

STATEWIDE WASTE & RESOURCE
RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

**consultation
report**

Response to comments on the SWRRIP Consultation 2017

Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery
Plan Consultation Report
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1. Introduction

Sustainability Victoria (SV) undertook public consultation on draft amendments to the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP) between 1 August and 14 September 2017. SV wishes to thank all individuals and organisations that submitted feedback on the draft amendments. This feedback has been critical in the development of the 2018 SWRRIP.

A total of 854 written submissions were received on the draft amendments during the consultation period from the community, local government, waste and resource recovery groups (Regional Groups), industry and land developers. These comprised 30 individual submissions and 824 identical submissions from 559 individual 'Stop the Tip' supporters.

This report provides an overview of the consultation process and an outline of key feedback themes and responses, including how this feedback informed the 2018 iteration of the SWRRIP.

2. Background

Launched in June 2015, the SWRRIP is led by SV on behalf of the Victorian Government.

The vision of the SWRRIP is to develop an integrated statewide waste and resource recovery system that continues to provide an essential community service.

The SWRRIP 2015 was the first of its kind in Australia to provide a long term vision and roadmap to guide future planning for waste and resource recovery infrastructure in the state.

Amendments to the SWRRIP

SV identified the need to amend the SWRRIP to reflect regional infrastructure needs and priorities from the seven Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans (Regional Implementation Plans), which were developed with local communities as part of an integrated approach to planning and published over 2016 and 2017.

SV also updated data and clarified elements in the SWRRIP to reflect changes in policy, strategy and broader government activities.

3. How we consulted

SV consulted with the Victorian Government’s waste and resource recovery portfolio agencies in the preparation of the consultation draft of the amended SWRRIP, comprising:

- › Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- › Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA)
- › Seven Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (Regional Groups)

On 1 August 2017 SV released a consultation draft for public feedback via the Victorian Government’s online consultation platform, *Engage Victoria*. The consultation period was initially set for four weeks. In response to feedback, SV extended the consultation period by two weeks. The consultation period for submissions on the draft amendments closed at 5pm on Thursday 14 September 2017.

The consultation process was based on the public participation principles and elements outlined in the Victorian Auditor General’s Office *Public Participation in Government Decision-making Better practice guide* (2015). It aligned with the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (EP Act) and *Guideline: Making, amending and integrating the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan and Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans* (Guideline), developed by DELWP, which set out the requirements for amending and publishing the SWRRIP.

In accordance with section 50AC of the EP Act, SV wrote to the following stakeholders:

- › Secretary of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- › Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport, and Resources (DEDJTR)
- › Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- › Chairperson of Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA)
- › Chairperson of each Waste and Resource Recovery Group (Regional Group)
- › Chairperson of the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA)
- › Chairperson of Development Victoria (formerly Places Victoria and Major Projects Victoria)
- › Chief Executive of each council

SV also wrote to waste and resource recovery industry associations, operators of key waste and resource recovery facilities operating in a ‘Hub of State Significance’ as listed in the amended SWRRIP consultation draft, and those who had lodged submissions on the initial SWRRIP consultation draft in 2014.

In addition, SV promoted the consultation process through its social media channels and to its stakeholder database via SV’s corporate newsletter *In the Know*.

4. Who did we hear from?

Feedback was received from local governments, Waste and Resource Recovery (Regional Groups), the waste and resource recovery industry, land developers and the community. This included 824 submissions from 559 individual supporters of the community group, ‘Stop the Tip’.

Submissions were numbered according to order of receipt by SV.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Who provided written submissions?	
Local government	11
Industry	8
Land developers	2
Regional Groups	3
Community	563*

*Includes 559 individual submissions from 824 emails from ‘Stop the Tip’ supporters.

5. What did we hear?

For the purposes of analysing feedback and identifying themes, duplicate submissions from the same email address were not counted. The 559 identical submissions from ‘Stop the Tip’ supporters were grouped together and reflected as one feedback response.

11 Key themes were identified as outlined in this section.

Theme: Protecting our communities and the environment

This theme encompasses feedback relating to the protection of communities, environment and public health from the negative impacts of the waste and resource recovery sector.

It also includes feedback on the use of compliance and enforcement in the sector, penalties for non-compliance, changes to legislation, and feedback relating to the principle of 'environmental justice' and the concept of a 'social licence to operate' waste and resource recovery infrastructure.

569 submissions were received relating to this theme. 559 of these were identical submissions from 'Stop the Tip' supporters.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	5
Industry	1
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	0
Community	563*

Includes identical submissions from 559 individuals

No.	Feedback	Response
13 22 31	<p>The SWRRIP should demonstrate stronger commitment to the Precautionary Principle by giving greater weight to better community, environment and public health outcomes before economic viability and markets for end products.</p> <p>Currently the environment is largely dealt with only as an aspect of community amenity.</p>	<p>The principles in the EP Act underpin the goals and strategic directions of the SWRRIP which includes the principle of integration of economic, social and environmental considerations. These are reflected throughout the document.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The SWRRIP provides guidance for everyone making decisions relating to or impacting on the waste and resource recovery sector. To support this Chapter 2.4 includes guidance on making decisions consistent with the goals of the SWRRIP. › Long term diversion of materials from landfill requires viable recycling. If it is not viable then systems can fail and adverse outcomes can occur. The factors that influence viability vary for each material stream and situation but include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improved outcomes for the community compared to if the material was landfilled – A positive economic business case to attract investment in the required infrastructure (investment could be private, government, community sector or households) – A market for the recovered materials or end products.
		<p>CHANGE: The message that minimising the impact on the environment, as well on communities, is a goal of the SWRRIP has been strengthened.</p>

No.	Feedback	Response
1 17 22 31	<p>Waste and resource recovery infrastructure, including landfills, can have an impact on the surrounding communities and environment. For example leachate and runoff from landfills can enter waterways and impact on sensitive uses downstream.</p> <p>Activities should be located in areas unconstrained by existing uses and where buffers are adequate and can be protected to prevent issues caused by poor land use planning in the past that has seen infrastructure located in unsuitable areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The possibility of adverse impacts from waste and resource recovery activities on the environment, communities and public health is recognised throughout the SWRRIP including in the following sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Section 3.2 which sets out the land use planning approach to ensure that the needs and requirements of existing and new facilities are considered when land use planning decisions are made – Section 3.3 where the concept of identifying waste and resource recovery hubs is used to alert land use planners (and others) where existing activities are occurring. Land use planning decisions need to consider the potential impact on the functionality of the hub and community, environment and public health – Table 2.7, Action for government 3.5. › The suitable location of waste and resource recovery activities is further discussed in Theme: Land use planning and hubs
2 9 11 17 22 31	<p>To ensure the community and the environment are protected, facilities need to be monitored and regulations enforced. This should be supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › a clear regulatory framework › a carrot and stick approach that supports the responsible management of waste and materials and deters rogue operators, illegal dumping and transport of waste interstate for dumping. <p>Government agencies working with industry, the community and Local Government to facilitate and ensure operator compliance with regulatory requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › As outlined in Table 1.2, the EPA regulates to control pollution. This includes a range of mechanisms including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Waste management polices (WMP) such as the interim WMP discussed in Section 2.3.3. – Regulatory requirements – such as the need for licences and works approvals – Tools and guidance, such as best environmental practice management (BEPM) guidelines – Monitoring and enforcement › More information can be found on the EPA website www.epa.vic.gov.au
9 16 22 31	<p>Stockpiles</p> <p>Lack of market demand can lead to stockpiling. They can pose a risk to the community. Need to balance this with the need in rural areas where in some cases materials need to be stored until the volumes are achieved to support viable recovery.</p> <p>Management protocols should be based on site specific risk, otherwise if costs are onerous service may need to be withdrawn.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Any materials stockpiled for a period of time must meet planning and regulatory requirements. Site specific protocols are also required to minimise degradation of the material and control site risks such as vermin, discharges to the environment (both odours and leachate) and litter. › To improve safety standards at resource recovery facilities storing and managing combustible recyclable and waste material (CRWM), the Victorian Government introduced an Interim Waste Management Policy (Resource Recovery Facilities) in August 2017, which will be active for 12 months while a long term solution for the management of large scale waste stockpiles is identified. EPA have released the Supporting Guidelines: Publication 1667 Management and Storage of Combustible Recyclable and waste material.

CHANGE: The discussion on stockpiles has been expanded in several sections of the document including Section 2.3.3 and Section 6.5.2.

No.	Feedback	Response
16 22 24 31	<p>Litter and illegal dumping</p> <p>The funding of litter control officers to all local governments should be considered as part of the program to reduce illegal dumping, which is largely due to the high cost of waste disposal.</p> <p>The issue of illegal dumping of waste is an issue in Monash and is a topic for discussion at many Metropolitan Regional Group and local government agendas. Recent funding has been announced for the EPA and local government to employ Litter Control Officers, however, Monash was unsuccessful in being awarded a grant for this purpose.</p> <p>There also needs to be a state-wide strategy for litter reduction. This should include prioritising a consistent method of data collection. There are several methodologies and databases currently in use. The lack of consistency means that we don't really know the extent of the litter problem or how this is tracking over time. A litter strategy plan and move to improve data collection should be a priority.</p>	<p>Litter and illegal dumping are not in the scope of the SWRRIP. This feedback has provided to relevant agencies.</p>
27	<p>Management of closed landfills</p> <p>Council would like to understand more about the State's intention for the future use of closed landfill sites and who will manage these.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ For planning proposals that relate to the use or development of closed landfill sites, the framework for managing potentially contaminated land is set out in <i>Ministerial Direction No. 1 and the Planning Practice Note – Potentially Contaminated Land</i>. ▶ Prior to a change in use of such a site, the planning authority requires an environmental audit to understand the suitability of the site for use. The audit will specify what land uses the site is suitable for, and what conditions would apply to use. ▶ Due to the complexities associated with decision making for planning proposals on closed landfills, planning authorities are also encouraged to approach EPA as early as possible for advice. ▶ A number of former landfill sites are currently undergoing redevelopment for a variety of uses and development types, subject to environmental assessment and remediation requirements; the EPA has worked with Councils to inform strategic and statutory planning decisions. ▶ The EPA is committed to establishing a register of closed landfills that will include all known landfills, regardless of how old, until such time as the waste is removed and the site is determined not to pose a risk to human health or the environment by an appropriate audit.

No.	Feedback	Response
16 31	Many schools have found the ResourceSmart program to be very beneficial for their students. This program is incredibly important to support the young leaders of tomorrow so that they champion waste reduction and recycling and inspire others to also do so. Continuation of this funded program should be a priority.	Education in schools is not within the scope of the SWRRIP. This feedback is provided to relevant agencies. More information on ResourceSmart Schools can be found on the website at www.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au
5 6 11 14* 15 22 24 25 31	Landfills have adverse impacts on the community that need to be managed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Reducing our reliance on landfills is one of the goals of the SWRRIP. However, until full recovery can be achieved, landfills will continue to be required. › All landfill sites must adhere to requirements in the EP Act. This includes adhering to the <i>Waste Management Policy (Siting, Design and Management of Landfills)</i> (the landfill WMP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landfill sites issued with a works approval or licence must comply with the <i>Best Practice Environmental Management: Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Landfills</i> (Landfill BPEM). – An operator can apply for a landfill site licence exemption. Operators of sites exempt from licensing should use EPA's <i>Landfills Exempt from Licensing Guideline</i> (Publication number 1563, April 2014) to demonstrate compliance with the Landfill WMP. › The EPA monitors landfill operators. Operators who fail to comply can face prosecution. Adherence to legislative requirements ensures Victoria's current and future facilities and waste services are well sited, well built and operated at the highest standards, enabling the EPA to deliver the community amenity, environment and public health benefits expected by Victorians.

* Represents the 559 individual submissions from the 'Stop the Tip' supporters.

Theme: Hubs and land use planning

This theme encompasses the land use planning process, infrastructure investment, issues relating to the establishment of buffers, and specific feedback relating to individual hubs listed in *Appendix 3: Hubs of state importance*. Feedback also included requests to designate specific sites as a 'hub of state significance'.

Fourteen submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	6
Industry	4
Land developers	2
Regional Groups	0
Community	2

No.	Feedback	Response
5 6 9 10 13 17 22 31	The SWRRIP should identify new sites and hubs for future investment in waste and resource recovery infrastructure located, in areas unconstrained by existing uses and where buffers can be protected. This would prevent issues such as a as poor land use planning that has allowed waste and resource recovery infrastructure to be located in unsuitable areas, for example in RAMSAR wetland catchment areas and floodways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The SWRRIP identifies existing hubs of state importance to inform planners about their current role in the waste and resource recovery system. ➤ As discussed in Section 2.3.4, Strategic Direction 4 recognises the critical need to have enough suitably zoned land in appropriate locations to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – appropriate buffers are in place to minimise the impact of waste and resource recovery activities on the environment and communities – the functionality of waste and resource recovery facilities are protected through appropriate zoning and attraction of compatible activities – locations will attract investment in the required infrastructure, with access to transport and feedstocks ➤ To support this, Chapter 3 discusses the interaction between land use planning and waste and resource recovery planning. This is supported through actions in the SWRRIP and Regional Implementation Plans. ➤ The process to identify new and review exiting hubs of state importance is outlined in Appendix 3.
13	My facility manages a significant amount of waste, recovers a significant amount of material or is ideally located but has not been identified as a hub of state importance.	<p>The SWRRIP recognises that hubs are dynamic and are likely to change over time. The process to review hubs is detailed in Appendix 3.</p> <p>Proponents who wish to have their facility reviewed for inclusion as a hub of state importance are encouraged to work through this process in consultation with their Regional Group (and SV).</p>
25	The reach of Strategic Direction 4 should be extended to existing facilities and could make direct reference to land use and transport planning.	Inherent in Strategic Direction 4 is the importance of existing facilities.

CHANGE: Reference to existing facilities has been strengthened in the discussion in Section 2.3.4 and Chapter 3

No.	Feedback	Response
17	A long term strategy for the provisions of hubs of state significance is required to ensure waste and resource recovery operations can be located in areas unconstrained by existing uses where buffers can be protected from incompatible land uses.	The SWRRIP recognises that hubs are dynamic and likely to change over time. Section 3.3 discusses hubs including guidance on the planning for new hubs. The process to review hubs of state importance is detailed in Appendix 3.
17	SWRRIP should recognise the Better Apartments Design Standards which were implemented into the Victorian Planning Provisions in April 2017.	CHANGE: A summary of the Better Apartment Design Guidelines has been included in Chapter 3.
27	Local Government needs to be recognised for their role in planning local and regional waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs.	The roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the waste and resource recovery system are outlined in Table 1.2. CHANGE: Two additional dot points have been added to Table 1.2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Support the Regional Groups to develop the Regional Implementation Plans › Develop Waste Management Plans (or equivalent) in line with the Regional Implementation Plan
27	Victorian Planning Authority needs to be recognised as a key stakeholder in planning for new facilities	The roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in the waste and resource recovery system are outlined in Table 1.2. CHANGE: The Victorian Planning Authority has been added to Table 1.2
27	Identification of hubs should be in the main body of the document not just in the appendices	Further reference to the hubs and the Regional Implementation Plans is included. CHANGE: Hubs of state importance are now detailed in Section 3.3
27	It is essential for state government bodies to be referral bodies during the planning application process to provide technical input.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The SWRRIP and Regional Implementation Plans are referenced in the Victoria Planning Provisions. Land use planners consider these documents when making decisions and may seek advice from the relevant Regional Group and SV (Neither SV nor Regional Groups are identified as referral authorities under the EP Act or the <i>Planning and Environment Act</i>). › The EPA may be a referral authority in relation to some applications. › Section 3.2 provides guidance for land use planners. › Land use planning advice can be sought from SV via swrrip.referrals@sustainability.vic.gov.au
3 4 13 20 21	Hub Descriptions Feedback was received on the descriptions of the following hubs of state importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ravenhall Precinct Ravenhall Precinct (including Boral Quarry, Cleanaway Melbourne Regional Landfill Ravenhall) › Cooper Street Precinct › Veolia Organics Facility and High Quality Solid Inert Landfill, Bulla › Clayton South Precinct › Corangamite Regional Landfill, Naroghid › Mildura Landfill 	CHANGE: SV liaised with the relevant Regional Groups to update the descriptions of hubs of state importance (Table 3.2), and in some instances discussed with operators.

Theme: Infrastructure Scheduling

This theme encompasses feedback relating to the evidence base for assessing future infrastructure needs, the process of scheduling new landfills, responsibility for scheduling new landfills, the economic impact of reducing reliance on landfills (SWRRIP Strategic Direction 2), and the process of closing landfill sites and determining future use.

573 submissions were received relating to this theme. 559 of these were identical submissions from 'Stop the Tip' supporters.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	5
Industry	2
Land developers	2
Regional Groups	0
Community	564*

Includes identical submissions from 559 individuals

No.	Feedback	Response
1 11 14# 15 16 30	Why are we still scheduling landfills when we should be focusing on recovering all materials? Why are we still putting materials in landfills that could be recovered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, landfills have played a necessary role in the sanitary management of wastes. Reducing our reliance on landfills is one of the four goals of the SWRRIP and many of the actions focus on increasing the recovery of resources, which will reduce the materials going to landfill. Whilst significant increases in recovery may be achieved, landfills will continue to be required. The goal is that they will only be used to manage potential adverse impacts from the waste that cannot be viably recovered or may arise from events such as fire and floods. This is discussed in various sections of the SWRRIP including Section 6.8.
5 6 14# 25	Clarity is needed on who is responsible and the process used to undertake landfill scheduling.	<p>Landfill scheduling is a legislative requirement of the Regional Implementation Plans.</p> <p>The process to develop the Infrastructure Schedule is outlined in the EP Act and supported by the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Guideline: making, amending and integrating State-wide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan and Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans</i>, DELWP, 2014 <i>Supporting Guideline: Statewide Infrastructure Scheduling process</i>, SV, 2015. <p>This is discussed in Section 6.8.5 Future Planning and Scheduling</p>
		<p>CHANGE: Clarity on responsibility for scheduling has been provided in a number of sections in including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table 1.2 Waste and Resource Recovery System Stakeholders Section 6.8.5 Future Planning and Scheduling

Represents identical submissions from 559 individuals

No.	Feedback	Response
5 6 8 14 [#]	How do we know what is going into landfills and what may be required in the future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › When developing their Regional Implementation Plans each Regional Group assessed their likely landfill needs over the next 10 years and determined if this could be met by landfills in their own or neighbouring regions, taking into consideration a range of factors. These are discussed in Section 6.8.5 Future Planning and Scheduling and in more detail in Appendix 4: Data sources, data consideration and modelling and in the <i>Supporting Guideline: Statewide Infrastructure Scheduling process, SV, 2015</i>. › Some of the important data sources include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Landfill levy data, collected by the EPA – Landfill composition audits – Victorian Local Government Annual Waste Services Report – Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey – Information collected by the regions including estimates of how much material flows between regions, as discussed in Section 4.9 Cross Regional Flows. – To project how much landfill airspace may be required in the future, Regional Groups used the SV Waste and Resource Recovery Projection model as discussed in Section 4.3.2 and Appendix 4: Data sources, data consideration and modelling. – Regional Groups determined that there was adequate existing landfill airspace to meet the expected needs over the next 10 years. – More information on individual waste and resource recovery region analyses can be found in the relevant Regional Implementation Plans.
5 6 14 [#]	Why do we need the Ravenhall landfill for the long term if we are trying to recover more materials?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increasing the recovery of materials is a key goal of the SWRRIP over the next 30 years and the Regional Implementation Plans are focused on achieving significant increases in recovery over the next 10 years, requiring new systems and infrastructure. › However landfills are required, in strategic locations, to manage the four million tonnes we currently dispose of and will continue to be needed in the long term to manage the residual material that cannot be recovered. They must also provide for contingencies (e.g. disposal following floods and fires and sites becoming unavailable).
8	What checks are in place to make sure we won't run out of landfills?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › When the Regional Groups analysed their expected landfill needs they considered a range of factors (as discussed above) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – sufficient contingency space for the events such as fires and floods – contingencies in the event that individual sites may become unavailable › To support this, as outlined in Table 2.6, Action 1.1 commits the Regional Groups to undertake an annual review of their landfill and infrastructure capacity and update contingencies plans as required. › Regional Groups have committed to reviewing their infrastructure schedules within five years.
1 10 23 30	Landfills are being closed in the South East of the Melbourne Metropolitan area resulting in waste being transported across to the west. This not viable for local government in the future.	The Metropolitan Regional Group have commenced collaborating with local governments in the south-east to identify options for the management of residual waste (as well as options to recover more waste). This is a key action of the Metropolitan Implementation Plan.

Theme: Increasing recovery through supporting industry and developing markets

This theme encompasses feedback relating to market development opportunities for recovered materials, including government support for industry, research and development opportunities, and sustainable procurement policies.

Feedback also related to the economic impact of landfill gate fees in developing sustainable markets, the global drivers impacting markets for recovered materials and highlighted past failures relating to the State's waste and resource recovery sector.

Fourteen submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	8
Industry	2
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	1
Community	3

No.	Feedback	Response
7	Creating market demand	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generating market demand through creating markets for recovered goods is pivotal to increasing recovery. This could be supported by Government agencies being required to purchasing product made with recycled content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key strategy to achieve the SWRRIP goals is the Victorian Market Development Strategy for Recovered Resources (Market Development Strategy), discussed specifically in Section 2.4.2 and throughout the SWRRIP. The Market Development Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies organics (including timber), rubber (tyres), e-waste, flexible plastics, glass fines and aggregates, masonry and soils as priority materials. supports researchers and industry to find ways of turning hard-to-recycle materials into valuable products – seven projects from five Victorian universities and industry partners have been funded to develop and expand markets for recovered glass fines and flexible plastics by creating high-value products information can be found on the SV website www.sustainability.vic.gov.au The Market Development Strategy and Sections 2.3.1 and 2.4.5 discuss the role of government procurement to support developing markets for recycled and recovered products by leveraging opportunities for procurement of products with, and use of, recycled content where these meet agreed applications and quality standards. Increasing the recovery of priority materials is a focus of a range of Government programs, including the Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund.
16		
20		
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market development is critical and more information is needed on how the Government is going to support this 	
25		
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solutions are required to increase the recovery of food organics from commercial generators, flexible plastics and glass fines 	
30		

CHANGE: The message that developing and expanding appropriate and sustainable markets for the use of recovered materials and products is pivotal to developing viable diversion of materials from landfill has been strengthened throughout the document including:

- Table 1.2 Waste and Resource Recovery system stakeholders
- Section 2.3.1. Strategic direction 1
- Section 2.4.2 Market Development Strategy for Recovered Resources
- Section 2.4.5 Sustainable procurement

No.	Feedback	Response
9	Addressing market failures	
28	Market failure is not adequately addressed. The plan should provide further discussion on the potential failure of markets, recognising that there are often local, national and global market drivers. In particular the plan needs to provide direction on addressing market failures, such as the investment of public monies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › As above, the Market Development Strategy is discussed in Section 2.4.2 and the framework underpinning its delivery is used throughout the SWRRIP. › Contingency planning includes consideration of market changes and the potential impacts in Victoria and the monitoring and evaluation of the SWRRIP and Regional Implementation Plans will consider market failures where the system is impacted.
25	Increasing capacity in Victoria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Government should look at investing in technology to advance recovery particularly for the priority materials identified such as organics, glass, masonry, tyres, wood and plastic › missed opportunity, and greater emphasis should be placed on increasing processing capacity in Victoria, for both economic development and recovery market stability purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Opportunities to increase the recovery of individual material streams are outlined in Chapter 5 and supported by a range of actions in the Regional Implementation Plans. › The Victorian Government has regularly provided programs, including incentives, to increase resource recovery capacity (refer Table A) › The Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund (RRIF) seeks specifically to provide incentives to achieve the priorities of the Regional Implementation Plans.
		CHANGE: Included reference to the Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund
9	Viability in rural areas	
18	› Impact of transport on the viability of recovery especially in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Transport can play a role in the viability of recovery as outlined in Section 2.6. › The SWRRIP discusses a range of mechanisms to improve the viability of recovery in regional areas, including local government procurements, aggregation and consolidation, reducing contamination and the development of local infrastructure solutions › As outlined in the Regional Implementation Plans, the Regional Groups will work with the community, local government and industry to develop solutions for their regions.
28	› Local solutions	
2	Impact of exports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Why are we exporting valuable material rather than reprocessing and recovering them in Victoria? › We should be developing a local reprocessing industry and deterring the export of materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The SWRRIP seeks to ensure that there is appropriate infrastructure to recover materials for recycling or energy recovery. › Local processing, where there is a viable end market for products, is supported by the SWRRIP, the Regional Implementation Plans, and government programs in place to support Victoria's processing industry.
		CHANGE: The SWRRIP includes a graph indicating the percentage of each material type that is managed in Australia vs exported.
		An outline of the Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund, targeted at local recovery infrastructure is included.

No.	Feedback	Response
20	The collection and aggregation of food organics from commercial companies needs an increased focus to support the diversion of food waste from landfill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the SWRRIP is the Victorian Organics Resource Recovery Strategy (Organics Strategy), with a focus on food organics, including from commercial companies. Food organics is a priority material in the Market Development Strategy. Increasing the recovery of food organics is discussed in Section 5.4.1. Table 5.3 identifies the opportunity to increase recovery from commercial and industrial sources which is supported by actions in a number of Regional Implementation Plans
1 10 23 30	Investment in alternative treatment options to landfill needs to be supported. In the South East area of Melbourne where putrescible landfill is likely to be exhausted within the next ten years, transporting waste from this area to the other side of Melbourne is not a long term viable option. Alternatives should be explored immediately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Metropolitan Regional Group plans for infrastructure needs in Metropolitan Melbourne. The Metropolitan Implementation Plan sets out actions to identify and progress alternative technologies to manage residual waste, which will reduce reliance on remaining landfills.

TABLE A
STATE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS SUPPORTING MARKETS
AND INVESTMENT IN RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE

Program	Description
Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund (RRIF)	The \$13.6 million RRIF supports the development of infrastructure which improves the collection and processing of recycled materials. Round 2 provides grants between \$40,000 and \$500,000 for infrastructure development projects based in non-metropolitan Melbourne.
Research and Development Program (R&D)	The R&D provides grants of up to \$100,000 for research institutes and industry to undertake collaborative research projects to develop new markets for recovered glass fines and flexible plastics.
Waste to Energy Infrastructure Fund (WtE Fund)	The \$2 million WtE Fund supported the installation of new, or upgrades to, waste to energy facilities to process organic waste in Victoria.
Driving Investment for New Recycling Grants Program	Seven new recycling projects across Victoria received \$2.4 million in funding to increase recycling rates and delivering new jobs for the Victorian economy.
Rural and Regional Landfill Support Grants Program	The Rural and Regional Landfill Support Program provided funding of up to \$500,000 to support landfill closure planning and the development of transfer stations and resource recovery centres to replace closing landfills.
Timber Recycling Fund Grants Program	Four Victorian businesses received more than \$500,000 to increase the recovery and re-use of timber that would otherwise be sent to landfill.
Boosting Business Productivity Program – Materials Efficiency Grants	Grants of up to \$13,000 available to manufacturers looking to find solutions to their waste problems, which will result in more efficient use of materials and less waste sent to landfill.
Community Sustainability Infrastructure Fund Grants Program (CSIF)	The CSIF supported small to moderate scale infrastructure projects demonstrating best practice and/or innovation that facilitates recycling, energy efficiency and/or local environmental improvement.
Social Value From Waste Grants Program	The Social Value from Waste program provided financial assistance to existing social enterprises and charities to increase their capacity to deliver social value to communities while recovering or preventing resources from going to landfill.

Theme: Waste Avoidance

This theme encompasses feedback relating to the SWRRIP's Goal 1, 'Landfills will only be for receiving and treating waste streams from which all materials that can be viably recovered have been extracted': Feedback highlighted waste avoidance as a mechanism to reduce reliance on landfill.

Three submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	0
Industry	1
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	0
Community	2

No.	Feedback	Response
13	A core assumption of the SWRRIP is that waste generation will continue to grow in line with population. Waste avoidance is a strong mechanism to change this but not included in the SWRRIP. What is the government doing in this space, who is responsible for implementing it and how does it impact on the SWRRIP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The SWRRIP is required to plan for infrastructure to recover and manage materials entering the waste and resource recovery system. › Reducing the waste entering the system will reduce the pressure on the system and have environmental benefits. › Trends in the amount and types of materials entering the system underpin the SWRRIP projection model and the infrastructure needs identified in the Regional Implementation Plans. The plans will be monitored and regularly reviewed, taking into account changes and trends in materials entering the system.
16	<p>The SWRRIP does not consider opportunities to reduce waste generation such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › plastic bag ban › fostering a repair culture › A container deposit scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The Love Food Hate Waste campaign is a Victorian Government program which seeks to support households and businesses to reduce food waste, and is coordinated by SV and delivered in partnership with Regional Groups and local government. › Programs to improve materials efficiency and reduce waste generation are usually delivered by SV and Regional Groups. › The Government has committed to ban single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags. Further information can be found at www.engage.vic.au.

CHANGE: Waste avoidance is referenced in the Foreword

Theme: Lack of confidence in Victoria's waste and resource recovery system and data

This theme encompasses feedback relating to confidence in Victoria's waste and resource recovery system, including references to issues identified in recent media coverage into the sector.

Five submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	0
Industry	2
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	0
Community	3

No.	Feedback	Response
8 13 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The SWRRIP should outline the data sources and analysis methods to support the infrastructure rollout. The data should be systematically gathered from a diverse range of sources, capturing multiple waste streams. › It should provide the public with information on where their waste ends up and comfort that recycling actually ends up being recycled. With this in place, decisions can be reasoned and robust to scrutiny. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The data and information underpinning the SWRRIP is the best available and is collected from a range of sources including households, local government, EPA, ABS and industry. › Primary sources of data are the Victorian Local Government Annual Survey, the Victorian Recycling Industry Survey and EPA landfill data. › The reports and the interactive Waste Data Portal is available on the SV website at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au › The SWRRIP is transparent about how we have collected and used the data, as outlined in Chapter 7 and Appendix 4. › Communicating about the SWRRIP and its underlying data will be undertaken as part of its publication and ongoing implementation. › Educating the community about waste and recycling is a key element of Victoria's Waste Education Strategy – coordinated by SV, but delivered in collaboration with Regional Groups, local government and industry.
2 11	<p>The information in the SWRRIP does not tally with that provided in the media through programs such as the 4 Corners report into waste. How can we as the public be reassured that the information provided is a true and accurate representation of the waste and resource recovery industry in Victoria.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The data and information are the best available from a range of sources. › The assumptions and limitations of the data and the modelling in the SWRRIP are outlined in Appendix 4. › The system is estimated to have safely managed over 12 million tonnes of material in 2015–16, recovering 67 per cent of materials. The SWRRIP and the Regional Implementation Plans seek to improve this recovery rate where viable by addressing barriers and acknowledges throughout that there are opportunities to improve the performance of the system, including regulation and compliance where appropriate. › The trends over time provide an indication of the consistency of the data and can be viewed on the Waste Data Portal, accessed at the SV website www.sustainability.vic.gov.au › Goal Four, supported by Strategic Direction Six, seeks to continuously improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of waste and resource recovery data and information. › The monitoring and evaluation program, discussed in Section 2.10, will include monitoring and evaluating progress against achieving the SWRRIP goals and be reported on publicly.

Theme: Landfill levy spending

This theme encompasses feedback relating to investment of the landfill levy and the financial impact on councils in delivering waste and resource recovery services.

Nine submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	7
Industry	0
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	0
Community	2

No.	Feedback	Response
1 7 9 11 16 23 24 27 30	<p>The State Government should be clear on where the levy is being spent</p> <p>The levy should not be spent on non waste and resource recovery activities</p> <p>The State Government should commit adequate resources to support the implementation of the SWRRIP and Regional Plans including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Developing and supporting education programs and campaigns › Investing in infrastructure › Developing a carrot and stick approach to facility operations › Research options to increase resource recovery › Supports waste avoidance › Support waste education › Litter prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy was introduced as a pricing incentive to increase resource recovery and divert waste from landfill. › Landfill levy funds must be used in accordance with the EP Act (sections 70E and 70F); it can be used for the purposes of fostering environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria. It was amended in 2010 to include the purpose of fostering community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria. › The 2017–18 State Budget provided a record \$419 million in SF expenditure over five years, including a \$30.4 million investment in waste and resource recovery — the largest ever spend on this sector. › Details on the waste and resource recovery investment are available on the DELWP webpage at www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/63839/Budget-2017-18-Fact-Sheet-WasteResourceRecover.pdf. › Expenditure from the Sustainability Fund in the 2016–17 budget includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – \$152.7 million to help Victorians minimise energy costs, increase efficiency of buildings and schools, and support the Latrobe Valley transition strategy, including the establishment of a timber plantation to support the long term sustainability of Victoria's timber harvesting industry – \$88.8 million to modernise Victoria's energy system and ensure a renewable, affordable and reliable energy future – \$86.3 million to implement <i>Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037</i>, Victoria's comprehensive biodiversity strategy – \$34.9 million for climate change adaptation and Solar Trams, which will promote investment in renewable energy – \$15.7 million to implement priority EPA reforms – \$7.2 million to support management of our coastal environment – \$3 million to remediate land contamination at gun club sites.

No.	Feedback	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Programs funded from the Sustainability Fund benefit the broader community, not just the direct funding recipients. For example, the Illegal Dumping Strikeforce program reduces risk to human health and the environment from illegal dumping of waste by giving the EPA vital intelligence, enforcement and engagement resources. › The Sustainability Fund also supports grants programs managed by SV, the Metropolitan Regional Group, and DELWP. Local councils and industry are eligible to apply for many of these grants. The Victorian Government website includes a list of environmental grants programs: www.vic.gov.au/grants/environment.html.

Theme:
Clarity on roles and legislation

This theme encompasses feedback relating to the role of government, agencies and councils in land use planning and infrastructure scheduling, and the need for clarity in legislation and regulations relating to the sector.

Three submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	0
Industry	1
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	1
Community	2

No.	Feedback	Response
11 *	The SWRRIP provides information on the roles of various stakeholders in the Waste and resource recovery sector. The role of local government and waste and resource recovery groups needs to be emphasised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Chapter 1 outlines the legislative responsibilities for government stakeholders operating in the waste and resource recovery sector. › Changes to the EP Act is beyond the scope of the SWRRIP.

CHANGE: Chapter 1, and elsewhere in the document where relevant, has been strengthened to reflect:

- › the pivotal role local government plays in managing municipal waste and recovery
- › the legislative role of the Regional Groups to include the infrastructure schedules in their Regional Implementation Plans
- › the role of the Regional Groups in developing and delivering programs in their region to support the implementation of their Regional Implementation Plans and the SWRRIP

No.	Feedback	Response
11	The responsibility of waste management is seems, rests with the Waste and Recovery industry and Local Government. The act needs to be modernised to recognise this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The SWRRIP recognises that local governments play a critical role in the management of waste and resource recovery from households and businesses, managing over 30% of the waste and material streams that enter the waste and resource recovery system.
28	<p>The SWRRIP does not adequate recognise the role of local government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Support regional Groups in developing their Regional Implementation Plans. › Develop waste management plans for their local government area › Deliver their own waste and resource recovery related programs and campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › This role is reflected in a number of areas in the SWRRIP including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – developing waste management plans for their local government areas – collection of recyclables, organics and residual wastes from households and businesses – the operation of facilities including resource recovery centres and landfills – increasing recovery through procurements and delivering education programs to communities and businesses › Achieving the goals of the SWRRIP will be supported by the development of increased connections and partnerships between local governments and industry supported by the Regional Groups and broader government. This is reflected in the Table 2–7 SWRRIP Actions for Government and in the Regional Implementation Plans › The Victorian Government is undertaking a review of the EP Act 1970.
<p>CHANGE: Table 1–2 Waste and Resource Recovery System Stakeholders has been updated to better reflect the role of local government.</p>		
22	<p>Table 1.1, the outline of the SWRRIP legislative framework, needs to include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999. b. Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 c. The Water Act d. There should also be reference to international agreements such as Ramsar, CAMBA and JAMBA. 	<p>The legislation included in Table 1.1 provides the framework for the development and implementation of the SWRRIP. There is a broader suite of legislation, policy and regulations that must be considered when making decisions regarding waste and resource recovery facilities.</p>

* Confidential

Theme: Waste to Energy

This theme encompasses feedback relating to waste to energy, including the role of incineration in waste and resource recovery management.

Three submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	2
Industry	0
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	1
Community	0

No.	Feedback	Response
18	Small scale mobile WtE solutions need to be investigated for regions where population densities may preclude development of local markets for recovered materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Waste to Energy (WtE) is discussed in Sections 1.2.1, 1.3.6, 2.5, 2.6.1 and Chapter 5. › Small scale WtE may be an option in rural areas where the market for recovery of individual material streams is not viable. When investigating potential opportunities, the following should be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – WtE will only be viable where there is a consistent and long term supply of the required feedstock and a market for the energy products (and recovered material if produced) – WtE is lower down the waste hierarchy than recovery — over time higher order reprocessing may become more feasible › The SWRRIP notes that incineration, or the use of other thermal technologies without energy or material recovery, is not considered WtE.
27	There may still be role for incineration (without energy or material recover) given that Metro is preparing a business case for suitable alternative waste processing infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The SWRRIP recognises that WtE is likely to play a role in the management of our wastes and the recovery of energy from materials currently going to landfill. This is discussed in various section of the document, in particular in sections 1.3.6 and 5.15 › The use of incineration or other thermal technologies without energy or material recovery is not considered WtE, as it removes the opportunity to recover value and have been identified as a form of infrastructure that is inconsistent with achieving the goals of the SWRRIP.

Theme: E-Waste

This theme encompasses feedback relating to the Victorian Government's commitment to ban e-waste from landfills and the impact of policy changes on councils.

Five submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	4
Industry	1
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	0
Community	0

No.	Feedback	Response
7 27	The e-waste ban may have an impact on local government. State Government should provide a detailed implementation strategy that outlines local governments responsibilities in implementing the ban.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The Victorian Government is committed to banning e-waste from landfills in Victoria. › The proposed approach will include new requirements for all Victorian and specify how e-waste must be managed to achieve the land fill ban. The Victorian Government is committed to consulting with all stakeholders, including local government, to ensure smooth implementation of the new requirements. In addition, \$16.5M from the Victorian budget has been allocated to establish the required infrastructure for local government and community education to support the ban.
24	Council welcomes the impending ban on e-waste to landfill. It is vital that local drop off facilities which collect and process e-waste are funded by SV and that costs are not passed onto local government and in-turn rate payers or the improper disposal of e-waste may emerge as a risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Section 5.13 includes an outline of the proposed approach to how e-waste is managed in Victorian and the opportunities to increase recovery. › More details can be found at www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/e-waste-in-victoria
30	The goal of minimising the amount of e-waste that goes to landfill is supported but the practicalities of preventing all e-waste from going to landfill and the availability of markets and recycling services to support e-waste resource recovery do not seem to have been adequately considered by the State Government. The impact of an ineffective and unenforceable ban will undermine the intentions of the ban and the credibility of the SWRRIP. The sudden added cost for Councils to separate and recycle any collected e-waste will impose an unacceptable cost burden on the community and a recycling industry that is not yet geared up to accept and recycle all e-waste.	

Theme:
Hazardous Waste/Asbestos

This theme encompasses feedback relating to hazardous waste (including asbestos) planning and management in the sector.

Two submissions included feedback relating to this theme.

NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS RELATING TO THIS THEME, BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE:

Stakeholder type	Submissions
Local government	1
Industry	0
Land developers	0
Regional Groups	1
Community	0

No.	Feedback	Response
27 28	There is a strong need for a strategic and coordinated approach to the planning for hazardous waste. It is a concern that the SWRRIP has not addressed this.	This amendment to the SWRRIP focussed on reflecting the Regional Implementation Plans. The next iteration of the SWRRIP will address hazardous waste.
28	Asbestos: The document identifies that managing asbestos will require a network of appropriately licensed landfills but does not provide detail on how this will be achieved.	Asbestos is a hazardous waste, which has been included in the SWRRIP and the Regional Implementation Plans as it intersects with landfills accepting non-hazardous waste. Consideration of infrastructure needs for asbestos (and other hazardous wastes) will be addressed in the next iteration of the SWRRIP.

6. Who made a submission?

Name	Sector	Protect our communities and the environment	Hubs and land use planning	Infrastructure scheduling	Increasing recovery through supporting industry and developing markets	Waste avoidance	Confidence in victoria's waste and resource recovery system	Landfill levy spending	Clarity on roles (including legislation)	Waste to energy	E waste	Hazardous waste/asbestos	Other
1. Yarra Ranges Council	Local Gov.	•		•	•			•					
2. Stephen Koci	Community	•			•		•						
3. Mildura Rural City Council	Local Gov.		•										
4. Alex Fraser	Industry		•										
5. Middle Hopkins Pty. Ltd	Land Developer		•	•									
6. Mount Atkinson Holdings	Land Developer		•	•									
7. City of Whittlesea	Local Gov.				•			•			•		
8. Confidential	Industry			•			•						
9. Corangamite Shire Council	Local Gov.	•	•		•			•					
10. Bayside City Council	Local Gov.		•	•	•								
11. Anne Laver	Community	•		•	•		•	•	•				
12. Confidential	Community												
13. Enviromix PL (Biomix)	Industry	•	•			•	•						
14. Stop the Tip*	Community	•		•									
15. Zero Waste Victoria	Community			•		•	•						
16. Joanna Drennan	Community	•		•	•	•		•					

* Represents identical submissions from 559 individuals

		Protect our communities and the environment	Hubs and land use planning	Infrastructure scheduling	Increasing recovery through supporting industry and developing markets	Waste avoidance	Confidence in victoria's waste and resource recovery system	Landfill levy spending	Clarity on roles (including legislation)	Waste to energy	E waste	Hazardous waste/asbestos	Other
Name	Sector	Themes											
17. Hobsons Bay City Council	Local Gov.	•	•										
18. East Gippsland Shire Council	Local Gov.				•					•			
19. BSWRRG	Regional Group												
20. Biomix Pty Ltd	Industry		•		•								
21. City of Kingston	Local Gov.		•										
22. Rosalind Ellinger	Community	•	•	•					•				
23. Yarra Ranges Council	Local Gov.			•	•			•					
24. Monash City Council	Local Gov.	•		•	•			•		•	•		
25. Waste Management Association of Australia	Industry		•	•	•								
26. Loddon Mallee WRRG	Regional Group												
27. Melton City	Local Gov.	•	•					•		•	•	•	
28. Confidential	Regional Group				•				•			•	
29. Confidential	n/a												
30. Whitehorse City Council	Local Gov.			•	•			•			•		
31. Peter Kronborg	Community	•	•	•									
TOTAL		11	14	15	14	3	5	9	3	2	4	2	

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