

Communique

Waste and Resource Recovery Board
20 September 2022

The Waste and Resource Recovery Board was established on 1 July 2022, and has begun the process of developing a clear and bold strategic direction through a draft Tasmanian Waste Strategy.

The WRR Board is established by the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022*, and formally commenced on 1 July 2022. The Board has a wide range of functions under the WRR Act. A key priority is the development of a draft Waste Strategy to provide to the Minister by the end of September 2022.

Producing a productive, sustainable, and liveable future for all Tasmanians is at the heart of this work. The Board plans to work closely with the State Government, local government, regional waste authorities, peak bodies, and with Tasmanian industry and businesses to develop this strategy. Providing the draft is an important starting point to meet the Government's plan to reduce waste going to landfill and increase resource recovery in Tasmania.

Draft Tasmanian Waste Strategy

The initial focus of the Board is to develop a draft Strategy that can be used for consulting widely with Tasmania's public and private sectors, and the broader community. The Board is aiming to set a vision that is bold and helps develop circular economy systems and a low emissions future for the State.

It is important to the Board that products and materials remain in the productive economy; that we reuse, refurbish and repair before we consider the recycling and reprocessing options. The

Board is strongly committed to building a strategy that is built upon the waste hierarchy and the circular economy.



A draft Tasmanian Waste Strategy is soon to be provided to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change for consideration, followed by a period of broad consultation.

The coincidence of the 2022 local government elections and the development of the draft Strategy occurring at the same time has created difficulties for proper engagement with the local government sector.

As a consequence, consultations with the sector have been delayed until after the new councils have been established. Given their significant role in waste and resource recovery across Tasmania, it is very important to the Board that local government have the best opportunity to help shape Tasmania's Waste Strategy.

Broad consultation is intended to provide a significant opportunity for all Tasmanians to help shape our pathway to a circular and a low emissions future. All feedback received will be carefully considered in the process of finalising the Strategy.

The first Strategy will establish our vision and initial priorities. It is also important that we plan for monitoring and reviewing that keeps our focus on the priority issues, and builds our infrastructure and capacity into the long-term.

Good data and information on which to base decisions is crucial. It is well known that historical data on waste and landfilling rates in Tasmania is quite limited. The introduction of the landfill levy will significantly improve this. Building systems in partnership with NRE Tasmania to make that information available to decision makers will be a feature of early work by the Board.

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We also need to understand the true rates of resource recovery and waste landfilling to be able to measure our progress, especially against state and national targets.

Once the Board has provided the draft Tasmanian Waste Strategy to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, the Board is looking forward to engaging closely with stakeholders and the community. Further information about this process will be provided as soon as possible.

Collaboration and Engagement

The Board welcomes the chance to engage with stakeholders and business and industry groups. The aim is for open and transparent engagement and communications wherever possible, while also recognising that the Board will also be dealing with commercially sensitive information.

While a specific website is being established for the Board, contacting the Board will be through interim arrangements on the NRE Tasmania website. For further information, please visit: nre.tas.gov.au/environmental-management/waste-and-resource-recovery/tasmanian-waste-and-resource-recovery-board

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