



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development

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Cr Phillip Healey
Chair of the Metropolitan Local Government Forum
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Ref: MIN038060



Dear Cr Healey

SUSTAINABILITY FUND INVESTMENT IN WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2017 about opportunities for government investment of the Sustainability Fund in waste and resource recovery.

The Andrews Labor Government has substantially increased expenditure from the Sustainability Fund each year since forming government. The 2017-18 State Budget provides a record \$419 million in Sustainability Fund expenditure over five years, in contrast with less than \$15 million in new funding approved by the previous government over a four year term. This year's budget includes the largest ever spend on waste and resource recovery, with \$30.4 million to:

- support implementation of the government's commitment to ban e-waste from landfill, assisting councils with collection infrastructure and processes (**\$15 million**);
- boost the Resource Recovery Infrastructure Fund, bettering our ability to recover resources from waste (**\$7.6 million**);
- undertake education and litter programs (**\$4.5 million**);
- develop markets for materials and energy recovered from waste (**\$2.5 million**);
- develop waste to energy policy (**\$500,000**); and
- improve the quality of waste data (**\$280,000**).

However, it is clear that further government investment will be needed to achieve our vision of a waste and resource recovery system where waste generation is minimised, resource recovery is maximised, and landfills are used only to dispose of waste that cannot be viably recovered.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is collaborating with the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) and other entities in the Victorian Government waste and resource recovery portfolio to prioritise options for future investment in waste and resource recovery. I was pleased to hear that MWRRG has sought input from the Metropolitan Local Government Forum and its member councils to inform this process given the integral role local governments play in Victoria's waste and resource recovery system.

Thank you for providing me with this position paper outlining the Metropolitan Local Government Forum's priorities for future government investment in waste and resource recovery. This will be a valuable resource as I consider advice on future funding proposals from DELWP and the broader waste portfolio.

If you would like more information about this matter, please call Ian Campbell-Fraser, Director, Economics Governance and Waste in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 03 9637 8412 or email ian.campbell-fraser@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Thank you once again for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
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