

## City of Port Phillip Submission

### 2018 Review - (National Waste Policy 2009: Less Waste More Resources)

#### Introduction:

The City of Port Phillip (CoPP) welcomes the opportunity to provide the Department of Environment and Energy with a submission in response to the update of the *'National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources 2009'* the Policy.

The CoPP is a local government, located in inner metro Melbourne, Victoria. It is Melbourne's most densely populated council area, and expected to double its population by 2050.

#### City of Port Phillip's Interest in the National Waste Policy (Policy)

As a key partner in environmental management and a primary collector of waste and recycling, CoPP takes great interest in the review of the Policy.

The CoPP has recently adopted a new ten-year Waste Strategy *'Don't Waste It! 2018-2028'*, which includes targets and outcomes aimed at:

- Reducing waste generated by households, council operations and businesses;
- Maximising reuse and recycling to significantly increase waste diversion rates;
- Minimising the contamination levels of our recycling; and
- Utilising advanced waste treatment to ensure we maximise the value of our waste.

These outcomes are guided by the principles of the waste hierarchy and of a circular economy for waste and resource recovery.

This Policy has the potential to ensure, through incentives and regulations that waste can be minimised and that the maximum value can be captured from waste.

CoPP acknowledges that the phasing out all single use plastics (including microbeads), and ensuring all packaging is recyclable can only occur with a national approach.

CoPP seeks a uniform approach to education, including labelling standards (reflecting the recycling content of items) for businesses and the community to make better choices in what they purchase.

CoPP also seeks a uniform approach to the implementation of a circular economy for the waste industry within Australia, with clear reporting of actions and targets that lead us to this future where waste is minimised, and the maximum value is realised of all materials.

CoPP supports a national approach to stimulating the local waste and resource recovery industry, including policy mandating recycled content in all packaging and other materials (such as road base).

### Discussion

The National Waste Policy, with its five policy principles/objectives, six long term targets and fourteen strategies to realise these targets and objectives are discussed below:

#### Principle 1: Avoid waste;

**TARGET** *Reduce total waste generated in Australia per capita by 10 per cent by 2030*

Supportive of this target, however Australia is one of the largest producer of waste for OECD countries, and according to the 2016 National Waste Report. Australia is ranked below average for household recovery rates, and for waste sent to landfill per capita. This target should ensure we achieve better than the OECD average for developed nations for how much waste we produce per capita.

#### Recommendation:

1. Targets must be set separately for:

- municipal solid waste (household waste),
- commercial and Industrial, and
- construction and demolition waste.

This will allow for the greatest level of transparency, and allow each sector to have measurable targets actions and education campaigns.

2. Target must reflect Australia generating less waste per capita than the average developed OECD country.

#### Principle 2: Improve resource recovery;

**TARGET** *80 per cent average recovery rate from all resource-recovery streams, following the waste hierarchy, by 2030*

No not support target as an average. Currently Australia has a 58% landfill diversion rate average across all waste generated.

The levels reported in the *National Waste Report 2016* state:

- Municipal Solid Waste (household waste) landfill diversion levels are at **51%**,
- Commercial and Industrial landfill diversion rates (excluding fly ash) are at **64%**, and
- construction and demolition land fill diversion rates are at **64%**.

3. Targets must be set separately for:

- municipal solid waste (household waste),
- commercial and Industrial, and

- construction and demolition waste.

Allowing for the greatest level of transparency, and allow each sector to have measurable targets actions and education campaigns.

4. Target must reflect Australia recovering more waste from all recovery streams than the average developed OECD country.
5. Targets for each stream must be at least 80%, with the construction and demolition landfill targets aimed higher at 90 per cent (as per the South Australian Waste Strategy).

**Principle 3: Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products;**

**TARGET        *30 per cent average recycled content across all goods and infrastructure procurement by governments, by total volume, by 2030***

Supportive of target, with a requirement to prioritise locally produced materials. Products should be preference only if they have an overall better environmental outcome, including water use, greenhouse gas emissions etc.

Recommendation:

6. 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).
7. Target must preference locally produced goods.
8. A database must be created and maintained by the relevant Authority to allow easy access and selection of products by all levels of government, and to allow ease of reporting.
9. 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).

**Principle 4: Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy;**

**TARGET (a):    *Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2030***

Recommendation:

Supportive of action

10. Target must be inclusive of single use items including straws, coffee cups not just packaging.
11. Target to be brought forward to 2025.

**TARGET (b):** *Halve the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030*

Supportive of target.

Recommendation:

12. 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 from landfill. This policy requires all waste to be pre-sorted for organics prior to being disposed at landfill.
13. 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 *National Food Waste Strategy* is yet to be published (anticipated by the end of 2018/19 FY).

Principle 5: Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

**TARGET** *Fit-for-purpose and timely data to be available for individuals, businesses, and governments to make informed decisions*

Supportive of target, however reporting on targets within this strategy every 2 years un-acceptable, and should formally be reported annually, with a move to live data available on the web portal for transparency and accessibility.

Recommendation:

14. Target brought forward to 2022, to allow for early investment in infrastructure projects.
15. All reporting of this strategy and data relating to this strategy be formally reported annually.
16. Live data be made available on the web portal for transparency and accessibility by 2022.