

Progress Communique

Waste and Resource Recovery Board
February 2023

The Waste and Resource Recovery Board was established on 1 July 2022, and has been working to begin steering Tasmania towards a circular and low emissions economy.

February 2023

- Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
- Collaboration and Engagement
- Board Assistance and Support Programs
- Tasmanian Government Programs

The first legislated Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy for Tasmania

The WRR Board reached an important milestone on 23 November 2022 with the public release of the first legislated waste strategy for the state: the *Draft Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy*.

The Strategy will help set a policy and action framework to move us towards a Circular Economy by improving waste management and resource recovery in Tasmania.

It sets out a Vision of Tasmania as being “A Place Where Nothing is Wasted”.

It will not be an easy journey. But we believe that by all working together we can help make a place where the value of materials and products is truly recognised, where we no longer just take

resources, make, and use products, then discard the waste, but instead strive to maximise the value of resources during and after the life of a product.

We know we can't do it unless all levels of government, business and industry, and the wider community come along for the journey.

The Board is looking forward to seeing what Tasmanians think about this Vision and how we can achieve it.

Consultation on the Strategy closes on 24 February 2023. The next step will be to collate all the valuable feedback and then provide an updated draft to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change for final approval.

Collaboration and Engagement

The Board is keenly aware and supportive of the fantastic work being done by individuals and organisations across Tasmania and Australia to grasp the opportunities arising from smarter reuse and recovery of materials.

As well as consulting on the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, the Board is continuing to meet with and receive briefings from key stakeholders to work out how it can best lead and coordinate our collective Circular Economy efforts.

Over the second half of 2022, the Board met and began forming constructive networks with the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association Australia, University of Tasmania, Environment Protection Authority, New Zealand Ministry for the Environment (online), Sustainable Communities and Waste Research Hub (Australian Circular Economy Hub), and the Department of State Growth.

In the coming months, the Board will also engage closely with a range of other stakeholders. This includes other peak sectoral groups, Office of the Coordinator General, Department of Premier and Cabinet (regarding the development of the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy) and will visit some of our most remote communities to discuss their waste and resource recovery challenges and opportunities.

Board Assistance and Support Programs

Charitable Recyclers Landfill Levy Rebate Program

Under the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* the Board is to run an assistance program to mitigate costs to charitable recyclers arising from the landfill levy. This was further given effect through the Ministerial Direction issued to the Board in July 2022.

Contact

Postal Address: GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania 7001

Phone: 0476 895 606

Email: enquiries@wrr.tas.gov.au

The charitable recycling sector is often heavily impacted by illegal dumping and the donation of items that cannot be reused or recycled and must be taken to landfill. Those disposal costs would be better off spent elsewhere by the charities to provide important community services.

On 10 February 2023, the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Roger Jaensch MP and the Chair of the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board, the Hon. Pam Allan, launched the Charitable Recycler Rebate Program.

The Program will provide a rebate to Charitable Recyclers for landfill levy costs incurred in disposal of unusable goods to landfill. Registered and approved charitable recyclers will receive a rebate of 100% of the levy. The Chair and the Minister emphasized that while the rebate will help offset the costs to charities, everyone should take a responsible approach to donations.

If it isn't good enough for a mate, don't donate!

Donations should be taken to a depot during business hours. If donating at a charity bin, make sure goods are placed inside the bin. Goods placed around the bin get damaged by rain, wind, and pests, and are no longer usable.

Other Programs

In the next 12 months several similar Assistance Programs to mitigate levy costs will be rolled out for resource recovery facilities and public authorities such as councils and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

Funding for the regional waste groups will also be secured through the finalisation of funding agreements in the coming months.

Tasmanian Government Programs

The Board is pleased to recognise the important work that the Tasmanian Government is continuing, through several resource recovery programs:

- \$3 million State Government grant for waste tyre reprocessing (closed 13 February 2023).
- \$1.26 million combined Australian and State Government funded Recycling Modernisation Fund grant for soft or other plastics (closes 28 February 2023).
- \$1.75 million combined Australian and State Government funded remote council resource recovery projects.
- The banning of a number of single use plastic items by 2025.
- Provision of over \$11 million of State Government funding to four plastic recycling and organic waste processing projects.
- Support for achieving national food waste targets.

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