

7. Creation of a Zero Waste Future

National leadership is needed to strengthen Australia's circular waste economy.

Leadership for a Circular Economy

Funding for education campaigns, infrastructure upgrades and local innovative product development that in turn drives demand for more recycled materials.*

— Queensland councils **operate more than 500 waste facilities**, landfill sites, transfer stations and resource recovery and recycling facilities



80% of Queensland residents

are serviced by a kerbside recycling scheme.

China's 'National Sword' policy restrictions on recyclable material is costing Queensland councils as much as **\$40-50 million per annum** and threatens the viability of kerbside recycling services.

- Queensland councils have confirmed that the loss of off-shore markets combined with an absence of local markets for commodities will lead to:
- Financial impacts on existing council kerbside recycling services that are already marginal/ cost-negative;
 - Gate fee increases being considered by some councils;
 - Stockpiling and/or landfilling of recycle over the short-medium term; and
 - Erosion of community confidence in kerbside recycling schemes when landfilling of recycle becomes widespread.



Financial assistance is required through a nationally consistent approach to drive demand for recycled materials.



Delivery of a circular economy is the cornerstone for obtaining a zero waste future.

Leadership for Product Stewardship and Packaging

Stronger packaging and product stewardship legislation and nationally consistent approaches to government procurement processes to promote use of recycled (local) content.*

- Voluntary product stewardship schemes are not achieving the outcomes required by councils
- There are a range of problem waste streams either without markets or adequate market maturity



A strong nationally consistent approach to product stewardship and procurement is critical to establishing and maintaining markets for recycle.



Queensland councils support the agreed statement from the Meeting of Environment Ministers on 27 April 2018 that **sets a target of 100% of Australian packaging being recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025 or earlier.**



The LGAQ supports national leadership for the introduction of a range of mandatory and co-regulatory product stewardship schemes for the following products: photovoltaic systems; mattresses; handheld batteries; whitegoods/air conditioners; commercial and household furniture; and smaller electronics.

Leadership for Energy from Waste

Commit to further exploration of Energy from Waste technology.



Inconsistent energy from waste approaches to policy and technology between State jurisdictions is failing to provide certainty to councils and industry.



National leadership, investment and support for a range of Energy from Waste solutions is required.

- In May 2018, a LGAQ-commissioned community attitudes survey undertaken by Colmar Brunton highlighted the value Queenslanders place on the importance of waste and recycling; the survey found:

- **77% of residents** are concerned with Queensland's long-term waste management plan.
- Most importantly, **83% of residents support a zero waste goal and three quarters (75%) of residents support Energy from Waste technology** investment and initiatives.



Queensland councils support the agreed statement from the Meeting of Environment Ministers on 27 April 2018 to explore opportunities to advance energy from waste and waste to biofuels projects; this is supported as part of a broader suite of industry growth initiatives, recognising the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste is a priority, consistent with the waste hierarchy.

* Priority aligned to the Australian Local Government Association's 2019 Federal Election Plan