

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING POLICY

Department of Environmental Protection

January 1999

Preface by the Minister for the Environment

Western Australians are becoming increasingly aware of the problems caused by excessive waste. Our concerns are shared by hundreds of millions of people around the world. Not only are we wasting precious resources and energy but we are also threatening our environment. Our landfills are filling quickly and acceptable replacement sites are hard to find.

Australia, in common with many other developed nations, has set itself a target of halving waste per capita disposed of to landfill by the year 2000. In Western Australia this means that we need to reduce and recycle our waste from the average of 1.6 tonnes we each generated in 1991 to 800 kilograms per annum each by the start of the year 2000.

The Western Australian Waste Reduction and Recycling Policy is designed to help the entire community achieve the State and national goal of halving waste. It sets out responsibilities at all levels - State Government, local government authorities and industry. The most important part of all, however, must be played by each and every one of us. In our everyday lives we must all rethink the way we look at waste and then reduce, re-use and recycle whenever possible. It's up to government at all levels and industry to provide the facilities, services and markets to make waste reduction and recycling practical and sustainable.

Halving our waste will not only conserve our resources and energy and reduce our dependence on landfills, it will also create many jobs in collecting, sorting and reprocessing materials. The recovered materials will even help to reduce our import bill.

I thank the Advisory Council on Waste Management and the Western Australian State Recycling Advisory Committee for their valuable input into this policy as well as all the people who contributed to the lead up work in the form of the *State Recycling Blueprint* and the Legislative Assembly's 1995 inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management. These two valuable pieces of research have provided the basis for this policy and its supporting programs. I would like to thank those persons and organisations who responded to the release of the draft policy. Their contribution has been of great assistance

It is the Government's intention that recycling will soon be as accessible and convenient as waste disposal has been in the past.

CHERYL EDWARDES (Mrs), MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

January 1999

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The Western Australian Waste Reduction and Recycling Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

In 1992 the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC), of which Western Australia is a member, agreed upon a national objective of halving waste by the year 2000. Western Australia had decided on a similar goal as long ago as 1989.

The task is a very large one considering that in 1991 Western Australians were generating over 2.3 million tonnes of solid waste a year. Currently, each person in Western Australia creates 1.9 tonnes of solid waste a year. We want to reduce this to 800 kg per person by 1 January 2000, a figure based on estimates of waste landfilled during 1991.

The throw-away society is a very recent phenomenon. It was second nature for our parents and grandparents to re-use and recycle virtually everything. We used to have so little waste that there was little demand for rubbish services. The few articles we didn't have a use for would be collected by the "rag and bone" man or the "bottle-o".

The post-war boom ushered in the consumer age and changed our habits for the worse. Rubbish services expanded to cope with the growing waste stream. In Perth, rubbish tips proliferated in every municipality. Tips were common along the banks of the Swan and Canning rivers. Waste managers of the day thought we should fill in these low lying wetlands to produce more land for 'useful' purposes. They didn't have access to the environmental management expertise that would question these decisions today.

By the early 1980's we began to wake up to the dangers that excessive waste posed. Waste management was no longer simply a public health issue. The waste we had dumped was leaching into our rivers and threatening our groundwater. People began to realise that the earth's resources and energy are by no means infinite and that we had to act as custodians for future generations. The community has become less tolerant of the siting of rubbish tips.

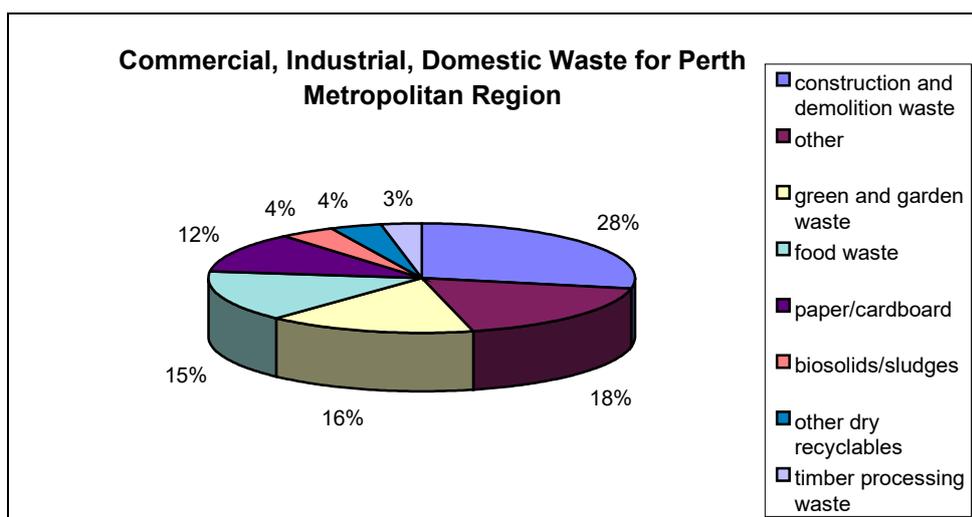
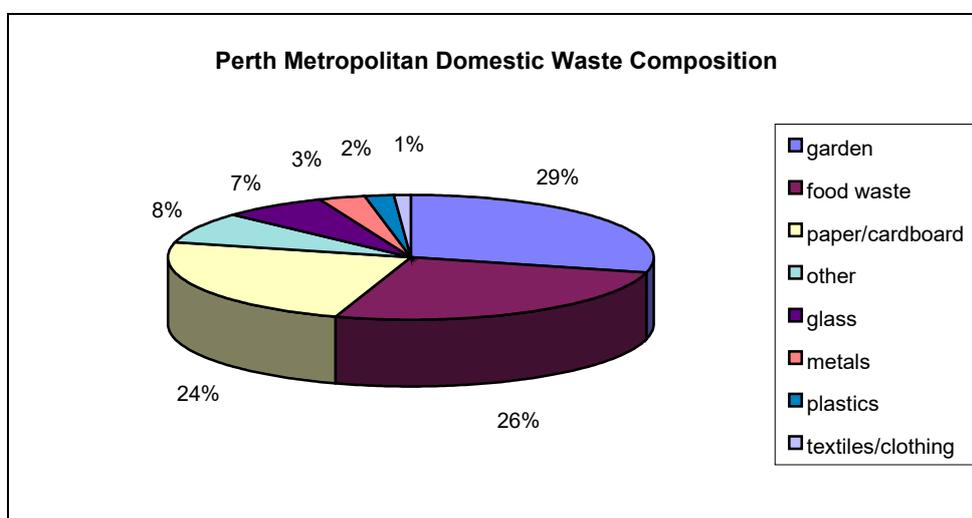
The first recycling services appeared in the early 1980's, led by the Town of Albany and the City of Perth. Since then recycling has become a way of life for the majority of households and many workplaces in the metropolitan area. Services have expanded in many cases from glass and paper to cover all recyclable materials including plastics, aluminium cans, milk and juice cartons, cardboard, steel cans, and green waste. Paper recycling has become commonplace in many offices.

In many respects though we have a long way to go. Nine years after deciding to halve our waste, Perth is the only capital city in Australia without complete kerbside recycling coverage. A number of the metropolitan area's recycling services do not collect the full range of recyclable materials. Many of our regional centres such as Kalgoorlie and Geraldton are without kerbside recycling services. Green waste recycling services still require further development. Recycling of industrial and commercial waste has made little headway, partially due to the relatively low cost of dumping.

A waste reduction and recycling policy is needed to assist local and state government, industry and the wider community to reduce waste, re-use and recycle in achieving the State and national goal of halving waste disposal by the year 2000.

2. OUR SOLID WASTE STREAM

The earliest research into the size and nature of the waste stream was undertaken for the *State Recycling Blueprint* which was released in 1993. The *Blueprint* revealed that Western Australia generates more than 2.3 million tonnes of solid waste a year. On a per-capita basis, this level of waste generation is amongst the highest in the nation. More recently the waste classification system has shown that about 1.48 million tonnes of waste was disposed to putrescible landfill last year in the metropolitan area. There is in addition an estimated 1 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste disposed of at inert landfills. Data from country areas is still inadequate. About a third, or 700,000 tonnes is household waste. The break-up of these waste streams is shown in the following diagrams:



Expanding our knowledge of what comprises the waste stream has helped us to understand where we need to make the greatest efforts. Clearly, if we concentrate only on household waste we will never achieve the goal of halving waste. The *Blueprint* proposed a multi-faceted approach that would tackle

all of the waste stream areas identified above. As well as increasing levels of recycling, it proposed a review of approaches to waste minimisation, waste management costing, market development, public education and promotion, provision of services to country and remote areas, and dealing with problematic wastes.

The recommendations of the *Blueprint* were reinforced by the findings of the Report of the Select Committee on Recycling and Waste Management released in 1995. The Select Committee report made 66 recommendations in the areas of waste disposal and recycling. The recommendations were dominated by concerns about the need to protect groundwater from the threat of pollution from waste. The main recommendations were to not allow the development of further landfills on the coastal plain and to insist that new cells of existing landfills are all lined to contain leachates. Other important recommendations concerned the need to keep greenwaste out of landfills by imposing a ban on the disposal of greenwaste effective from the year 2000, and the need to increase construction and demolition waste (CDW) recycling in order to achieve the targets in reduction of waste to landfill. The Select Committee called for improvements in council recycling services to increase the diversion of recyclable materials from the domestic waste stream. The report highlighted the important role of Government in displaying leadership in improving its own recycling performance, particularly the Government waste paper contract, and by participating in the marketplace as a consumer of recycled content goods. The Select Committee called for the allocation of more resources to public education and promotion of recycling, to country recycling, to recycling market development, and for the provision of a waste to energy facility on Rottnest Island.

3. WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING POLICY STATEMENT

Western Australia is committed to reducing its solid waste per capita as a means of conserving resources and energy and reducing the State's dependence on landfill disposal. Western Australia's initial objective is to halve its solid waste per capita by the year 2000 in accordance with the national goal. The State's policy is to achieve this by encouraging and assisting the development of waste reduction and recycling services for commerce, industry and the general community and by working with industry to develop Western Australia's waste recycling and re-use capacity and capability.

The Government recognises that its waste reduction and recycling objectives will only be met by the combined effort of all Western Australians. The Government therefore places a high priority on public education and promotion and the provision of appropriate recycling services for all households and workplaces.

It is the Government's intention that, by the year 2000, recycling should be as convenient and accessible as waste disposal has been in the past.

4. POLICY PRINCIPLES

The Government's waste reduction and recycling policy is based on the following principles:

- the environmental and economic impact of waste should be kept to a minimum;
- society should be responsible for managing its own waste today, rather than leaving it for future generations to deal with;
- State Government, local government and industry should co-operate in reducing waste;
- those responsible for generating waste should pay for its treatment or disposal;
- the community should be closely consulted in the development of policy; and
- action should be taken throughout the entire product life cycle.

5. ROLES OF THE KEY PLAYERS

5.1 The Commonwealth Government

While most of the responsibility for waste management lies with the States and Territories, the Commonwealth Government has an important role in co-ordinating policy to ensure consistency across the nation. The Commonwealth's role in waste reduction and recycling includes:

- setting national waste reduction and recycling policies and objectives through ANZECC;
- contributing to the development of international waste management agreements;
- contributing to the development of National Environment Protection Measures; and
- promoting Cleaner Production.

In fulfilling its role the Commonwealth has been active in assisting in the development of national Industry Waste Reduction Agreements and the establishment of the national waste classification system and database.

The Commonwealth and the States co-ordinate environmental policy through ANZECC and the National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC). Western Australia actively participates in these national environment policy processes. In relation to waste management policy, Western Australia is a strong supporter of national solutions (particularly in relation to packaging) whenever there is a clear national interest.

5.2 The State Government

The State Government's role in reducing waste and recycling is to:

Legislative/Administrative

- establish a legislative and administrative framework which fosters sound waste management practices including waste reduction and recycling;
- remove regulatory impediments to waste reduction and recycling;
- ensure the establishment of a waste management fee structure which reflects all costs including social and environmental costs; and
- implement the national kerbside recycling objectives, in line with Western Australia's ANZECC obligations.

Recycling Industries

- assist in the development of recycling industries and markets;
- develop markets for recycled materials through strategic government purchasing; and
- encourage the collection of non-municipal wastes for recycling or destruction.

Infrastructure

- facilitate transport and collection of recyclables;
- establish and operate an industrial waste exchange;
- encourage the development of reprocessing infrastructure; and
- encourage the development of alternatives to landfill disposal, such as bio-digestion or waste destruction.

Reporting/Data collection

- improve our knowledge of the nature of the waste stream;
- maintain a database of waste disposal and recycling performance;
- monitor recycling system performance and advocate consistency of collection approaches; and
- report on progress in waste reduction and recycling against agreed performance targets.

Education

- facilitate public education and promotion of waste reduction and recycling on a State-wide basis;

5.3 Local Government

Local Government's role is to:

- provide or facilitate effective and efficient recycling services for residential, commercial and industrial customers;
- encourage waste reduction and recycling by charging for waste removal and disposal on a full cost recovery and a user pays basis;
- report to the community on waste disposal, waste reduction and recycling;
- assist in developing markets for recycled products by strategic purchasing;
- conduct local promotional and educational campaigns; and.
- encourage waste reduction and recycling within their planning and development policies.

5.4 Commerce and Industry

It is the role of the private sector to:

- help establish viable long term markets for recyclable materials;
- design production processes to promote more efficient resource use and minimise waste;
- design products and packaging to minimise waste and enhance recyclability;
- assist in developing markets for recycled products by strategic purchasing;
- develop and expand Western Australia's recycling capability and capacity in collection, sorting, reprocessing and marketing;
- report to the community on waste reduction and recycling performance;
- participate in recycling programs wherever feasible; and
- conform to their own industry self-regulation codes.

5.5 The Western Australian Community

The community's role, to the extent individuals wish, is to:

- avoid creating waste as far as possible at home and at work;
- separate recyclable materials from other waste and set out for kerbside collection or leave at a recycling drop-off point;
- seek out recyclable and recycled content products when shopping;
- avoid products which create excessive waste or cannot be recycled;
- encourage local government to provide effective domestic recycling services; and
- contribute to the development of public waste management policy.

6. STATE WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING POLICY INITIATIVES

Western Australia's waste reduction and recycling objectives need the support of policy initiatives. All homes and workplaces should have recycling services. 'Reducing, re-using and recycling' should be instinctive in commerce, industry, government and the general community. The following initiatives are designed to support the community, local and state government and industry in achieving the State's objectives. In doing so they will change forever the way Western Australians think about and act in respect to waste. These programs will ensure:

- convenient recycling services in Perth and all regional centres;
- accurate and timely information about waste and recycling to guide decisions;
- cleaner production by our industry;
- value is added to recycled materials here rather than having to rely on exporting them for processing;
- an educated and aware public;
- regulations which complement waste reduction and recycling initiatives; and
- problematic wastes can be treated or recycled rather than dumped.

These programs will be supported from the Waste Management and Recycling Fund which is generated by the levy on waste disposed to metropolitan landfill that commenced on 1 July 1998.

6.1 Municipal Recycling Services

Objective: *To encourage local governments to provide efficient and effective recycling services for the community.*

To divert as much waste as possible, it is essential that recycling services are:

- accessible;
- convenient;
- cost effective
- regular; and
- collect the full range of recyclable materials.

This is a performance-based recycling incentives scheme for councils. It is funded from the levy on waste disposed to landfill. A significant portion of the fund will be set aside for this purpose. A call for applications for this assistance will be made twice yearly by the Advisory Council on Waste Management. To qualify for these incentives, a local government must collect all materials scheduled for collection by the Advisory Council on Waste Management. The size of the incentive will be directly linked to the quantity of waste recycled. The incentive is additional to the savings from avoiding the cost of landfill disposal of waste which has been diverted to recycling. The incentives will apply to both metropolitan and regional local governments. Examples of eligible projects under the recycling incentives scheme include:

- recycling and reduction promotion and education at a local or regional level;
- establishing public place recycling schemes;
- trialing or establishing organic waste processing;
- user - pays waste services trials (e.g. pay by weight or volume); and
- waste reduction and recycling plans.

6.2 Waste Classification and Information

Objective: *To ensure strategic decisions about waste management are based on consistent, accurate and timely information about the solid waste stream.*

Strategic decisions in waste management in Western Australia are complicated by a lack of information about the composition of the solid waste stream. While we know a good deal about the domestic waste stream, our knowledge of much of the commercial and industrial waste stream is poor. The situation will be much improved once the national waste classification scheme is fully implemented. The scheme involves wastes being weighed and classified as they enter all major landfills. The assistance program also covers collection and reprocessing of recyclable materials. Implementation has already begun in Perth.

The waste classification scheme will be augmented by regular rubbish and recycling audits to give a clear picture of the effectiveness of the state's waste reduction and recycling programs.

6.3 Cleaner Production and Industrial Waste Reduction

Objective: *To encourage manufacturing and service industries to minimise their environmental impact and reduce wastes by adopting appropriate designs, practices and technologies.*

The provision of assistance for cleaner production and industrial waste audit services is a high priority. These services are needed to encourage manufacturing and service industry to:

- adopt cleaner production techniques to reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing and services at all stages in the product life-cycle;
- use waste audits to determine nature, volume and sources of waste;
- recover resources;
- identify options for reducing waste and the consumption of energy, water and other natural resources; and
- design products and packaging which can be re-used or recycled.

These services should be designed to harmonise with the national cleaner production strategy. The services will particularly target small to medium businesses. These businesses will benefit from the cost savings achieved through reducing energy, water and raw materials. There is a need to enhance expertise and research capacity with respect to Cleaner Production in Western Australia. This should include training, education, research, support, awareness and extension services. The availability of this assistance will encourage the development of a local consulting industry providing services in these areas.

The Waste Management Division of the Department of Environmental Protection also assists industry to reduce waste by operating an Industrial Waste Exchange Service comprising a data base of industrial wastes used to help recycling, treatment and other industries make use of secondary materials.

The Cleaner Production Program will be backed by an industrial waste reduction policy to be developed by the Department of Environmental Protection incorporating provisions for:

- waste audits to determine nature, volume and sources of waste;

- waste management planning by industry to identify options for reducing wastes;
- industry approval procedures which ensure that waste reduction options are fully explored before new waste generating industries are established; and
- waste disposal agreements such as a requirement for developers and others to indicate where construction and demolition waste is to be disposed of.

The emphasis of these policies will be on co-operatively developing within companies and industries mechanisms to enhance waste reduction goals.

6.4 Recycling and Waste Processing Industry Development

Objective: *To ensure that Western Australia's access to industrial capacity to process recovered materials and use recycled feedstock is consistent with supply generated by recycling and recovery services.*

In the past the Department of Commerce and Trade has provided capital grants of 10 percent (15 percent for regional projects) for approved pioneering new industries. Local government projects are ineligible for assistance. The assistance is subject to a minimum capital investment of \$2.5 million for metropolitan projects (\$1 million for regional). As most new recycling industries have a capital cost below these levels, these criteria disqualify them from receiving assistance. It is intended to overcome this problem and to assist the development of Western Australia's recycling industry capacity by providing assistance from the Waste Management and Recycling Fund for (a) incentives to develop essential recycling industry infrastructure, and (b) research and development, particularly in the following areas of market weakness:

- construction and demolition waste recycling;
- organic waste processing;
- paper recycling;
- plastics recycling;
- household hazardous waste recycling;
- tyre recycling; and
- energy recovery.

In some cases, such as tyre recycling, the industry incentives may need to be supported by regulation. It is clear, however, that regulatory support on its own will not stimulate the development of these industries. This is not to say that the government favours ongoing subsidy. The government's efforts are directed at encouraging the establishment of commercially viable industries.

This element of the program is particularly aimed at infrastructure development with significant potential to reduce waste currently dumped in landfills. This includes the development of collection and sorting systems designed to maximise recovery consistent with markets. This program will also assist industry and local government to evaluate, trial and develop potential markets for secondary materials. Eligible projects include:

- business plans;
- marketing plans;
- advertising campaigns;
- market feasibility studies;
- trial shipments of materials overseas or interstate;
- trial production runs; and

- in service trials.

The market development program is reinforced by a State Government recycled purchasing policy which gives preference to goods with recycled content.

The Department of Environmental Protection will also operate a data base covering the sources, classification and quantities of waste materials as an aid to industry looking for opportunities in waste management.

6.5 Regional Recycling

Objective: *To ensure that Western Australians living beyond the metropolitan area have access to recycling services appropriate to local conditions.*

The Government will, within the context of community wishes, assist country councils to assess the most environmentally and economically appropriate ways to reduce waste and recycle. Assistance will also be provided on a dollar for dollar basis for the development of regional recycling plans, such as those undertaken by the Lower Great Southern and the South West regions. Access to cheap backloading freight rates, which allow the effective transport of recyclables to markets in the metropolitan area is central to the success of regional recycling. As well as being eligible to receive assistance towards the cost of recycling infrastructure, regional areas will also be eligible for support towards the cost of transporting collected recyclables to market.

The Government will otherwise assist country recycling by supporting local government community education programs, recycling co-ordination and assisting local government, community groups and local enterprises to acquire the infrastructure required for recycling schemes. This program will operate as a supplement to the Municipal Recycling Services Program.

6.6 Public Education and Promotion

Objective: *To ensure the Western Australian community understands the issues surrounding waste management and can make informed choices and decisions about waste generation, waste management, waste reduction and recycling.*

Education campaigns to inform and encourage the community to reduce and recycle are a high priority. This will be complemented by an ongoing promotion campaign to develop waste reduction and recycling throughout Western Australia. The aim of these campaigns is to encourage major behavioural change within the community. This will require a State-wide approach utilising print media, radio and television. Educational and resource kits will also need to be produced and distributed.

A State-wide waste reduction and recycling information and promotion campaign will be conducted annually as well as waste reduction and recycling awards for industry, local government, schools and community groups. This program will include advice on how people and organisations can recycle. It will also support education and promotion work by local government, schools, recycling companies and community groups. Most of the actual program delivery will be carried out by people and organisations outside Government (particularly local government, private companies and community groups). The effectiveness of these programs will be regularly monitored.

6.7 State Co-ordination of Local Government Recycling and Waste Reduction

Objective: *To assist local government organisations that represent local governments in Western*

Australia to co-ordinate state-wide recycling and waste reduction initiatives.

Local government is generally responsible for planning and implementing local waste reduction and recycling programs. To ensure efficiency and effectiveness, it is important that local government's waste reduction and recycling endeavours be co-ordinated on a regional basis. Assistance from this program will only be available to properly constituted local government bodies that meet these guidelines.

6.8 Regulating Waste Reduction and Recycling

Objective: *To foster waste reduction and recycling by the use of appropriate legislation and regulation.*

In the past the regulation of waste management has been covered under the Health Act (1911). This legislation is being updated through amendments to the Environmental Protection Act to give the Government expanded powers to deal with complex waste management issues, including waste reduction, recycling and hazardous waste management. The new legislation reflects the intent of this policy. A comprehensive regulatory framework aimed at excluding potentially hazardous or problematic wastes from landfills and waste treatment and recycling facilities is included in the amendments to the EP Act.

The Government has already reviewed and removed regulations restricting the use of retreaded tyres and repealed the Marine Stores Act which had effectively constrained recycling.

The Government will conduct a review of regulations governing the recycling of construction and demolition waste.

The Government has banned the burning of greenwaste at metropolitan landfill sites and will ban its disposal in landfill from the year 2000. This will ensure a ready supply of material for manufacturers of mulch and soil conditioners.

6.9 Recycling Problem Wastes

Objective: *To ensure that Western Australia has the ability to remediate waste management problems and liabilities for which responsibility cannot be attributed to any individual or organisation.*

There are many structural impediments to sound waste management within our community. The real cost of waste disposal is not fully accounted for in many cases. This especially applies in respect to future possible environmental protection and public health liabilities. In other cases waste management liabilities are being held by individuals or organisations who are in no way able to pay for appropriate disposal or treatment.

Examples include old landfills which are causing environmental problems, and stockpiles of hazardous and intractable wastes. These problems cause difficulties around Australia, leading to "orphan" contaminated sites and illegal dumping. Western Australia has fared a little better (e.g. treatment of organochlorine wastes at considerable savings to the community) but there are still many problems to be addressed.

The Department of Environmental Protection will assist in the development and promotion of schemes designed to identify, collect and treat or properly dispose of these wastes. This will supplement the existing advisory service in collection and treatment of household hazardous waste and other intractable and hazardous wastes in private hands.

6.10 Government Recycling

Objective: *To establish Western Australian government agencies as models in workplace recycling and in so doing encourage similar practice in all other workplaces.*

The Western Australian Government already has a waste paper recycling contract requiring the participation of all agencies. Agencies will be encouraged to extend this program to cover other recyclable materials including cardboard, telephone books, glass, plastics, milk cartons and aluminium cans where it is financially viable to do so. The Government will also become a major user of Australian recycled content products, thus helping to make markets for recycled materials more viable.

The Government will encourage commerce and industry to follow its lead.

7. WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING TARGETS

The State Government re-affirms its endorsement of the State and national waste reduction and recycling objectives of:

- halving waste disposal per capita by 1 January 2000; and
- halving domestic waste per capita by 1 January 2000.
(both from a 1991 base)

The State Government also re-affirms its endorsement of the national waste reduction and recycling targets (set in 1996) for individual materials which currently are:

Material	National Waste Reduction & Recycling Targets
Organic wastes	60 %
Construction and demolition wastes	60%
Food wastes	20%
Plastic containers	50 - 75%
Glass	75 %
Aluminium cans	75 %
Steel cans	50 %
Liquidpaperboard	50 %
Newsprint	55 %
Packaging papers	55%

Note: The targets for newsprint and packaging materials are set as a result of negotiations with industry and hence the types of waste are specifically listed here. ANZECC, through the Industry Waste Reduction Agreements process, is currently reviewing and refining the way Australia deals with targets of this kind, and moving toward national agreements across industry through a Packaging Covenant and National Environment Protection Measure for Used Packaging Materials, which DEP supports.

Responsibility for the recycling performance of many of the items in the table above has been accepted by industry groups formed by the manufacturers of these items. It is their role to ensure that the

recycling rates meet the nominated targets and they often become directly involved in the development of markets for these products. However, while organic wastes (particularly greenwaste) and construction and demolition waste are the most predominant items in the waste stream, there are no obvious industry bodies which could be expected to take on the responsibility for these areas. In consequence, action to develop greenwaste and construction and demolition waste recycling strategies has been taken by the Department of Environmental Protection in conjunction with local government and industry.

The Department of Environmental Protection is of the view that where a waste stream has a national perspective (as is the case with most types of packaging), then these issues should be addressed in a nationally co-ordinated way.

8. IMPLEMENTING THE WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING POLICY

8.1 Advisory Council on Waste Management

Minimising the social and environmental impact of waste requires co-ordinated action across industry, State and local government and the wider community. In acknowledging this shared responsibility, the Government has appointed a broadly based Advisory Council on Waste Management to guide the development and implementation of waste management policy and to provide the Government with a direct line of advice on all waste management issues. The Council comprises representatives of local government, industry and the general community.

The Advisory Council on Waste Management is responsible for advising the Minister for the Environment on the implementation of the State Waste Reduction and Recycling Policy. The Advisory Council's specific responsibilities are:

- program development;
- recommending programs and funding allocations to the Minister; and
- monitoring and review of the policy and supporting programs.

It is intended to establish the Advisory Council as a statutory body within the Act during the Environmental Protection Act amendments process.

8.2 State Recycling Advisory Committee

To provide specialised advice to government through the Advisory Council on Waste Management, the Government has appointed a State Recycling Advisory Committee to guide the implementation of the policy and to provide a direct line of advice on all waste reduction and recycling matters. The committee comprises representatives of local government, recycling industry, conservation groups and the general community.

The State Recycling Advisory Committee will provide specialist advice on waste reduction and recycling to the Advisory Council on Waste Management and the Minister for the Environment. It will assist the Advisory Council in program development, assessment of funding proposals and monitoring and review of supporting programs.

8.3 Department of Environmental Protection

In the field of waste reduction and recycling, the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for :

- a continuing community education and promotion role;
- administration of the State Waste Management and Recycling Trust Fund;
- measuring progress against performance indicators and reporting results;
- program delivery in areas specified within this policy as being its direct responsibility; and
- delivery of policy advice to the Minister and the Advisory Council.

8.4 Waste Management and Recycling Fund

The Government has created a trust fund called the *Waste Management and Recycling Fund*. It will be used to fund many of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Policy's programs and other waste management initiatives decided by the Minister for the Environment on the advice of the Advisory Council on Waste Management.

Grants from the Fund are allocated by the Minister for the Environment after receiving advice from the Advisory Council on Waste Management.

The source of the Waste Management and Recycling Fund is a levy on waste dumped in landfill disposal sites in the Metropolitan Area. This method is used to fund waste reduction and recycling programs in NSW, South Australia and Victoria and in many places in Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. The landfill levy applies only to landfills in the metropolitan area. It has been set at \$3 per tonne for any waste disposed at putrescible landfills and \$1 per tonne for inert waste disposed at licensed inert landfills.

The Waste Management and Recycling Fund has been established as a trust fund under and governed by the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act (FAAA). The Fund arrangements ensure that landfill levy funds are only used for waste management program purposes. Existing Government funding for the Departmental Waste Reduction and Recycling Program will be maintained.

8.5 National Policy Development

The Government recognises that some forms of recycling and waste reduction (particularly where national companies or products are involved, such as packaging) are best co-ordinated and planned on a national basis. It will continue to support effective ANZECC and NEPC policy actions which seek to underpin consistent activities and plans for waste reduction and recycling across Australia.

8.6 Policy and Program Costs

Before the implementation of the landfill levy and the funded programs, the government was contributing \$2.3 million per year to fund its waste management functions. Of this amount, approximately \$380,000 could be attributed to waste reduction and recycling activities.

The programs described in this document are expected to result in an additional \$4 million per annum being directed into waste reduction and recycling initiatives. Funding will not be constant from year to year because of changes to the quantity of material disposed. Priorities will need to be reviewed to accommodate changing situations particularly as objectives are achieved, and new priorities developed.

8.7 Monitoring, Review and Reporting

Local Government and industry will report quarterly, or as agreed, on their waste reduction and recycling performance to the Waste Management Division, Department of Environmental Protection. The Department of Environmental Protection will report annually on the policy through the Minister for the Environment to the State Parliament.

A review of the policy and programs will be conducted before 31 December 2000 in line with the objectives of the policy to halve waste to landfill by that year. This review will be undertaken in conjunction with interested parties, and be made publicly available.

Glossary of Terms

ACWM	Advisory Council on Waste Management - A council which advises the Minister for the Environment on waste management issues.
ANZECC	Australian and New Zealand Environmental and Conservation Council, comprising Federal and Australian State environment ministers and the New Zealand environment minister. The body responsible for setting the national environment agenda.
AusIndustry Program	Industry extension services provided by the Federal Government.
Blueprint	“The State Recycling Blueprint – A plan to Halve Waste to Landfill by the Year 2000”. A policy document jointly published by the Department of Commerce and Trade and the Western Australian Municipal Association in June 1993.
CDW	Construction and demolition waste.
Cleaner production	A program to encourage manufacturers and processors to review their processes to minimise the generation of waste.
FAAA	The Financial and Administration and Audit Act which sets standards for the proper administration and utilisation of public funds and resources.
Greenwaste recycling	The collection and processing of gardening wastes.
Hazardous Intractable wastes	Chemical and nuclear wastes which are difficult to dispose of, take a long time to degrade and which are potentially harmful to public health or the environment.
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste such as paints, solvents and pesticides likely to be generated in homes.
Industrial Waste Exchange	Service provided by the Department of Environmental Protection to link suppliers of waste with potential users of these materials.
Kerbside recycling	The regular recycling services provided to households by Councils.
Landfill levy	A charge per tonne on the quantity of waste disposed to landfill to pay for waste reduction and recycling initiatives.
Landfills	Facilities licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection for the final disposal of waste by burial
Leachates	Liquids which percolate downwards through a landfill containing dissolved minerals and contaminants.
Municipal Recycling Scheme	Regular recycling collection services provided to households by local councils.
NEPC	National Environment Protection Council. A body of State and Federal environment ministers established under the National Environment Protection Act to develop and report on National Environmental Protection Measures.

Organic waste	Waste that is organic in origin, such as food waste, green waste, manures and sludges.
Problematic wastes	Those materials that are difficult to dispose of because of their chemical or physical characteristics but which are not necessarily hazardous.
SRAC	State Recycling Advisory Committee. A body which advises ACWM on recycling issues.
Waste Classification System	A national system for identifying and coding quantities of waste by type.
Waste Management Hierarchy	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Energy Recovery, Disposal.

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