



# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 21 NOVEMBER 2018

## 11.1 SUBMISSION - REVIEW NATIONAL WASTE POLICY 2009: LESS WASTE MORE RESOURCES POLICY REVIEW

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** LILI ROSIC, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To endorse Officer submission to the review of the *National Waste Policy 2009: Less Waste More Resources*.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Council officer submission (Attachment 1) has been developed and submitted in response to the:

*Discussion paper - National Waste Policy 2009 Review: Less Waste More Resources* released by the Department of Environment and Energy (DEE).

- 2.2 The submission has sixteen recommendations, which are consistent with the City of Port Phillip's Don't Waste It Strategy 2018-2028 and is aligned with the Waste Transformation that Council seeks through the achievement of Direction 3.5 'A Sustained Reduction in Waste' in the Council Plan 2017-27.
- 2.3 Formal endorsement of the submission demonstrates Council's commitment to reducing waste and maximising recycling opportunities, which is consistent with the newly endorsed Don't Waste It! Strategy 2018-2028.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Endorses the Council officer submission to the Department of Environment and Energy on the Review 2018: National Waste Policy 2009 - Less Waste More Resources.

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

#### **Review of 2018 National Waste Policy 2009 – Less Waste More Resources**

- 4.1 In September 2018, the Federal Government released a discussion paper as part of the review process for the National Waste Policy 2009 – Less Waste More Resources (the Policy).



- 4.2 The Policy's role is to ensure our international obligations are met, to provide effective national leadership and coordination, addressing national market failures within the recycling industry and providing national data and reporting.
- 4.3 The Policy does not relate to the regulation and management of waste and resource recovery within Australia, as this is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments.
- 4.4 A discussion paper was produced by the Department of Environment and Energy as part of the consultation process to review the Policy in September 2018, with a three-week submission period.
- 4.5 The discussion paper resulted from a meeting held on April 2018, between Commonwealth, state and territory environment ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association. This meeting aimed to create a sustainable path for Australia's recyclable waste, after the recent disruption to the industry caused by policy changes in China restricting the importation of recyclable waste.
- 4.6 The discussion paper reflects circular economy principles, where minimising waste is the priority (through design and behaviour change), and maximising full value from waste prior to disposal is essential. It is intended to provide a framework for developing technologies that create new opportunities.
- 4.7 The review of the Policy will also continue to support Australia's international obligations for environmental sustainability and waste, including the delivery of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production.
- 4.8 The discussion paper proposed six targets for comment:
1. Reduce total waste generated in Australia per capita by 10 per cent by 2030
  2. Eighty per cent average recovery rate from all resource-recovery streams, following the waste hierarchy, by 2030
  3. Thirty per cent average recycled content across all goods and infrastructure procurement by 2030
  4. Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics (non-recyclable, toxic and cause excess packaging) by 2030
  5. Halve the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030
  6. Fit-for-purpose and timely data to be available for individuals, businesses, and governments to make informed decisions.
- 4.9 The below table (Table One) summarises the submission which contains sixteen recommendations (Attachment One). These recommendations align with the priorities and targets recently adopted by Council for waste management in the Don't Waste It! Strategy 2018-2028.



**TABLE ONE:**

<p><b>National Waste Policy 2009 Review -Targets</b></p>	<p><b>City of Port Phillip Officer Recommendations</b></p>
<p>1. Reduce total waste generated in Australia per capita by 10 per cent by 2030</p>	<p>Targets must be set separately for: municipal solid waste (household waste); commercial and industrial waste; and construction and demolition waste. Each of these waste streams have unique characteristics and a broad-based target is inappropriate.</p> <p>A target of a 10 per cent reduction in waste by 2030 (against current performance) for each of these waste streams will create better conditions for a sustained reduction in waste.</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Target must reflect Australia generating less waste per capita than the average developed OECD country.</p>
<p>2. 80 per cent average recovery rate from all resource-recovery streams, following the waste hierarchy, by 2030</p>	<p>Similarly, to above, targets must be set separately for: municipal solid waste (household waste); commercial and industrial waste; and construction and demolition waste.</p> <p>A target of 80 per cent resource-recovery rate for each sector (or 10 per cent higher than current levels, whichever is greater) would be a more appropriate approach.</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Target must reflect Australia recovering more waste from all recovery streams than the average developed OECD country.</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Targets for each stream must be at least 80%, with the construction and demolition landfill targets aimed higher at 90 per cent.</p>
<p>3. 30 per cent average recycled content across all goods and infrastructure procurement by 2030</p>	<p>Target must include the consideration that product manufacture has not created additional adverse environmental effects (including the water requirements and greenhouse gas emissions generated through the manufacture of the product).</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>Target must preference locally produced goods.</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>A database must be created and maintained by the relevant Authority to allow easy access and selection of goods and infrastructure materials by all levels of government, and to allow ease of reporting.</p>

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1.	Economic incentives must be provided to local producers to put greener products on the market, including recycled content (as per the EU Commission for Circular Economy Action Plan).
4. Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2030	Target must be inclusive of single use plastics including straws and coffee cups, not just packaging.
1.	Target to be brought forward from 2030 to 2025.
5. Halve the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030	Enforcement policy tool to be applied on a national level, such as that used in South Australia (Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010—24.11.2011) to prevent organics ending up in landfill. This policy requires all waste to be pre-sorted for organics prior to being disposed at landfill.
1.	The National Food Waste Strategy Action Plan, which aims to deliver this target must include transparent actions and reporting mechanisms, allowing initiative and learnings to be shared across the sectors (the Action Plan for the <i>National Food Waste Strategy</i> is yet to be published (anticipated by the end of 2018/19 FY).
6. Fit-for-purpose and timely data to be available for individuals, businesses, and governments to make informed decisions by 2025.	Target brought forward from 2025 to 2022, to allow for early investment in infrastructure projects.
1.	All reporting of this strategy and data relating to this strategy be formally reported annually.
1.	Live data be made available on the web portal for transparency and accessibility by 2022.



**5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

5.1 The officer submission to the *Review 2018: National Waste Policy 2009* included input from various council departments including Environmental Sustainability, Maintenance and Operations. Councillors were provided the opportunity to provide limited input prior to submission.

**6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no known legal implications.

6.2 This submission provides Council with the opportunity to influence the future of national waste and recycling legislation and policy.

**7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

7.1 These are no immediate financial impacts resulting from endorsing the submission, however changes to the *National Waste Policy 2009* may result in additional costs to Council and the community. These costs could arise from a potential increase in price of goods and infrastructure, resulting from the requirement to contain recycled content in the future.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 The Council officer submission reaffirms Council's commitment of a Waste Transformation and transitioning to a sustained reduction in waste.

8.2 This submission supports the development of a circular economy for waste, where minimising waste is the priority (through design and behaviour change), and maximising full value from waste prior to disposal is essential.

**9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 This submission has no direct impact on the community.

9.2 The final Policy update may result in formal outcomes that have the potential to increase the cost of items such as packaging, and create certainty in the recycling industry that has the potential to create local jobs.

**10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

10.1 Strategic Direction 3 – We have smart solutions for a sustainable future, Council Plan 2017-27, A sustained reduction in waste.

**11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**11.1 TIMELINE**

11.1.1 Any feedback on the officer submissions from Councillors will be provided to the Department of Environment and Energy, as an addendum to our submission.

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11.1.2 State and Federal Environment Ministers will be meeting by the end of 2018 to consider all submissions.

11.1.3 It is anticipated a full draft of the updated *National Waste Policy 2009* will be released by mid-2019. Council cannot confirm whether further submissions will be invited prior to the finalisation of the Policy.

## 11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 Council endorsement of the submission will be communicated to the relevant agency to finalise and formalise the submission.

## 12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

**TRIM FILE NO:** 66/32/01

**ATTACHMENTS** 1. Attachment One - CoPP National Waste Policy Submission