

Submission Date	9/23/2019 4:22:00 PM
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Role or organisation	Role or organsation - Waste and Resource Recovery Manager

Question 1 - What are the key issues facing the NSW waste system?

(i) Sustainability of domestic recyclables market and MRF viability (ii) Need for an AWT Policy Framework (iii) Dwindling availability of landfill air space in Sydney Metropolitan Area

Question 2 - What are the main barriers to improving the NSW waste system?

The need for a stronger domestic recycling and manufacturing sector to reprocess recyclable material generated within Australia without the need to export this material. Similarly the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme has identified the lack of a domestic glass remanufacturing industry with some Australian MRF operators being identified as stockpiling or landfilling this product. A lack of operators within the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) sector, some smaller operators facing closure, a lack of choice for Councils in negotiating contracts. Given the limited availability of landfill air space in the Sydney metro area a key issue is the lack of clear policy direction for Alternative Waste Treatment. Council believes this lack of policy is impacting investment in alternatives to landfilling.

Question 3 - How can we best reduce waste?

Minimise unnecessary packaging and incentivise the recycling of packaging. Similar to overseas models place more onus via legislation on manufacturers to use recycled material in their products. Continue to support Council's in establishing FOGO programs for their local government areas. Continue to support Council's in community education programs around recycling and waste minimisation.

Question 4 - How can we recycle better?

Strengthening the local manufacturing sector through grants and investment in plastic, glass and paper remanufacture. Support for Councils to identify and establish best practice collection contracts to maximise source separation of recyclables which in turn would improve quality of MRF outputs. Stronger obligations through packaging covenants on the manufacturing sector to use recycled materials and increase the value of MRF recovered materials. Research and development into alternative uses of recycled materials and review of current Australian Standards to allow for these uses. Continue to support Council's in educating the community on recycling options and correct sorting of waste.

Question 5 - What are the main opportunities for improving the NSW waste system?

Development of a NSW Government position paper on Alternative Waste Treatment. Further research and development into Energy from Waste facilities to service NSW residents and Councils. Creating a stronger domestic manufacturing industry to utilise recovered and recycled materials. aligned with a strong packaging covenant. More focused waste education messaging for the community. Increased source separation of recyclable material at kerbside collection and better public place recycling.

Question 6 - Any other information that you would like to contribute to the waste strategy initiative?