

South West Sustainability Waste Alliance

Communique to SWA stakeholders

Key background points

- The Commonwealth National Waste Action Plan 2019 outlines the incremental export ban of paper, glass, plastic, and tyres starting in Jan 2021. Corresponding State policy frameworks on waste avoidance, diversion, and recovery aligns with Federal targets through the State Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (WARRS) and the accompanying WARRS Action Plan 2030.
- Failing to align waste, water and other environmental asset protection strategies will see more than \$100m needed for future initiatives in a 'business as usual' context.
- The \$852m Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) project can contribute to economic recovery through fast-tracking and achieving waste diversion targets by investing in local waste solutions, as well as regional and Aboriginal business development and job opportunities.
- The South West Sustainability Alliance (SWA) is a collaborative initiative between the South West Regional Waste Group (SWRWG), Regional Development Australia, Bunbury-Harvey Regional Council (BHRC), South West Development Commission, the Noongar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI) and Main Roads.
- The SWA has been formed to prepare a Business Case seeking government support and commitment in prioritising waste management improvements in the South West. The Business Case will propose processes, practices and/or enabling infrastructure to recover an additional 20% of waste, as well as creating 50 permanent jobs. The SWA seeks to leverage the BORR project by pursuing opportunities that recover material for re-use and protect the environment with less waste being landfilled.
- Delivery of the BORR project will include applying the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia's (ISCA) Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) tool for project design and construction. IS ratings evaluate potential environmental, social, and economic impacts and opportunities associated with infrastructure projects. BORR was the first major project in Australia to be subject to the IS Planning rating during development. The application of the IS rating tool on the BORR project, along with the waste proposals, seek to ensure the long-term sustainability goals of the Region are met during delivery.
- A remaining priority of the SWA business case is interrogating waste diversion, recovery and recycling investments such that the BORR project can help stimulate COVID-19 economic recovery efforts whilst creating the initial kick-start needed to develop the Kemerton Advanced Waste Precinct.
- The SWRWG has committed to the opportunity afforded by SWA by working jointly toward shared outcomes, confirming the priorities expressed by stakeholders at the Value Management Forum #1 held on 26 June 2020.

Stakeholder dialogue update

SWA attended the SWRWG meeting at the City of Busselton 10 July 2020. The SWRWG project officer (a SWA member) presented findings and recommendations from the Market Sounding Report while BHRC presented a summary of SWA's progress and recommendations to date.

The Group agreed to extend the term of the Project Officer as a SWA participant and work with the Western Australian Local Government Association to align collection contract language, maximising the supply of waste material for future recovery, which will also address contamination levy impacts. The Project Officer will collaborate with SWA to:

- Provide a Business Case establishing a Regional Sorting Facility;
- Commence drafting Expressions of Interest as part of a procurement process to establish bioenergy plants within the South West;
- Investigate bio-treatment of the organic waste fraction, for example composting;
- Coordinate a 'Regional Education and Resources Group';
- Report on local government shared waste assets – including a Regional Subsidiary model;
- Assess Waste Levy impacts;
- Seek grant funding and identify investment models to attract external funding to regional waste streams;
- Prepare a Public Consultation Plan for a long-term diversion strategy;
- Follow up on contract coordination and develop uniformity to avoid costs; and
- Organise council updates.

Timelines and matters for noting

- A Regional Economic Development Grant to finance the SWA Innovation Hub was submitted on 7 July 2020, on the basis of a co-investment by BHRC and Main Roads.
- A Kep (water) Alliance (KA) has been formed as a joint initiative of SWA and the NCCI to investigate the potential of the BORR project to utilise recycled wastewater. The KA will investigate multiple potential water sources from public and private treatment plants.
- SWRWG has formally endorsed the work of SWA and commissioned further works including an agreement to assist in attracting the required levels of funding.
- July 23: Using the ISCA framework, Value Management Forum #2 will shortlist preferred options to be included in the project Business Case.
- August 14: Business Case presentation to Main Roads.
- August 18: Business case findings will be presented to the Waste Authority as part of a tour of the proposed Kemerton Advanced Waste Precinct.
- October 15: Value Management Forum #3 is proposed to prioritise a complementary suite of strategic options with greater potential to divert waste into the future.
- November 15: Options on waste diversion to culminate in a Strategic Business Case for presentation to Infrastructure WA.