



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Review of Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007

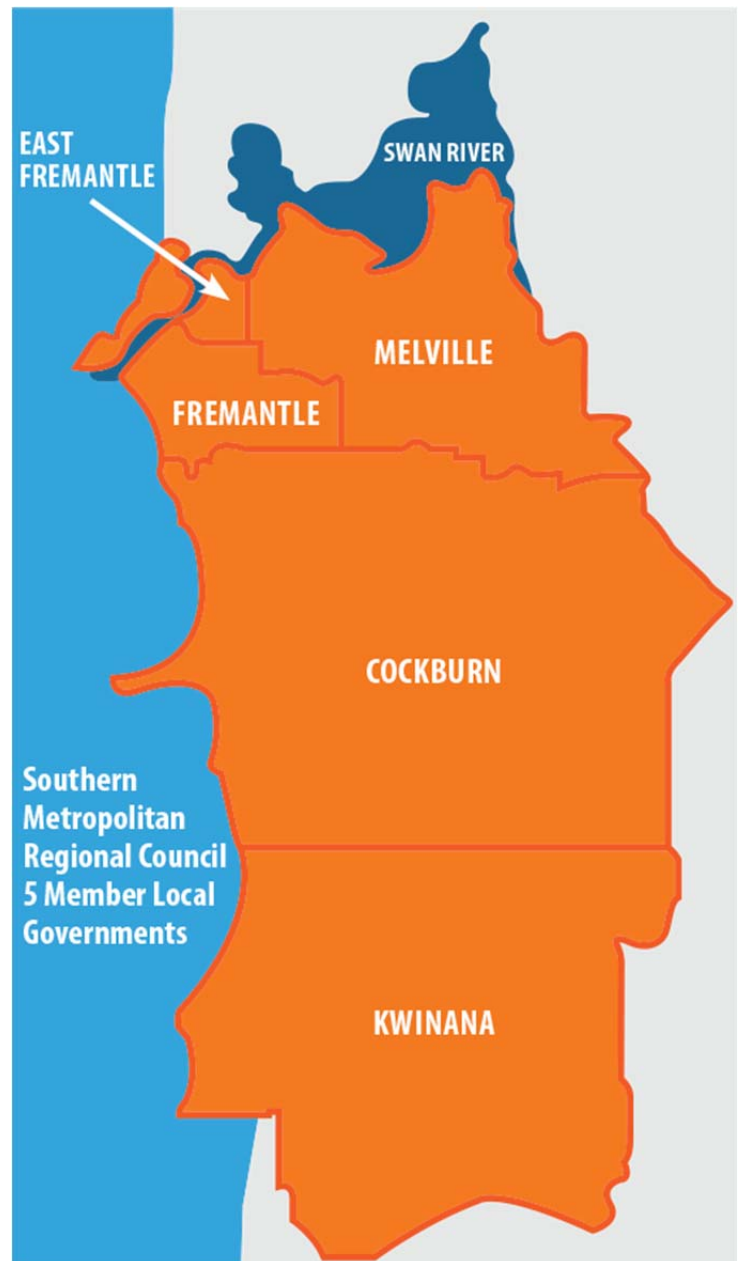
Discussion paper response

About the SMRC

The Southern Metropolitan Regional Council (SMRC) is a statutory local government authority established in 1991 by local governments in the southern metropolitan region of Perth. We deliver innovative and sustainable waste management solutions for the benefit of our communities and the environment.

Our member councils are:

- City of Cockburn
- Town of East Fremantle
- City of Fremantle
- City of Kwinana
- City of Melville



Enabling legislation

The SMRC became a regional local government on October 30, 1991, pursuant to the Local Government Act 1960. By virtue of the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 1995, it is constituted as a regional local government under that Act. On April 22 1998, the constitution was replaced by an establishment agreement made between the participants and approved by the Minister for Local Government. A regional local government has the same general function of a local government, including its legislative and executive functions, except as stated in section 3.66 of the Local Government Act 1995.



THE REGION ENCOMPASSES

340km²

within Perth's southern metropolitan area



COMBINED POPULATION OVER

275,000



COMBINED HOUSEHOLDS OVER

105,000



THE SMRC OPERATES THE

\$100m

Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale, which receives and recovers waste from its member local governments and the community.



**THE SMRC'S
DIVERSION RATE
FROM LANDFILL**

... currently exceeding the targets set by the Waste Authority of 50% by 2015 and 65% by 2020. We are committed to continuing to be leaders in diversion of waste from landfill.

THE SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL'S (SMRC'S) REGIONAL RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE (RRRC) COMPRISES A MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY, WASTE COMPOSTING FACILITY, GREEN WASTE PROCESSING FACILITY AND AUDIT FACILITY

THE RRRC USES STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO PROCESS WASTE AND RECOVER RECYCLABLES FOR REUSE. IT IS AN INDUSTRY LEADER

IN 2013, **70%** OF WASTE THROUGH THE FACILITY WAS DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL.

THIS EXCEEDS THE 2020 TARGET SET BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT OF **65%**

THE RRRC CURRENTLY DIVERTS MORE THAN ...
95,000 TONNES
OF WASTE PER YEAR FROM LANDFILL AND PREVENTS ABOUT

32,000 TONNES
OF CARBON DIOXIDE FROM ENTERING THE ATMOSPHERE, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO TAKING MORE THAN.....

7,000 CARS OFF THE ROAD

THE RRRC PRODUCES MORE THAN

20,000 TONNES

OF COMPOST EACH YEAR, WHICH IS REUSED
IN AGRICULTURE, PARKS, GARDENS AND SOIL
AMENDMENT PROGRAMS


THE SMRC IS INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND
TECHNOLOGY AT ITS RRRC TO INCREASE
EFFICIENCY AND WASTE RECOVERY MEASURES

KEY DRIVERS IN THE COMMUNITY
FOR RECYCLING ARE PROTECTING THE
ENVIRONMENT AND DOING THE RIGHT THING


RECYCLING IS CONSIDERED MORE IMPORTANT
BY THE COMMUNITY THAN REDUCING WATER
USAGE AND BUILDING WASTE TO ENERGY
PLANTS

75% OF THE SMRC COMMUNITY
IS AWARE THEIR RECYCLING
EFFECTS THE REDUCTION
OF GREENHOUSE GASES


THE SMRC'S RECYCLE RIGHT EDUCATION CAMPAIGN WAS HIGHLY COMMENDED IN THE 2013 WASTE AUTHORITY'S INFINITY AWARDS


[your a-z of recycling](#)
[take a tour of the RRRC](#)
[kits and factsheets](#)
[download the free app](#)
[sign up for e-news](#)

[home](#) | [about us](#) | [which bin to use](#) | [verge collections](#) | [community information](#) | [faqs](#) | [contact us](#)




WHICH BIN DO I PUT IT IN?



yellow-topped bin ▶

WHICH BIN DO I PUT IT IN?




green-topped bin ▶

Welcome to Recycle Right

Recycling is a simple way that everyone can help the environment. Using recycled materials involves less energy and resources than using virgin materials. When you consider how many virgin materials are becoming hard to find and process, the need for more recycling becomes clear.

Recycle Right is a campaign which encourages and assists residents and businesses in the South Metropolitan Region, along with the Shires of Northam and Toodyay to recycle, reduce their rubbish and buy more recycled products.



The 3 R's – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle – are a simple way to rethink the things that you no longer need and make a difference today!






recycle right brings you the very first app dedicated to waste and recycling in WA. It's full of useful information to help you recycle right and live more sustainably.

[find out more](#)

The April/May issue of the Waste Authority's Newsletter – Too Good to Waste is available now.
[click here to download the pdf](#)

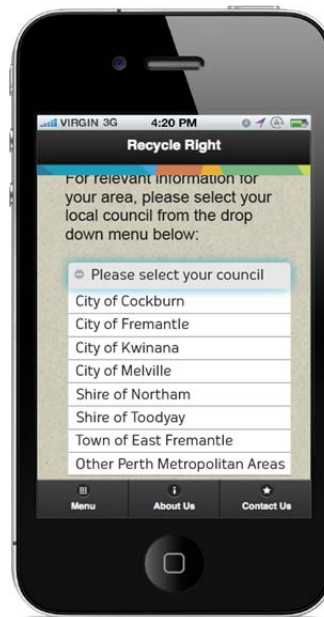



Watch our segments on Greenfingers TV which aired on Channel 7 in October and November.

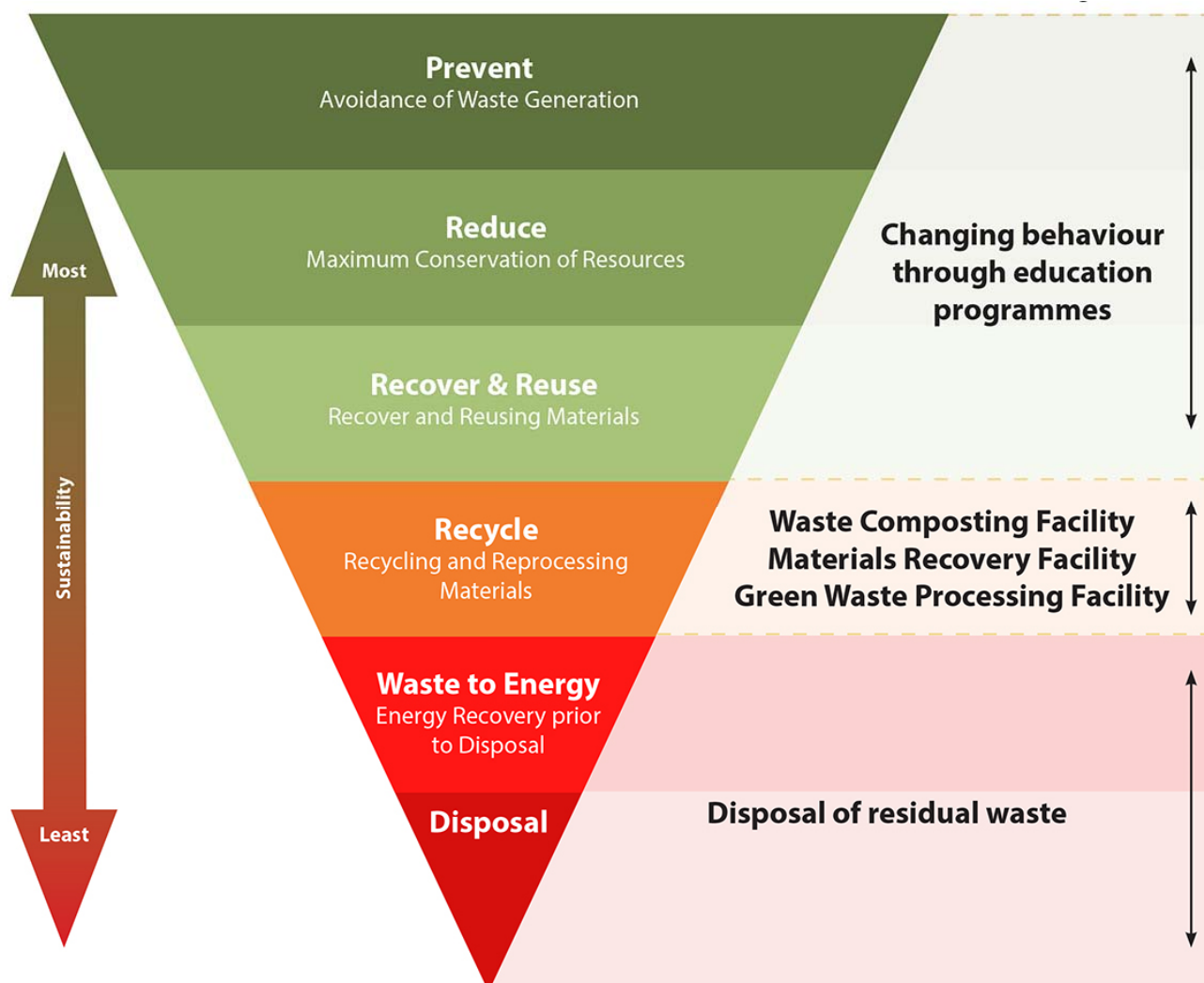
Recycle Right is an initiative of the SMRC, supported by the Waste Authority to provide a central point of information for residents and businesses to practise waste avoidance, recycling and living more sustainably.

IN SEPTEMBER 2013, THE SMRC LAUNCHED THE VERY FIRST SMART PHONE APP FOR RECYCLING INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS ON THE APP STORE AND GOOGLE PLAY



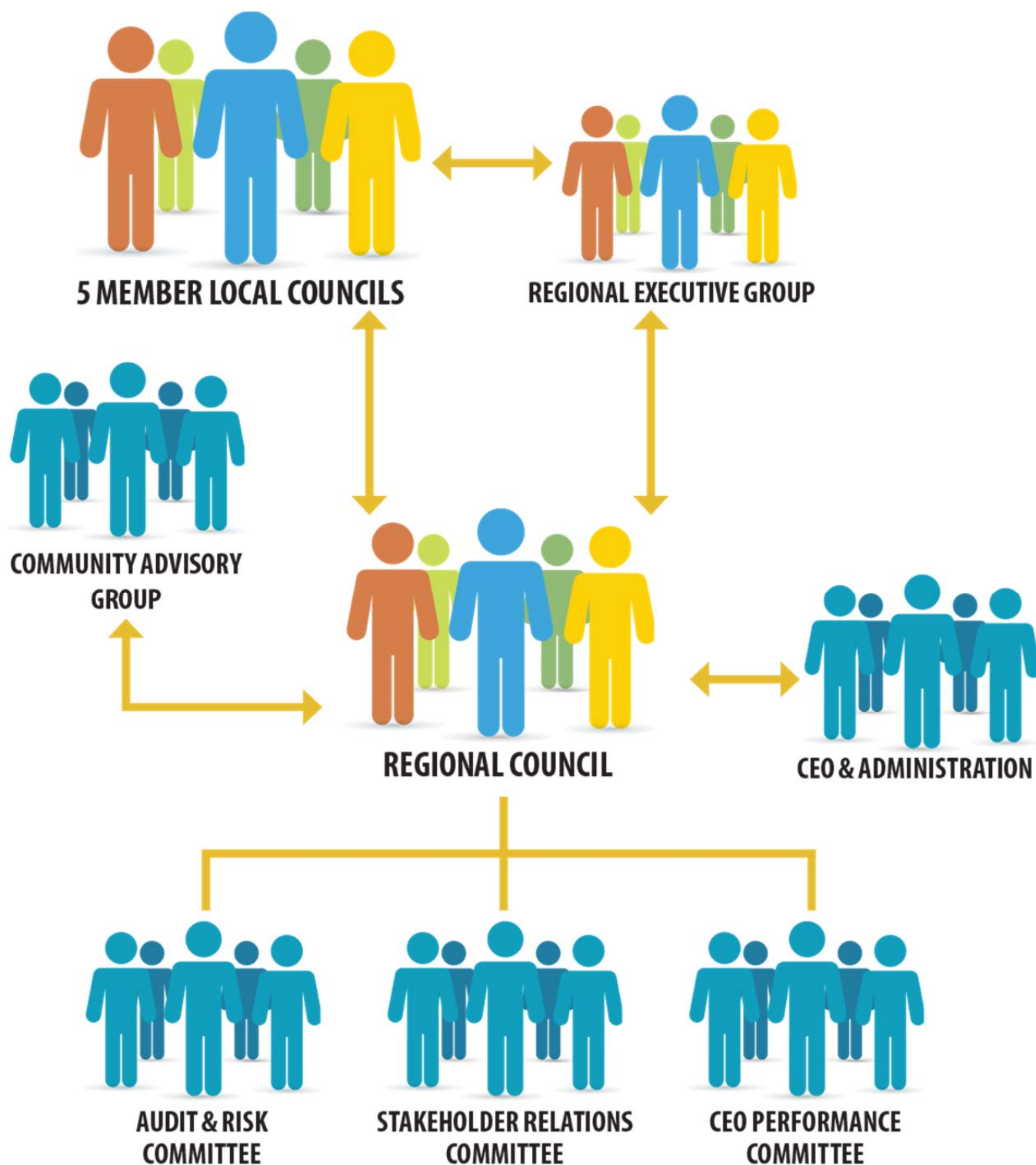
SMRC Response to the State Waste Hierarchy

The SMRC responds to the State Waste hierarchy and endeavours to place actions as high in the hierarchy as possible. The importance of coherent and consistent behaviour and education programmes in preventing and reducing waste cannot be overstated.



SMRC Corporate Governance Structure

The SMRC comprises one elected councillor from each of the member councils. It holds ordinary council meetings throughout the year, with special meetings called from time to time. A chairperson is elected by members for a term of two years and each councillor has equal voting rights. Each of the five member council appoints an executive manager to the Regional Executive Group which provides specialist technical advice to the council and CEO.



Overview of Waste Flows in Australia

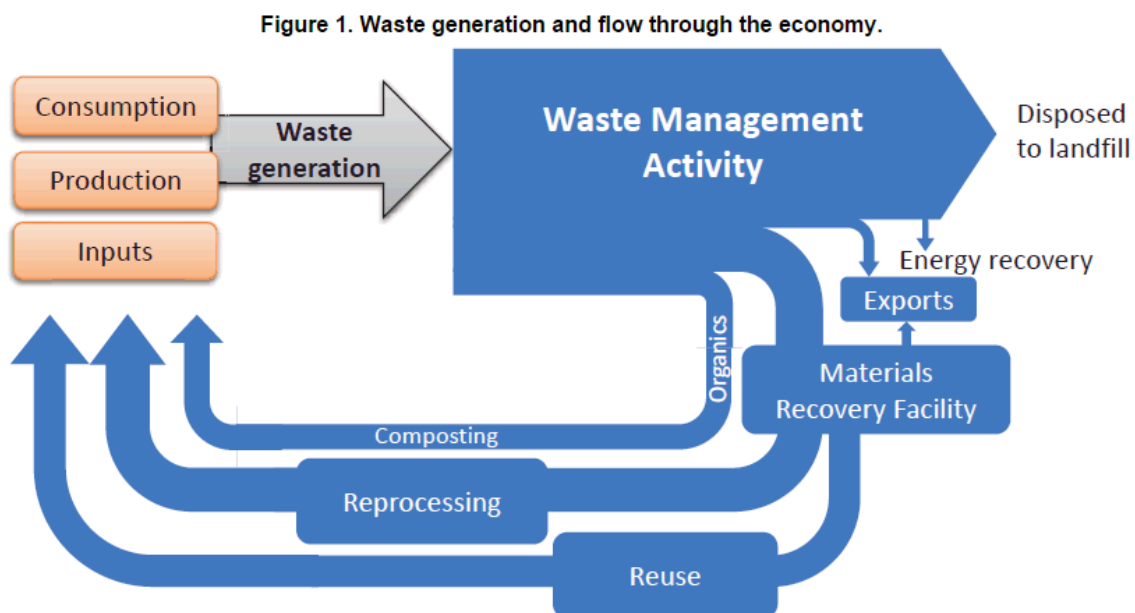
During 2009-10, 53.7 million tonnes of waste was generated within the Australian economy.

The largest volume of waste generated by industry and households was masonry materials, which accounted for 37% (19.8 million tonnes) of the total waste generated in 2009-10. Organic waste was the second largest generator by type, representing 24% (12.8 million tonnes) followed by paper and cardboard with 12% (6.4 million tonnes).

Waste management is a complex issue with the production and use of materials, goods and services having a range of environmental and economic consequences. Effective waste management is much broader than the provision of waste services, typically involving the recovery of materials, recycling, and disposal to landfill.

Government, businesses and households are all involved in waste generation and waste management either by: actively reducing, reusing, recovering, recycling materials; paying others to recover or to dispose of unwanted materials; or utilising recycled waste products. Government policies, pricing mechanisms, types and location of waste facilities are just some of the broader issues that make the management of waste a complex task.

There is a close connection between the environment and the economy. The economy depends on the environment as a source for its raw materials and also as a sink for its waste and emissions to air and water. Pollution of the environment leads to environmental problems such as climate change, air and water degradation, which affects society's sustainability.



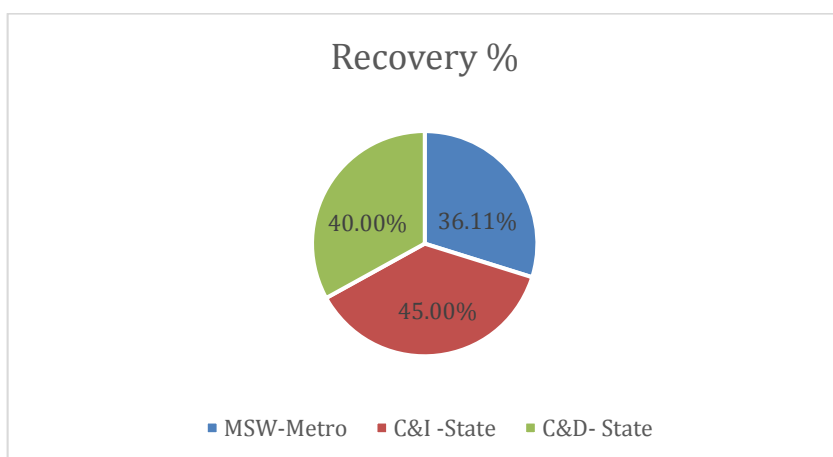
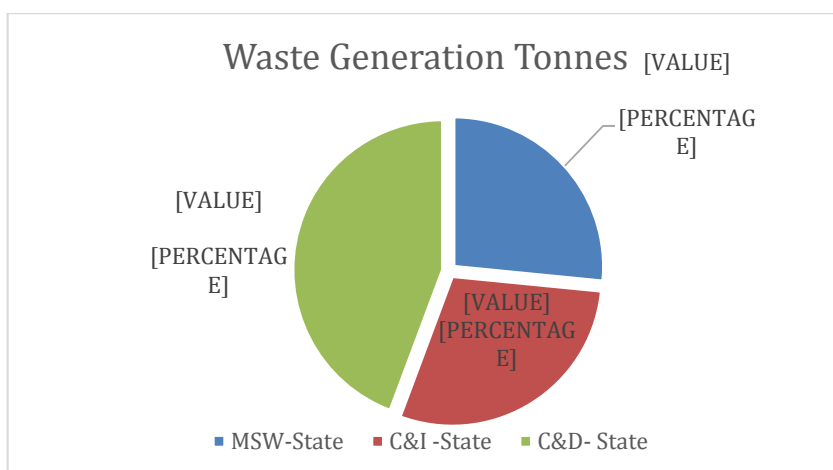
(REF: The Waste Account, Australia, Experimental Estimates (WAAEE) 2013, www.abs.gov.au)

Response to the Discussion Paper

The Western Australian context is not markedly different to the national position in that an understanding of the environmental impacts of waste flows through the economy coupled with robust data can enable coherent policy responses and resource management strategies. This review of the WARR Act provides an opportunity to in part address some of the structural shortcoming of metropolitan waste management in Western Australia.

Waste data

The Discussion Paper (the Paper) identified that around 5 million tonnes of waste was generated in the Perth and Peel Regions in 2012-13, and it also states of that waste generated in WA about 39% was recovered. The Paper does not break down the source of the waste by sector and given the variety of sources available, with at times conflicting data sets, the Waste Authority Report 'Recycling Activity in Western Australia 2012/13' has been used to derive the data in this response. Absence of robust data in itself highlights the need for accurate and timely data sources for each sector to draw on to inform strategy and decision making. Recovery data for non-metro MSW is unavailable, however, when using available data it is apparent there are similarly poor recovery rates for each stream.



While Local Government has a role to play in managing MSW, it is obvious that the C&D and C&I waste streams make up the majority of waste generated and should therefore receive equal or greater attention in the WARR Act review.

Current role of Regional Councils and Local Government

The SMRC and other Regional Councils has achieved significant environmentally positive outcomes for its members. The SMRC has diverted a volume of waste away from landfill in excess of the state's 2020 target and preventing 100,000's tonnes of greenhouse gases from being emitted from landfill.

Without the investment of its members and coordination by Regional Councils across waste management and recycling operations, including significant investment in kerbside recycling, Alternative Waste Treatment facilities, waste education centres and market development for problematic materials, it is unlikely that the regions waste management infrastructure and expertise would have reached its current level of maturity. However, there is room for improvements and maintaining the status quo will not serve the best interests of future generations.

Visions for Waste

In 2013, through a Working Group process, WALGA developed a paper outlining the Vision for waste management in the metropolitan area (Waste Vision Paper). The Waste Vision Paper, endorsed by WALGA State Council, FORC and each Regional Council separately, identified that there was broad agreement in the Local Government sector that change is needed to how waste management is governed. In addition, the Waste Vision Paper included other proposed reforms, such as:

- Greater Role for the State Government with an independent and strengthened Waste Authority
- Regional Council Consolidation from Five to Three
- Compulsory Membership
- Improved Governance Processes
- Work in a framework of Integrated Waste Management System

SMRC Response to the Robson Review

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council in February 2013 the Regional Council approved a submission to the Robson Review which included the following recommendations:

1. That there be three Regional Councils based on shared objectives and binding commitments with compulsory membership for the purposes of waste management, collection, treatment and disposal.
2. Metropolitan Regional Councils be reconstituted along more appropriate and logical geographic boundaries that reflect a north, east and south metropolitan demarcation.
3. Consideration should be given to employing more effective governance models for Regional Councils such as employing the Regional Subsidiaries or Council Controlled Organisation Models.

4. Waste management should be undertaken as a partnership between Local and State Government and adequately funded from the waste levy.

WALGA WARR Act Review Policy Forum

Following release of the Paper, the President of WALGA established “The WARR Act Review and Policy Forum”. The Chair of the Forum is Cr Doug Thompson, Chair of MWAC and the Regional Councils are represented on this forum by the CEO’s of SMRC, MRC and EMRC. A draft response was developed and a consultation process undertaken with the sector as a whole.

In developing a new governance model a number of options were considered and developed on the assumption that there:

- Is a need to change the current governance arrangements to allow waste management to continue to improve;
- Is a need for greater coordination of activities;
- Are a range of services that are best delivered/coordinated, consistently, on a regional level;
- Is a need for greater engagement and coordination of the C&I and C&D sector;
- Is a range of expertise and experience in the Local Government sector that should be best utilised;
- Is existing infrastructure which should be utilised; and
- Is a need for Elected Member involvement in potential structures.

Regional Subsidiaries

It appears that Regional Subsidiaries could be well placed to achieve improved metropolitan waste management outcomes as they may provide a structure that allows for ownership of assets and a combination of representative and skills based boards. These structures could be specifically tasked, through their Charter, with a range of regional activities. Many of the regional activities, such as contingency planning, are already occurring informally between Regional Councils, by transitioning to this new approach these activities could be formalised.

A strong link between the Regional Subsidiary and its member Local Governments, through member Local Government representation on the Board, would be vital to ensure agreement and a greater sense of ownership. Three groups will also promote competition, allowing a wide range of procurement activities and approaches and prevent a monopolistic structure.

Recommendations

The SMRC is committed to a consultative and sector-wide approach and concurs with the WALGA approach that Regional Subsidiaries model can potentially provide a platform for improved waste management in the Metropolitan and Peel region.

However, in the absence of the Regional Subsidiaries Bill passage through parliament or appropriate Regulations enacted, then it is proposed that the Regional Council model continue but be amended in broad alignment with earlier responses on this matter by SMRC and WALGA including:

1. That there be three Regional Councils based on shared objectives and binding commitments with compulsory membership.
2. Metropolitan Regional Councils be reconstituted along more appropriate and logical geographic boundaries that reflect a north, east and south metropolitan demarcation.

It is also important for the state government to provide a clear framework within which the Regional Councils can operate by enabling:

3. A Metropolitan Strategic Waste Infrastructure and Management Plan.
4. A waste management partnership between Local and State Government and adequately funded from the waste levy.