, was run to help community groups and not-for-profit organisations establish refund points and donation points.

Because of the impact of COVID-19, on 31 March 2020 the Minister for Environment announced a delay to the launch originally planned for 2 June 2020. The scheme launched instead on 1 October 2020. The State Government has established a financial assistance package of up to $3.5 million for refund point operators affected by the delay.

The scheme is projected to recycle 6.6 billion containers over 20 years by diverting 5.9 billion containers from landfill and preventing 706 million containers from becoming litter.

Containers for Change will also create about 500 new jobs and provide significant opportunities for social enterprises and community groups, while complementing existing recycling efforts.

Consumers will receive a 10-cent refund for every empty eligible beverage container that they return.

Action on single-use plastics

The government recognises the harm caused by plastic waste, particularly to wildlife through ingestion and entanglement. The State Government banned the supply of lightweight plastic bags from 1 July 2018.

The lightweight plastic bag ban has been successful and the government is keen to do more to reduce plastic waste. In April 2019, the Minister for Environment launched the Let’s not draw the short straw issues paper and survey. Almost 9,500 submissions were received with 98 per cent of respondents supporting further action to reduce single-use plastics. The State Government will use feedback from the consultation, as well as evidence-based research on environmental impacts from single-use plastics, to identify options for further consideration.

Implementing the ban on lightweight plastic bags and promoting the benefits of avoiding single-use plastic are consistent with the waste strategy’s objectives.

Community and Industry Engagement program

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

In 2019–20, $911,013 in funding was provided to 12 infrastructure and behaviour change projects. A total of $534,966 was provided to five organisations undertaking recycling infrastructure projects across Western Australia. These projects involve recycling and recovery of materials such as plastics, e-waste and C&D waste. Grant recipients included the Chairay Sustainable Plastic Company for developing local plastics recycling infrastructure, and WA Recycling for expanding C&D waste processing capacity. Seven behaviour change projects received $376,047 in funding. For example, the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia received funding to support youth waste reduction through peer education.

CIE project grants awarded in 2019–20 are listed in the following tables.
Support for material recovery facilities

In response to the fire that destroyed the Cleanaway material recovery facility in South Guildford in November 2019, which had been processing about one-third of the recyclables from the metropolitan region, the Minister for Environment committed to support the remaining major material recovery facilities. This ensured $2.1 million in WARR Account funding was provided to both the South Metropolitan Regional Council and SUEZ to process as much of the diverted material as possible. This support is managed under a funding agreement between the Waste Authority and the operators, and helps with the additional maintenance costs associated with the increased volume of waste the facilities are processing. This is until a new Cleanaway facility becomes operational. Funds of $1,738 million were paid in 2019–20 and the remaining commitment of $362,000 will be paid in 2020–21.
Significant issues impacting the Waste Authority

Current and emerging issues and trends

Western Australia’s key challenge in managing waste is to minimise the amount of waste generated and disposed of to landfill, and maximise the benefits and economic opportunities from the recovery of materials and their circulation through the economy.

There are heightened levels of community and government awareness of waste issues globally, nationally and locally. Increasingly communities are looking to governments to take an active role both to ensure better outcomes in waste management and to find solutions domestically where possible. The recent Council of Australian Governments’ (COAG) decision to ban the export of waste plastic, tyres, glass and paper and cardboard from 1 January 2021 reflects this changing expectation. This will present a range of opportunities along with challenges going forward.

To become more resilient to fluctuating international markets and trends, Western Australia must address the quality of recycled materials for off-shore processing, and at the same time create appropriate local infrastructure and markets for recycled resources. As a result of its relatively small population but large geographical area, Western Australia faces ongoing challenges in establishing the best policy and regulatory settings to support the development of local processing and recycling infrastructure, as well as local markets.

An increase in national product stewardship and producer-responsibility schemes for everyday products, and the emergence of new waste streams such as photovoltaic systems, will likely reduce the reliance on state-based collection and recycling approaches. These initiatives result in price signals that include the costs of recovering problematic and priority products and can influence consumer decisions about product construction and design.

Local governments and their communities are increasingly recognising the benefits of moving to a FOGO collection system. An important step in tackling this waste stream will be the development of appropriate processing infrastructure capacity and the securing of markets to use the compost and organic by-products produced.
The circular economy is used as a guiding concept in the waste strategy and prioritises a shift from the linear model of ‘take, make, use and dispose’ to one in which materials and energy are recovered and reused, circulating in the economy for as long as possible. This type of approach favours sustainability by relying less on the use of virgin raw materials, and encourages improved planning of product lifecycles. Waste needs to be considered from the initial design stage through to production, distribution, consumption, use, reuse and repair, collection and recycling. This approach to waste management not only helps protect the environment and human health, but also provides opportunities for increased local recycling, which in turn helps stimulate new jobs and decreases the negative impacts associated with the transport of waste.

A key issue that emerged in late 2019–20 that will likely affect waste generation and disposal and material recovery is the COVID-19 pandemic. The full reach of this major public health concern and its local impacts in the short, medium and long term are still unknown. An increase in waste materials such as medical waste or single-use products is possible, which will have flow-on effects for the processing of recyclables.

Likely developments and forecast results of operations

The waste strategy and annual action plan describe the Waste Authority’s work and our collaborations with various levels of government, the community and business. Our annual business plan, which we publish on our website, specifies how funding is committed to various strategies and actions identified within the action plan.

Waste to energy facilities

In 2013, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Waste Authority released joint advice on the environmental and health performance of waste to energy technologies using thermal treatment. As part of that joint advice, the two authorities described best-practice approaches for potential waste to energy operations in Western Australia, including a range of recommendations for the circumstances in which waste to energy would be acceptable. One important finding was that only residual waste was a suitable feedstock for waste to energy facilities. Residual waste is that which remains after application of a better-practice source separation process and recycling system.

Waste to energy should therefore only target the waste that remains once source separation and recovery processes have been applied. This approach is consistent with the waste hierarchy, an internationally recognised system for ranking waste management options, from the lowest impact (waste avoidance) to the highest impact (waste disposal). Under the waste hierarchy, waste to energy is preferred to landfill, but waste avoidance and material recovery through recycling are preferred to waste to energy.

Waste infrastructure funding

In June 2019, the State Government delivered on a commitment to help address shrinking international recycling markets by announcing it would contribute $2.29 million in funding to reduce waste and increase recycling in Western Australia. Much of the funding will go towards infrastructure via the CIE program. The program will continue into 2020–21 under the revised name of WasteSorted Grants, which means the Waste Authority can continue to support actions that progress the waste strategy objectives (waste avoidance, improved recovery of resources and appropriate waste disposal in line with the waste hierarchy).

There are two major projects underway to significantly develop recycling infrastructure in Western Australia.

In June 2020, the State Government called for expressions of interest in a controlled grant funding process to support the development of local paper and cardboard recycling infrastructure. This will help manage Western Australia’s estimated 80,000 tonnes of mixed and unsorted paper and cardboard that will need to be processed locally following the COAG waste export ban.

Then on 7 July 2020, the government invited applications for funding to develop processing infrastructure for local plastics and tyres. Analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics export data for 2018–19 shows that about 12,500 tonnes of plastics and 7,000 tonnes of tyres from the state would be affected by the COAG waste export ban.
The State Government has already committed at least $20 million in funding to these projects from WARR Account reserves, and the Australian Government has agreed to match the state’s contributions through its Recycling Modernisation Fund. This will lead to at least $40 million of potential investment in the state’s recycling infrastructure over the next four years.

The department is administering these two major infrastructure investment programs.

**Construction and demolition waste**

Work undertaken with Main Roads WA on the RtR pilot project during 2018–19 helped prepare *Roads to Reuse: product specifications – recycled road base and recycled drainage rock* and led to 31,500 tonnes of C&D material being used on the Kwinana Freeway Widening and Murdoch Drive Connection projects.

The Waste Authority worked with C&D recyclers, the construction industry, government and peak bodies to leverage the improved certainty in product standards resulting from the testing and auditing regime. This market opportunity is large and expected to grow in the coming years. The challenge is for government and business to continue to work together to ensure widespread market uptake, supporting achievement of the waste strategy target of 75 per cent material recovery by 2030.

The stockpiling of unprocessed C&D waste and its impact on reported waste generation and landfill diversion rates in Western Australia affects the accuracy of performance assessments against the waste strategy’s targets. The State Government recently completed consultation on proposed legislative improvements to the waste management framework and waste levy regime, which includes reforms to address issues associated with long-term waste stockpiling.

**Food organics and garden organics**

Local governments are increasingly supporting the headline strategy to achieve:

> A consistent three-bin kerbside collection system, which includes separation of food organics and garden organics from other waste categories, to be provided by all local governments in the Perth and Peel regions by 2025 and supported by the State Government through the application of financial mechanisms.

The Waste Authority will continue to work with the department on a coordinated approach to revise, plan and implement the Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program, which includes updating funding programs and kerbside collection guidelines to include FOGO over the next year. The government approved the $20 million Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program that will run over six years to support the transition to high-performing three bin FOGO kerbside collection services. Allocations from the WARR Account in 2020–21 are $3.608 million for commitments from the original Better Bins program across 17 local governments, and $1 million for the Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program, with local governments eligible to apply for funding of up to $25 for each household.

The activities planned for the short term to produce guidance for FOGO vergeside waste collection services and drop-off facilities will support local governments in their development of waste plans and adoption of better practices.

Regulations were introduced on 28 June 2019 that require local governments, recyclers and landfills to report waste and recycling data (above 20,000 tonnes per year) for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. The regulations were in response to ongoing challenges in securing timely and accurate data from the sector. We expect that when combined with online reporting, this initiative will improve the quality and consistency of data reporting into the future.

The department is pursuing a range of waste legislation reforms to support key objectives in the waste strategy. The reforms will support the reuse and reprocessing of waste for beneficial secondary use, respond to illegal waste disposal, minimise stockpiling, improve implementation of the waste levy and strengthen and streamline waste legislation.

**Changes in written law**

There were no changes in any written law that affected the operations of the Waste Authority during the reporting period.
Disclosures and legal compliance

Processes are in place within the department 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 department service for the purposes of sections 52 and 53 of the Financial Management Act 2006. Accordingly, the relevant financial information is contained within the department’s annual report.

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 2019–20.

Pricing policies of services provided

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

Employment and industrial relations

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

Sitting fees

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 for 2019–20 is outlined in Table 5.
### Table 5: Remuneration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type of remuneration</th>
<th>Period of membership</th>
<th>Gross/actual remuneration 2019–20*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Reg Howard-Smith</td>
<td>Sitting fees</td>
<td>9 July 2019 – 8 July 2022</td>
<td>$44,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Chair</td>
<td>Lee Broomhall</td>
<td>Sitting fees</td>
<td>9 July 2019 – 8 July 2022</td>
<td>$27,849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Kelly Howlett</td>
<td>Sitting fees</td>
<td>9 July 2019 – 8 July 2022</td>
<td>$22,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Josh Byrne</td>
<td>Sitting fees</td>
<td>9 July 2019 – 8 July 2022</td>
<td>$22,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Tim Youé</td>
<td>Sitting fees</td>
<td>9 July 2019 – 8 July 2022</td>
<td>(Does not receive sitting fees) $0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes superannuation

### Director and officer liability insurance
Waste Authority members are covered under the department’s RiskCover insurance arrangements.
## Other legal requirements

*Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail*

### Table 6: Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Amount ($)</th>
<th>Total ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>Container deposit scheme – government gazette</td>
<td>State Law Publisher</td>
<td>$280</td>
<td>$4,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved waste data – government gazette</td>
<td>State Law Publisher</td>
<td>$4,384</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market research</td>
<td>Plastic Bag Ban – survey data extract and analysis</td>
<td>Colin-Ashton Graham</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$33,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste Wise Schools – community survey for the WWS review</td>
<td>Thinkfield</td>
<td>$3,510</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste Wise Schools – community survey for the WWS review</td>
<td>Colin-Ashton Graham</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single use plastics – WA plastics consumption</td>
<td>Envisage Works</td>
<td>$19,760</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct mail</td>
<td>Community and Industry Engagement</td>
<td>CampaignMonitor.co</td>
<td>$27</td>
<td>$1,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste Wise Schools</td>
<td>CampaignMonitor.co</td>
<td>$87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste Authority support</td>
<td>In A Box Holdings Pty Ltd</td>
<td>$191</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Infinity Awards</td>
<td>Mailchimp</td>
<td>$1,065</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media advertising</td>
<td>National Recycling Week (Business News and The West Australian insert) – television</td>
<td>Initiative Media Australia</td>
<td>$4,738</td>
<td>$16,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Recycling Week (Business News and The West Australian insert) – WA metropolitan</td>
<td>Initiative Media Australia</td>
<td>$11,666</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$ 56,108</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disability access and inclusion plan
The Waste Authority is covered by the department’s five-year disability access and inclusion plan.

Compliance with public sector standards and ethical codes
The Waste Authority’s code of conduct (2019) aligns with the Western Australian Public Sector Commission’s code of ethics and has been developed in accordance with the Public Sector Commission’s Conduct guide for public sector boards and committees and the Board essentials.

Waste Authority members signed their code of conduct in August 2019 and, in doing so, committed to act with honesty and integrity at all times. Members are aware of their legal and ethical responsibilities in carrying out official duties and understand the values, principles and standards of behaviour expected.

Recordkeeping plan
The Waste Authority complied with the State Records Act 2000 through adherence to the department’s recordkeeping plan.

In accordance with our code of conduct, the Waste Authority ensured that official information remained confidential, and records of decisions and all other documentation were securely retained. Minutes of Waste Authority meetings were circulated to members with meeting agenda papers.

Government policy requirements
Occupational safety, health and injury management
Waste Authority staff comply with the department’s three-tier occupational safety and health (OSH) system. Details on the department’s OSH regulations are available in its 2019–20 annual report.
Governance disclosures

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

Table 7: Governance disclosures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting date</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Disclosures of potential conflicts of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 21/08/2019   | Tim Youé   | Advised of standing declarations of interest as follows:  
• Chief Executive Officer, Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC)  
• Director, Waste Management & Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR)  
• Chair, Officers Advisory Group to the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC is a standing committee of WALGA)  
• Chair, Regional Councils CEO Working Group of MWAC  
• Member, Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR)  
• Member, Container Deposit Scheme Logistics and Resource Recovery and Local Government Technical Working Groups  
• Substitute Member (for WMRR) of Container Deposit Scheme Advisory Group  
• Member, Waste Reform Advisory Group  
Members noted that Mr Youé would declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest in relation to his standing declarations if and when they arose. |
| 30/10/2019   | Lee Broomhall | Declared a potential conflict of interest with the CIE program. Ms Broomhall’s employer, Workpower (Regroup), intended to apply for a CIE grant as well as partnership with a local council. Members agreed that Ms Broomhall would not receive any documentation in relation to CIE grants or participate in any shortlisting or panel deliberations. |
| 30/10/2019   | Kelly Howlett  | Declared a potential conflict of interest because an environmental group of which Ms Howlett is a member had applied to become a Containers for Change collection refund point. Members noted Ms Howlett’s declaration, which was not considered a direct conflict because the Waste Authority has no involvement in the decision-making process for Containers for Change refund points. |
| 30/10/2019   | Josh Byrne   | Declared a potential perceived conflict of interest as a result of participating in work funded by the City of Fremantle for its FOGO education campaign produced by VAM Media. The work forms part of ongoing sustainability education work that Dr Byrne undertakes for councils and the State Government through his company Josh Byrne & Associates. The Waste Authority considered that Dr Byrne’s declaration of interest was not in direct conflict with the work of the Waste Authority. |
| 11/12/2019   | Tim Youé     | Disclosed a potential conflict of interest in relation to an agenda item about the behaviour change program update and presentation. Mr Youé advised that the SMRC supports the Recycle Right communications program. Members noted this potential conflict of interest. |
### Table 7: Governance disclosures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Disclosures of potential conflicts of interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26/02/2020</td>
<td>Lee Broomhall</td>
<td>Informed members that in relation to Containers for Change, Workpower (Regroup) had been successful in becoming a collection refund point. Members noted Ms Broomhall’s declaration, which was not considered a direct conflict of interest because the Waste Authority has no involvement in the decision-making process for Containers for Change refund points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/02/2020</td>
<td>Tim Youé</td>
<td>On 24/02/20 via email, Mr Youé formally recused himself from attending the 26/02/20 meeting and from receiving agenda papers relevant to budget, funding or other considerations that may have given rise to any real or perceived conflict of interest with his role as CEO at SMRC, particularly in relation to SMRC’s material recovery facility. In his email, Mr Youé acknowledged his duty to faithfully declare any real or perceived conflict of interest in other matters if and when they arose. Waste Authority members acknowledged and supported Mr Youé’s declaration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/02/2020</td>
<td>Josh Byrne</td>
<td>Declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to an agenda item about a proposed site visit by the Waste Authority to the Hamilton Hill Senior High School redevelopment. Dr Byrne through his company, Josh Byrne &amp; Associates, has an interest in this project as a consultant and landscape architect and provides technical support and communication activities. The Waste Authority noted Dr Byrne’s declaration and agreed that he would attend the site visit as a member of the Waste Authority, alongside his Waste Authority colleagues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/02/2020</td>
<td>Josh Byrne</td>
<td>Declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to an agenda item about a HHW funding request for the City of Fremantle (coordinated through WALGA’s HHW Advisory Committee), as his company Josh Byrne &amp; Associates has undertaken waste communications work for the City of Fremantle’s recycling facility. The Waste Authority considered that Dr Byrne’s declaration of interest was not in direct conflict with the work of the Waste Authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/05/2020</td>
<td>Reg Howard-Smith</td>
<td>Informed members that he had been appointed as the Chairman of the Building and Construction Training Board. The Waste Authority noted this and agreed it posed no conflict of interest with his role as Chairman of the Waste Authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/05/2020</td>
<td>Tim Youé</td>
<td>Declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to waste to energy matters, advising that the SMRC had awarded Avertas Energy preferred tenderer status in contract negotiations. Mr Youé acknowledged his duty to faithfully declare any real or perceived conflict of interest in relation to waste to energy if and when it arose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/05/2020</td>
<td>Josh Byrne</td>
<td>Informed members he had recently established a new company, Huey Pty Ltd, that develops in-house energy and water use displays to promote efficient use and greater utilisation of available solar energy. The Waste Authority considered there was no conflict with Dr Byrne’s role as a member of the Waste Authority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/06/2020</td>
<td>Tim Youé</td>
<td>Declared a disclosure of potential interest in relation to an agenda item about an update on waste to energy and a revised waste to energy position statement. Mr Youé advised that the SMRC was in contract negotiations with Avertas Energy. Mr Youé also informed members that he had re-nominated to sit on the board of WMRR. The Waste Authority noted these potential conflicts of interest.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ethics and integrity
We reviewed our code of conduct and conflict of interest policy during 2019–20 and signed a new version of both documents on 1 August 2019. The Waste Authority also has an agreed governance charter.

Procurement practices followed the State Government’s guidelines and procurement policies.

Unauthorised use of credit cards
Not applicable. Members of the Waste Authority do not hold corporate credit cards.

Meetings

Table 8: Members’ meeting attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Meetings attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reg Howard-Smith</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Broomhall</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Howlett</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Byrne</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Youé</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Waste Authority publications
During 2019–20, the Waste Authority published:
- The 2017–18 census of Western Australian local government waste and recycling services
- Recycling activity in Western Australia 2017–18
- Waste data strategy
- Waste Authority annual report 2018–19
- Waste Authority business plan 2019–20
- Better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines 2020
- Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO – funding guidelines
- Charitable recyclers dumping reduction program guidelines
- Food waste: Western Australian household and behaviours – benchmark study 2019
- Household hazardous waste annual report 2018–19
- How to make a beeswax wrap.