ADVICE ON RECYCLING AND RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE IN VICTORIA

Elissa McNamara
Project Director
Infrastructure Victoria
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

30-year infrastructure strategy
Independent advice to government
Research
Your microphone will be on mute.

You can type your questions in here which will be answered at the end of the presentation.
WHAT WE HEARD

- Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
- Product stewardship and extender producer responsibility
- Waste to energy
- Landfill levy
- Collections
- Market development
- Regional infrastructure
WHAT WE RECOMMEND

• 13 recommendations
• Where and how to deliver processing infrastructure investment plus a number of other supporting recommendations
• $1 billion in capital investment – from both the public and private sectors – by 2039
• Focus is on six priority materials - plastics, glass, paper and cardboard, organics, E-waste, tyres
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve infrastructure capacity and capability for recovering and reprocessing priority materials
2. Increase the diversion of organic waste from landfills
3. Provide clarity to the waste-to-energy sector and establish regulatory settings to achieve desired waste-to-energy outcomes
4. Review funding mechanisms to increase infrastructure capacity and capability
5. Provide ongoing statewide and locally tailored behaviour change programs
6. Reduce contamination in material streams
7. Introduce waste minimisation initiatives
RECOMMENDATIONS

8. Remove barriers and strengthen markets for priority materials

9. Ensure that producers and consumers involved in making and using products share the responsibility for their fate

10. Provide greater clarity of roles and responsibilities for Victorian Government bodies involved in recycling and resource recovery

11. Improve the quality and use of data to support resource recovery

12. Use targets to drive performance

13. Strengthen the status of, and processes around, Victoria’s Recycling Infrastructure Plan
87 new or upgraded facilities

3.1 tonnes resource recovery infrastructure

Jobs, new products, environmental benefits

Without $$$ there will be capacity and capability gaps

2024 – paper/card
2025 – plastics/organics
2030 – e-waste

Strategic locations

Review infrastructure funding
A mix of policy, regulatory and financial actions is needed

Organic waste is a big opportunity

All councils should offer food and garden waste collection for households

Increase amount form C & I – starting with hospitality and food manufacturing

Support for R & D
Any change to how we recycle should be supported by ongoing state-wide and locally tailored behaviour change program.

Our research shows 25% Victorians think their recycling goes to landfill.

Most (92%) say they are willing to change the way they sort rubbish.

Ongoing, centrally managed and consistent behaviour change programs, can keep important messages about reducing waste and recycling top of mind.
IMPROVING SECTOR GOVERNANCE

All tiers have a role to play

Conduct a review of governance arrangements

Greater clarity of the roles and responsibilities of different state government agencies needed
REMOVE BARRIERS AND STRENGTHEN MARKETS FOR PRIORITY MATERIALS

- Oversupply, under-demand
- Support for R&D
- Government procurement
- Standards and specs
- Tax non-recyclable products
A ROLE FOR WASTE-TO-ENERGY

- Waste-to-energy is preferable to landfill – but only when there are no other options
- Extensive community consultation is required
- Facilities collocated with industry to support efficient use of heat should be encouraged.
TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Changing our approach to waste

Waste avoidance is critical
QUESTIONS