

19 November 2020

Mr Mike Rowe
Director General
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 10
JOONDALUP DC WA 6919

Lodged electronically: consult.dwer.wa.gov.au/waste-policy/review-of-the-waste-avoidance-and-resource-recover/

Dear Mr Rowe,

RE: SUBMISSION ON DISCUSSION PAPER: “REVIEW OF THE WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY ACT 2007”

The Water Corporation (the Corporation) welcomes the release of this Discussion Paper (the Paper) and appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback through this submission.

As previously advised, the Corporation has established a set of 6 Corporate Objectives under the pillar of “Lowest Environmental” impact, including one objective specific to resource recovery of both solid waste and wastewater. One enabling action to realise this objective is to adopt the principles of the State’s Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy 2030, and to formalise an approach to progress towards its goals and targets.

The Corporation has also previously provided submissions on the following related papers from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the Department):

- On 30 August 2019, for the issues paper “Waste not want not – valuing waste as a resource” (Waste Reform Paper 2017); and
- On 3 July 2020, for the consultation paper “Closing the loop – waste reforms for a circular economy.”

The Corporation has welcomed the concepts raised in these previous papers, and provided its support for any policy that will simplify the consideration of waste as a resource. Similarly, the Corporation does not have any concerns with the proposals raised in the Paper, and in particular supports:

- Enhanced capacity for the WARR Act to improve waste services;
- Increased autonomy and role clarity for the Waste Authority, including the ability to directly employ its own staff;



- Increased clarity on how the Corporation can collaborate with both the Waste Authority and the Department on initiatives to maximise the value to the State, including use of the WARR account; and
- The development of regulations and guidelines to implement the waste management framework.

The Corporation also notes that the Department has in September 2020 released the discussion paper on the proposed legislative framework for waste-derived materials, and will provide a more detailed submission to the Department for this paper.

The Corporation appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Discussion Paper and would be pleased to discuss this submission further as required. In the first instance contact should be made with our Manager Environment, Dr Digby Short, by phone on 08 9420 2038, or by email at digby.short@watercorporation.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E Hambleton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Evan Hambleton
General Manager
Assets Planning and Delivery Group