



The Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Education, Children and Youth, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Minister
for Aboriginal Affairs
80B Wilson Street
BURNIE, Tasmania 7320

15 March 2024

Email: minister.jaensch@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Jaensch

Re: WMRR Waste and Resource Recovery Policy Priorities for State Election

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) is the national peak body representing Australia's \$17 billion waste and resource recovery (WARR) industry. With more than 2,200 members from over 400 entities nationwide, we represent the breadth and depth of the sector, including representation from business organisations, the three (3) tiers of government, universities, and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), including research bodies.

Our essential industry has very much remained in the national conscience in recent years, yet despite a global move towards circularity including resource efficiency and carbon mitigation, Australia continues to focus heavily on linear behaviour and consumption, with those that create *waste* rarely being held accountable (legally or financially). Whilst Australia has committed to creating a circular economy by 2030, we still lack a systemic approach to managing material and need to rapidly shift to building the systems and infrastructure to keep material circulating longer and using less. Further, there is real gap in promoting resource recovery or the use of recovered materials and products made from these materials, even though this is a clear expectation that the community has of both our essential industry and government.

Moving to a circular economy is key to successfully transitioning to a net zero future, and WMRR believes that the WARR sector is fundamental to this transition. The capacity of Tasmania to achieve its carbon mitigation targets and 2030 recovery goals, requires drastic policy changes, purposeful market action, and targeted strategic funding investment by government. It is imperative that the successful government demonstrates real leadership in transitioning to a circular economy and drives policy and market settings that create investment and growth within Tasmania, as well as enable a level playing field.

The circular economy is built on three (3) principles – designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use at their highest and best value for as long as possible, and regenerating natural systems. Preserving the planet, protecting human health, growing local economies, and creating jobs can all go hand-in-hand, but we need to keep innovating and challenging the system, so that we build a Tasmanian society and economy where the focus is at the start of the product lifecycle, to first and foremost prevent waste from being created, as well as ensuring sustainable resource use.

WMRR is advocating for five (5) policy priorities, including a number of recommendations that will assist in meeting these policies, to be adopted by all political parties. These priorities are crucial to

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drive action towards a circular economy that reduces carbon emissions, creates jobs and increases investment in the Tasmanian economy. Industry's five (5) priority action areas for the 2024 Tasmanian election are-

1. Finalise as a matter of priority, the implementation of the Container Deposit Scheme and the elimination of single-use plastics;
2. Support the continued implementation of the landfill levy, provide industry certainty through forward rates post 2026, and ensure there are correct market settings to divert material from landfill and mitigate carbon impacts;
3. Increase the delivery of necessary WARR infrastructure, with a focus on state-based processing, reuse and re-manufacturing to facilitate local markets for the use of recovered materials in Tasmania, including sustainable government procurement. Key to this is also ensuring appropriate resources within government to continue these activities.
4. Commit to review WARR regulatory settings including generator accountability for classification of materials, general environmental duties and resource recovery framework to assist with delivering a circular economy in Tasmania; and
5. Strive for state-wide standardisation of services and implement a harmonised state-wide waste avoidance and education campaigns to drive behavioural change across both the community and business focusing on consuming less and making it last longer to support achievement of biodiversity, carbon and resource recovery goals.

Implementation of these policy positions will provide enhanced environmental outcomes for the state and additional employment in the waste, resource recovery, and remanufacturing sectors in Tasmania. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet to discuss these policy positions in further detail with you. Please contact the undersigned to schedule a meeting time.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Executive Officer

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