



MEDIA RELEASE

15 March 2023

SSROC welcomes funding to promote waste resilience to natural disasters

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) has welcomed \$390,000 on funding to improve the resilience of Sydney's waste services to natural disasters. The funding has been provided through the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) which is jointly funded by the Australian and New South Wales governments.

The funding is for the Sydney Waste Management Continuity Risk Reduction and Resilience Plan (Disaster Waste Risk and Resilience Project). The project will improve waste infrastructure resilience through proactive planning, technical analysis, asset inventory, legal support and collaborative cross-sector contingency plans.

SSROC Chief Executive Officer, Helen Sloan welcomed the funding, saying it was timely after recent bushfire and flooding events.

"Last year, Sydney waste services were disrupted, with severe storm, flooding and landslides damaging freight-rail lines that carry waste to processing facilities and forced a 10-day closure of the rail line," Ms Sloan said.

"Further, five years ago, bushfire came within a few hundred metres of major landfill, triggering its temporary closure. Disaster events such as these are serious risks to Sydney's waste management system, so this funding will help address the current shortfalls so our waste infrastructure can continue operating effectively during such events."

SSROC President and Mayor of Burwood Council, Cr John Faker, said the funding allowed councils to continue playing their leadership role in ensuring the continuity of waste services, which are fundamentally essential to human health.

"The project will be led by councils, as industry's primary customer for household waste processing and disposal, and the ultimate bearer of responsibility for managing waste in the event of disaster," Cr Faker said.

The Disaster Waste Risk and Resilience project will engage councils, state government and industry to develop a plan for risk mitigation, contingency solutions and regulatory review. It will ensure governance is in place to regularly review and update the regional disaster waste management plan.

The President, Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC), Carolyn Corrigan, welcomed the Disaster Waste Risk and Resilience Project funding. Cr Corrigan,



who is also Mayor of Mosman Municipal Council, stated: “It will bring key stakeholders together to co-design cross-sector responsive contingency plan that will enable Sydney councils to continue rendering waste services with minimal disruption during natural disaster events.”

Tony Khoury, Executive Director, Waste Contractors & Recyclers Association, said the recent disruptions to waste removal exposed concerns of inadequate waste disposal infrastructure and options for general daily waste.

“The key outcome will be improved communication and collaboration between local/state government and industry stakeholders, clarity over roles and ownership of risk, logistics, and capacity-building for councils and other key stakeholders. Though the funded project will increase the resilience of waste management services to future shocks, the significant lack of waste disposal infrastructure across the Sydney area needs to be addressed,” Mr Khoury said.

The project is supported by NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, Macarthur Strategic Waste Alliance and key industry players including Veolia, Visy, Bingo, Macarthur Strategic Waste Alliance, Re.Group, Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW and Cleanaway. They are represented in the project’s Steering Group.

Media Enquiries: Samuel Bartlett, Communications and Government Affairs Lead
0483 877 025

- ENDS -