



COMMUNIQUE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The inaugural meeting of the Advisory Group was held on Tuesday 29 September 2020.

Formation of the Group

Members welcomed the formation of the group whose purpose is to:

1. Contribute to environmental policy, legislative and regulatory reforms
2. Advise on the implementation of these reforms, including early identification and troubleshooting of systemic or collective challenges
3. Engage with the best evidence of the day to drive continuous improvement to waste and resource recovery
4. Drive a circular economy for waste in NSW.

At this meeting, members endorsed their Terms of Reference. Membership of the Advisory Group will be reviewed every 12 months to ensure equity of representation.

20 Year Waste Strategy

The key agenda item was the NSW Government's 20-Year Waste Strategy. Members contributed their advice in response to the current thinking about the focus and approach that the strategy could take. Members provided Government with a clear message that the strategy needs to be reframed as a 'materials strategy' to drive a circular economy for waste in NSW.

Local government representatives raised the importance of a localised, place-based approach and equity of opportunities across NSW.

Future funding, end of *Waste Less, Recycle More*

Discussion was had about future funding for initiatives that come under [Waste Less, Recycle More](#).

The EPA recognises the experience and significant contribution of waste groups and local government in the delivery of waste and resource recovery projects and programs across NSW.

The development of the NSW 20-Year Waste Strategy includes the exploration of the resources that will be required to support the Strategy's implementation, including direction on new programs and opportunities. The EPA confirmed that its partnership with local government will continue to be an essential part of waste operations in the future.

Relationship beyond waste

Through this Advisory Group, the EPA will expand its relationship with local government beyond waste into other areas of mutual concern such as water and air quality, contaminants, land use, noise, emergency management.



Tracy Mackey
CEO and Chair