

# OVERVIEW OF THE STATEWIDE WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

JULY 2015 TO JUNE 2017

**The Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP) provides a 30 year vision and roadmap to guide future planning for waste and resource recovery infrastructure in Victoria.**

## GOAL 1

Reduce our reliance on landfills.

## GOAL 2

Encourage resource recovery and recycling through the consolidation and aggregation of our waste.

## GOAL 3

Raise the standard of waste and resource recovery facilities by improving their performance.

## GOAL 4

Improve the evidence base for decision making at all levels of government, industry and the community.

Since its launch in June 2015, the Victorian Government has been working to facilitate a fully integrated waste and resource recovery system that has the right facilities in the right locations across the State to increase resource recovery and reduce our impact on the environment and the community.

Sustainability Victoria (SV) leads implementation of the SWRRIP in collaboration with the seven waste and resource recovery groups, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Environment Protection Authority Victoria, local government and the waste and resource recovery industry.

To help realise the goals and priorities of the SWRRIP the Victorian Government has committed over \$53 million from the Sustainability Fund towards waste and resource recovery initiatives in the last two years. This includes over \$30 million in infrastructure assistance.

Supporting implementation of the SWRRIP are the seven Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans, which identify regional and local infrastructure and service needs in each region and how these can be met over the next 10 years.

This SWRRIP Progress Report provides high level information about how we are progressing towards achieving the SWRRIP's goals. It includes:

- › Key activities and achievements of the Victorian Government since July 2015 until June 2017.
- › Facts and figures reported by local government and industry about what was happening on the ground with planning for, and managing, infrastructure and services in the 2015-16 financial year.

The information in this report will also be used as a baseline to measure changes and trends over time so we can evaluate the effectiveness of the SWRRIP and how it may be impacting the waste and resource recovery sector. It will also be used to inform Victorian Government program planning.

In future years we expect to see improvements in how state and local government and industry plan, develop and manage waste and resource recovery infrastructure and services. Positive change will be a reflection of the collective efforts of the entire sector.

To read more about the waste and resource recovery plans and strategies, resources and tools that may be of use to you and your organisation, visit [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/swrrip](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/swrrip)

## Achievements to date

- › Released the seven Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans
- › Released the Victorian Waste Education Strategy
- › Released the Victorian Organics Resource Recovery Strategy
- › Released the Victorian Market Development Strategy for Recovered Resources
- › SWRRIP and Regional Implementation Plans referenced in the Victoria Planning Provisions
- › Launched the Investment Facilitation Service
- › Launched the Waste Data Portal
- › Released a suite of guides and resources supporting improved resource recovery and service management

## Facts and figures – what we heard from local government and industry

The following is a brief snapshot of data that was collected via an online survey covering waste and resource recovery related activities for the 2015-16 financial year. 101 organisations responded to the survey, equating to a 66% response rate. Respondents included 60 local governments, 36 reprocessors and five material recovery facility operators.

## Infrastructure planning and investment

**260** uses of different Victorian Government plans, strategies, resources, data and analysis were reported.

**57** respondents used the SWRRIP to inform planning and investment decisions, with 88% rating it as 'useful'.

**78%** of local governments surveyed said they used the SWRRIP followed by 40% of material recovery facility operators surveyed and 28% of reprocessors surveyed.

**58** respondents undertook planning to invest, or invested in, a total of 99 different projects to establish new or upgraded waste and resource recovery infrastructure.

- 54 projects were reported as completed, 18 were in development (e.g. construction) and 12 were in planning stages.
- Investment ranges (estimated or actual) for 64 of these projects were under \$500,000 and 27 projects were between \$500,001 and \$2.5 million (refer Figure 1).
- 23 projects were reported as increasing staffing levels (estimated or actual).

## Facility improvements

**50** respondents reported that they undertook projects to improve the environmental, public health and safety or amenity performance of their facilities. For those that responded, this result included 58% of reprocessors, 48% of local governments and 20% of material recovery facility operators.

- › Projects were undertaken for a range of reasons (refer Figure 2).

## Community engagement

**42** respondents reported that they had communicated and / or engaged directly with communities located near facilities that may have been impacted by infrastructure developments or operational issues.

## Material recovery

- › Local governments reported increasing material recovery by introducing new or expanded existing kerbside services. Of the 24 reported service changes, eight related to food and garden organics and four related to garden organics.
- › Local governments made operational changes at resource recovery centres/ transfer stations to increase recovery:
  - 15 reported that they 'reconfigured site to encourage drop off of recyclable material prior to disposal'. The most common material was e-waste.
  - 9 reported they 'established systems to collect materials from other locations and then aggregate them at a central site' to increase recovery. The most common material was e-waste.

## Service procurements

**43%** of local governments completed service procurements. Most were for resource recovery centres/transfer stations operation (40%) followed by commingled kerbside services (20%). Eight reported that these procurements had been collaborative with other local governments.

## Land use planning

- › Local governments undertook some form of strategic land use planning activity in eight of the 22 waste and resource recovery 'hubs of state significance'.

## Further information

To access a copy of the SWRRIP Progress Report or for more information contact Selena Papps on (03) 8626 8786 email [selena.papps@sustainability.vic.gov.au](mailto:selena.papps@sustainability.vic.gov.au) or visit [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/swrrip](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/swrrip)

Figure 1: Project Investment Ranges – Responses by Groups

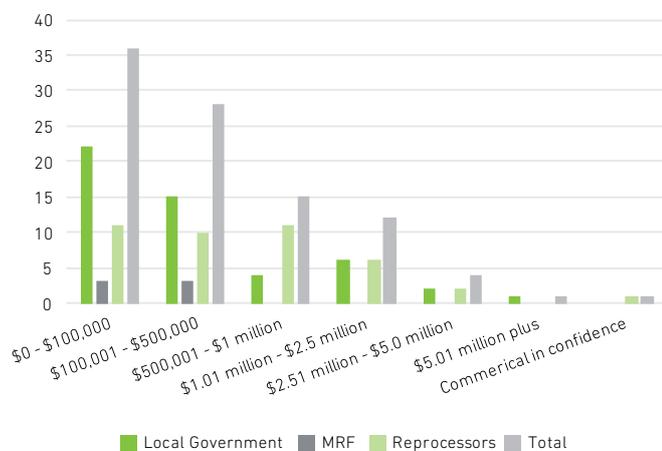


Figure 2: Project Improvement Objectives – All Responses

