



Government of South Australia
Zero Waste SA

Summary of stakeholder consultation

South Australia's
Waste Strategy 2011 - 2015

AVOID • REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

WELCOME

Zero Waste SA released South Australia's first waste strategy in 2005 and it has been successful. Without the commitment of its partners and stakeholders this would not have been possible.

The first strategy, which took us through 2010, was necessarily a more 'nuts and bolts' approach to help the community, government and industry to forge an understanding of what was needed.

One result is that South Australians recycle more each year and the State is on track to meet *South Australia's Strategic Plan* target 67 to reduce waste to landfill by 35% by 2020 (milestone of 25% by 2014). Data shows South Australia reduced waste going to landfill by more than 17% between 2003 and 2010.

However, there are still many challenges ahead in the pursuit of zero waste. The new Strategy emphasises waste avoidance, encouraging a more considered approach towards what we consume in addition to the ongoing goal of advancing the State's recycling practices.

The new strategy is directional – helping to guide as well as motivate the community to achieve higher goals.

It has two objectives:

- > to maximise the useful life of materials through re-use and recycling
- > to avoid and reduce waste.

A draft version of the Strategy was released last year. Many stakeholders and partners participated in meetings, attended presentations and took part in lively discussions. A great deal of information was harvested, providing valuable input on how to best achieve South Australia's long term vision – zero waste.

In August 2010 Zero Waste SA called for submissions regarding the draft Strategy. Over the eight week consultation period individuals, non-government organisations, waste service providers, industry organisations, local government and others made suggestions, offered advice and proposed additions or amendments, receiving a total of 42 submissions.

We extend our thanks to all who contributed. This document was created to collate and reflect what you told us and how it is represented in the new Strategy.

Please feel free to contact Zero Waste SA, if you would like to discuss the consultation process or the Strategy in further detail.

“The efficient use and re-use of resources is vital for a well functioning economy, environment and society.”

THE PARTICIPANTS

We received 42 submissions, some of which offered comments that did not directly relate to the Strategy. These were noted and some have been addressed in this report.

State government

Department of Planning and Local Government

Department of Trade and Economic Development

Department of Treasury and Finance

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

South-East Natural Resources Management Board

Local government

Campbelltown City Council

City of Adelaide

City of Burnside

City of Charles Sturt

City of Marion

City of Mount Gambier

City of Onkaparinga

City of Port Adelaide Enfield

City of Prospect

District Council of Grant

District Council of Naracoorte Lucindale

Local Government Association

Non government organisations and others

Conservation Council of SA

KESAB environmental solutions

Ms Emma Bartram

Mr Tim Folwell

Ms Kate Campbell

National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations

University of SA

Business and industry

Australian Industry Group (SA Branch)

Business SA

Housing Industry Association

Restaurant and Catering South Australia

State Retailers Association

Waste management industry

Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority

Jeffries Group

LMS Generation Pty Ltd

Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority

ResourceCo Pty Ltd

Sims Metal Management

Southern Region Waste Resource Authority

Transpacific Industries Group Ltd

Veolia Environmental Services

Waste Management Association of Australia – SA Branch

Waste Management Association of Australia – SA Resource Recovery Working Group

Waste Management Association of Australia – Waste Educators Working Group

WastecareSA

HOW THE RESULTS WERE ANALYSED

Over 125 comments and suggestions were put forward. The topics were diverse and covered the full spectrum of waste services and businesses as well as helpful community and consumer perspectives. The comments were constructive and well developed – a testament to the depth of interest among stakeholders and to the strength of the relationship with Zero Waste SA.

More than 20 themes emerged. There were several repeated themes as well as innovations. Some were smaller in scale and more easily to deliver, some complex and challenging. And of course there were fresh ideas.

The foundation of our analysis was a line-by-line scrutiny of each submission, before distilling the information into areas of 'concern', and eventually isolating particular goals or amendments to the Strategy.

The submissions were also considered in the relevant contexts; how and when the goals might be achieved, their measurability for evaluation purposes and in terms of Zero Waste's scope and remit.

It is Zero Waste SA's intention to monitor and report upon progress as well as to gauge their achievability in its future reporting.

“Industry looks forward to **continuing our partnership** with local and state government to improve outcomes **in resource recovery and waste management**, in SA.”

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Local government

Councils offered diverse comments from a number of councils and the Local Government Association. Some of themes are listed below:

- > Getting the financial incentives right is critical to the Strategy's success
- > The volume of packaging waste remains high – the new Australian Packaging Covenant needs to ensure signatories minimise or avoid unnecessary packaging
- > Electronic waste (in particular) and also other problematic wastes require attention
- > Household education / communication about recycling remains important
- > SA needs collection infrastructure associated with higher density urban living
- > Municipal Solid Waste diversion target is too high
- > Illegal dumping remains a financial cost burden

Waste and recycling industry

A broad range of comments and issues were raised by the sector as follows:

- > The Strategy needs a focus on local markets, infrastructure, services and jobs
- > A range of factors associated with the implementation of the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy
- > Costs and benefits of sustainable procurement – in particular how government can improve avoidance, reduction and recycling through its procurement policies and practices
- > Increases to the landfill levy, expenditure from the Waste to Resources Fund and the requirement to consult 'authentically' in relation to the levy were also raised

Other

- > The Strategy should set targets for the rest of South Australia, not just the metropolitan area
- > Electronic waste is of concern and requires a solution
- > Litter remains a concern and requires continued effort

Common across all sectors

- > Discussion regarding appropriateness of targets was raised
- > Hazardous and problematic wastes still require improvements to infrastructure, services and education/awareness
- > Need to continue the Producer Responsibility schemes into the future

HOW THE CONSULTATION INFLUENCED THE STRATEGY

Integrating how each submission influenced the strategy would make for lengthy reading. However, some of the input we received is now articulated in the Strategy in a way that can be communicated succinctly. We've highlighted those comments or contributions that are most likely to be of broad interest.



From consultation to Strategy

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of appropriate price signals and legislative instruments

- Municipal waste reduction target – 70% diversion by 2015 for metropolitan areas

- Support for non-metropolitan areas through the Regional Implementation Program captured in the Zero Waste SA Business Plan

- Support development of guidance for management of farm generated waste streams

- Develop resource information to assist non-metropolitan councils to divert waste

- Avoid and reduce wasteful use of resources in production processes and products

- Foster attitudes and encourage choices that help the community live within nature's limits – and embed this in the education system

- Measure waste (tonnes) to landfill by waste stream

- Support the implementation of the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy*

- Monitor and review kerbside collection to ensure maximum performance

- Promote industry knowledge and awareness through web-based publications and information

- Develop guidelines for residential waste and recycling services associated with higher density living

- Work with economic development agencies to explore growing resource recovery sectors e.g. e-waste

- Support new technologies that either enhance performance or replace landfill as a disposal option

“Maintaining a **strong partnership** with Local Government will be **vital in achieving the targets and objectives** outlined in the Waste Strategy.”

HOT TOPICS

The Waste Levy and Waste to Resources Fund were discussed in some submissions. These are not topics directly covered by the Strategy, but Zero Waste SA will address these as part of the consultation nonetheless.

To achieve a more sustainable environment, there is real value in diverting materials to recycling, reuse or resource recovery. The waste levy provides a financial incentive to reuse or recycle as much waste as possible. Landfill prices do not reflect the environmental cost of waste disposal, or the lost materials and resources. Levies are used almost universally to help divert waste away from landfill and encourage recycling.

The State Government has made a decision to increase the waste levy in 2011-12 to further support its objectives to drive reductions in waste going to landfill and encourage waste reduction and reuse across the State. The levy, as an economic incentive, is one of a suite of tools the Government is using to support the *South Australia's Strategic Plan* target of a 35% reduction of waste to landfill by 2020 (milestone of 25% by 2014) and the stretch targets proposed in *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2011-2015*.

Some submissions raised concerns that not enough of the Waste to Resources Fund is reallocated to meet the community's waste reduction needs. Each year Zero Waste SA prepares a prospective budget, the funds for which are allocated by the State's Treasury. And while Zero Waste SA has many improvements and new initiatives in mind, the State budget is complex. It remains Government's challenge to balance all the needs of the community while aiming for zero waste.

The Minister for Environment and Conservation has asked Zero Waste SA to identify new ideas/projects to access monies from this Fund to reduce waste, encourage recycling and promote resource recovery.

Advice will be provided to the Minister following the review of the solid waste levy.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your time

Evidence-based consultation practices do not guarantee that all input will be implemented. However, acknowledgement of concerns and transparency are integral to the process.

As you will see, the new Strategy directly addresses many themes emerging from the consultation process. While this list is not exhaustive, Zero Waste SA invites all participants to make specific enquires.

We would be happy to discuss the details with you.

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