

1. Are there opportunities to further coordinate, harmonise or streamline approaches to waste management across jurisdictions?

I find it ridiculous that the plastic industry in Australia can be doing its best to achieve higher rates of recycling through voluntary product stewardship programmes whilst importers are legally allowed to import materials not bearing any recycling logos – impediments to free trade must be balanced with concern for the environment.

2. Are the categorisations, definitions and standards used to manage waste between and within the different levels of government effective and appropriate?

9. Are there any aspects of waste management that could be improved or streamlined through adopting national standards?

A national standard on identification of waste bins is required so that regardless as to what council region, State or Territory that a person lives or works in, people need to be able to recognise what is to be discarded into what bin e.g. yellow lidded bin = recycling, black lidded bin = landfill waste, red lidded bin = e-waste. Legislate to require adoption of a national standard. My child's school has blue bins/blue lids for recyclables, our council has green bin/yellow lid and at work we have a red bin/red lid.

3. Do the current waste management frameworks across jurisdictions:

- *deliver an effective regulatory framework?*
- *provide an appropriate suite of approaches to address waste and resource recovery issues?*
- *work effectively in conjunction with planning and other environmental legislation?*
- *provide the right incentives to manage materials, products and waste sustainably and holistically?*
- *need improving and if so, how could this be done?*

5. What waste issues would most benefit from a national approach? What strategies could be considered and how could the need for local solutions be integrated with a national approach?

15. What, if any, changes are needed to provide a national approach to the way e-waste is managed?

Whilst it is great to live in an area in which the local council is proactive in waste management (Darebin Council), the waste management issue is too important to leave to individual councils to manage or mismanage. Councils need to be compelled to meet minimum performance targets and measurement of achievement to these needs to be done using standardised definitions and measuring techniques. Measurement must be audited by the Commonwealth and targets to be met should be cognisant of energy expenditure and toxicity to the environment i.e. percentage of plastic recycling achieved in remote areas would differ to that in urban areas as energy expenditure to achieve good plastic recycling levels in remote areas would outweigh the benefit of doing it. On the other hand, disposal of e-waste to landfill in remote areas would be as unacceptable as it would be in urban areas.

The material complexity of waste is a result of numerous complex manufacturing and logistic processes which delivers goods to individuals and organisations.

Correspondingly waste management must become increasingly complicated in an administrative and regulatory sense if effective inroads are to be made and this can not be shied away from. For this reason the last thing that Australia needs is for the States and

Territories to continue developing and promoting their own legislation. Waste has no borders.

I believe that e-waste is the elephant in the room that the Commonwealth government has to date failed to provide leadership on. I, my family and persons with whom I socialise with do not abide or feel comfortable with disposing of e-waste to landfill when it is obvious that e-waste is on one hand a potentially rich source of material and on the other a hazardous pollutant.

Companies that have been prosecuted for illegal disposal of wastes need to be more publicly shamed (in a nationally consistent manner) to bring this to the attention of consumers of their products/services. Individual householders who have been proven to consistently contaminate recycling should be fined to a greater extent than that currently being done.

7. Australia needs to safely manage hazardous waste and waste containing hazardous materials over the long term.

- ***Are there any changes to current arrangements that would improve Australia's capability to safely manage hazardous waste, for example in regard to adequate infrastructure or disclosing the contents of goods and substances?***

It is imperative that Commonwealth legislation be introduced requiring products made utilising nanotechnology to declare whether their degradation to the environment is as nanoparticles (either through use or after disposal). As a precautionary principle, wastes that degrade and remain in the environment as nanoparticles must be considered to be hazardous waste until proven otherwise.

10. What fundamental data sets does Australia need to collect to better inform waste management policies, practices, investment, business operations and to assess and manage risk?

Measure the amount of recyclable plastics that enter the waste streams without a recyclable logo being applied,

13. Landfill is currently the primary means of waste disposal. What, if any, changes need to be made to manage Australia's waste stream in the long term given current trends in the volume and nature of the waste?

Research the applicability to different regions in Australia of incineration and/or gasification then incineration of waste. Following this, engage the public to consider the merits of any resulting proposals.

14. Reducing the amount of organic waste sent to landfill has the potential to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as other potential environmental and economic benefits. What are the benefits and opportunities, costs and disadvantages, of increased diversion and/or recycling of organic wastes?

Commonwealth needs to support some selected councils that are at or want to be at the forefront in managing organic waste and then from the results of those efforts, assist/drive other councils to those solutions.