

South West Sustainability Waste Alliance:

Communique to SWA stakeholders

The Commonwealth National Waste Action Plan 2019 outlines the incremental export ban of paper, glass, plastic, and tyres starting from July 2020. The changing landscape of waste disposal is mapped out through a corresponding series of waste avoidance, diversion, and recovery targets to be implemented over the next decade. WA's policy framework aligns with the Federal targets through the State's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (WARRS) and the accompanying WARRS Action Plan 2030.

Waste, water and other environmental asset protection strategies need to be included in a coherent approach to future-proofing the region. The local consequence of failing to co-ordinate waste avoidance, recovery, recycling, and wastewater initiatives will see more than \$100m needed for future environmental protection initiatives.

The precipitous decline in economic activity due to COVID-19 has now led to accelerated government investment in infrastructure and policy interventions which can be implemented quickly and will deliver sustained jobs and growth. The \$852m Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) project has been fast-tracked to contribute to the recovery and seeks to make significant progress towards waste diversion targets through investing in local waste solutions.

Current situation

The new Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID, Department of Transport) waste policy and delivery initiative brings a uniform approach to the existing ad hoc use of recycled products on major transport infrastructure projects. It aims to drive greater use of these materials, encourage innovation, and develop demand for key focus materials consistent with WARRS.

Main Roads, Bunbury Harvey Regional Council (BHRC), Regional Development Australia – South West (RDASW), the South West Regional Waste Group (SWRWG, comprising South West local governments) and the South West Development Commission (SWDC) agreed to form the South West Sustainability Waste Alliance (SWA).

Main Roads, Bunbury-Harvey Regional Council (BHRC), Regional Development Australia – South West (RDASW), the South West Regional Waste Group (SWRWG, comprising local governments) and the South West Development Commission (SWDC) agreed in principle to form the South West Sustainability Waste Alliance (SWA) to develop a value proposition for establishing an advanced Regional Waste Recovery Precinct in the Kemerton Strategic Industrial Area.

This will meet the requirements of the BORR project by clustering private and local government waste recovery and recycling waste operations, delivering regional jobs and growth, plus innovative, cost-effective wastewater and landfill diversion outcomes.

A goal statement and terms of reference have been agreed, including targets for increasing waste diversion by 20% across the South West and gaining at least 50 long term local jobs in the waste sector. The terms of reference will hasten delivery of an investment business case to Main Roads for inclusion in BORR contract negotiations and alliance formation. A SWA Leadership Group, chaired by Main Roads, has been formed to oversee this exercise.

The Sustainability Waste Alliance (SWA) will facilitate development of fit-for-purpose waste materials. It is intended that applicable standards in the use of recovered/recycled materials will exceed benchmarks and specifications as market-ready resources for road construction projects.

This waste initiative will not set aspirational targets as a way of changing behaviours in the waste industry. Instead, a collaborative-led approach by the SWA will allow contractors to liaise with recycled materials suppliers to determine supply levels of the necessary products and maximise waste recycling in the South West through ongoing procurement.

SWA

SWA will conduct a value management forum with the two BORR consortia and local government during the Request for Proposals stage. This will be held at the Dolphin Discovery Centre on June 5.

This will be followed by additional value management forums with a broader cross-section of stakeholders to prioritise community, industry and BORR values and develop and prioritise options for subsequent value for money assessment.

These findings will be collated into a WA Treasury standard Investment Business Case for inclusion in Project Alliance Agreement negotiations.

The SWA Initiative requires that:

- Bidders must demonstrate how they will optimise the use of recycled materials;
- Contractors must report on the types and volumes of recycled products they used;
- Thought must be given to sustainable water resourcing; and
- Streamlined governance and strong leadership is provided by the SWA and the BORR Alliance.

The SWA Initiative Investment Business Case and associate requirement will be delivered as a co-investment of Government, Industry and the Community. It will set out optimal value for money options for investing in waste recycling initiatives in the Greater Bunbury Region and the broader South West.

This is just the start of several COVID-19 recovery initiatives designed to help businesses grow in new ways and create high-value jobs in the 21st century circular waste economy.

Recommendations and action

- Note this initiative
- Establish preferred engagement protocols with SWA
- Determine who to send to the SWA Value Management Forums

Prepared by

The South West Sustainability Waste Alliance (SWA)

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