Interim Consultation Outcomes

The consultation is part of a comprehensive process to look at how NSW can better value resources and reduce waste. The Cleaning Up Our Act: The Future for Waste and Resource Recovery in NSW Issues Paper was written to help inform future development of the 20 Year Waste Strategy (20YWS).

The Issues Paper was open for consultation from 8 March to 8 May 2020. This is an overview of the key themes that emerged from the consultation process.

What did we do?

- Public submissions process
- ‘Have your say’ webpage
- Public webinar
- Presentations to industry
- Online forums with stakeholders

How many people did we hear from?

- 8000+ visits to ‘Have your say’ webpage
- 400+ stakeholder conversations
- 10 topic-focused online forums
- 330+ submissions

Forum participants

- Local Government — 40%
- WARR Industry — 22%
- Construction/Mining — 8%
- Regional Waste Organisations — 6%
- Academics — 6%
- Not for profit — 6%
- NSW Government — 3%
- Packaging Sector — 3%
- Retail Sector — 3%
- Finance Sector — 1%
- ACT Government — 1%
- Aboriginal Land Councils — 1%

"We need bold and brave actions from government!"

"There is unprecedented interest from the community to create a waste environment that minimises landfill and maximises reuse. Now could be the right time for implementing regulation to support this."

"It will be impossible to implement the circular economy without all areas of government thinking the same—state and federal governments need to collaborate!"

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
What did we hear?

- Support for an ambitious 20YWS that expresses a shared vision and direction
- Transition to a circular economy - define principles and support interconnection across the waste and resource recovery system
- Focus on waste avoidance, reuse and repair as critical parts of the 20YWS and future circular economy
- Invest in infrastructure, innovation and collaboration, including in regional areas to support local resource recovery solutions and employment
- Provide strong NSW Government leadership to support collective action across industry and all levels of government.

Feedback based on the four 20YWS directions

**Transitioning to a circular economy**

- Greater focus on waste avoidance and upstream innovations
- NSW Government leadership and a national whole-of-government approach through COAG
- Design and collection are critical. Closed-loop recycling is an important transitional strategy, but not the end point for circular economy
- Transitioning requires a paradigm shift - “waste is just a resource in the wrong place”

**Improve focus on waste infrastructure and resources**

- Increase waste levy funding to help address waste avoidance, enhance resource recovery education and support infrastructure priorities
- Improve regulatory certainty to increase investment in innovation and infrastructure
- Identify waste as an essential service to improve planning and delivery outcomes
- NSW Government to identify and protect land for waste infrastructure development
- Consider opportunities to create or enhance regional resource recovery infrastructure hubs to address technology access, transport and logistical issues for waste infrastructure

**Work towards consistent standards, targets and processes**

- State and local governments to drive procurement of recovered materials through mandated standards and targets
- Consistency in kerbside collections
- Community engagement to help increase source separation
- Clear directions for stakeholders to provide clarity, e.g. ‘no organics to landfill by 2030’

**Foster collaboration and innovation**

- More collaboration and innovation in technology advancements and infrastructure
- A circular economy cannot just be achieved in NSW alone, we work in a national and global environment
- Mechanisms to share risk for innovations, testing and trials
- Improve WARR data collection, analysis and reporting

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment