



**Waste Authority**

## **Media Release**

### **State's Draft Waste Strategy Calls for Action**

**Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The State's Waste Authority says there is a need for increased public education around wise waste management and support for producers of goods to take more responsibility for disposal of waste from their own products.

The Waste Authority has reviewed the 1440 public comments received on the Draft State Waste Strategy, released for public comment late last year.

Waste Authority Acting Chair Jan Grimoldby said the Authority has responded to major themes from the public submissions around the need for information and education campaigns on wise waste management.

"More education and awareness needs to be provided to industry, governments and the general community," Ms Grimoldby said.

"There is also significant public support for schemes of extended producer responsibility such as take back programs for electronic goods, through to action on packaging and hazardous wastes.

"There was a general desire to recognise that suppliers have some responsibility for managing products once they are at the end of their life. There were repeated calls to establish markets for recyclables, especially construction and demolition waste, while another commonly expressed view was that governments and government agencies should take the lead in creating markets for recyclables."

Ms Grimoldby said the Waste Authority intends to fund at least two community engagement and behaviour change programs that focus on waste avoidance.

She said there would also be a recommendation to State Government for agencies and government owned instrumentalities to take 50 per cent of the current construction and demolition waste stream for use as raw material.

“The Waste Authority will propose regulations to empower local government to require and implement waste disposal plans before authorising demolition.

“We will also consider the development of regulations to declare the collection and management of solid waste an essential service and in partnership with other agencies, will develop a waste infrastructure plan for regional WA, in the first instance, from around Geraldton to Albany.

“It is critical that we work in partnership with local government, industry and others to achieve practical waste management results including the ongoing management of household hazardous waste.”

Another major theme of the submission feedback was that there have been several reviews in the past and it was difficult to see what had been achieved or who was accountable for delivery. The new Draft seeks to clarify specific roles and responsibility for delivery by The Waste Authority.

The new Draft Waste Strategy will be available for public comment.

Copies and the accompanying report on submissions are available on <http://www.zerowastewa.com.au/> or contact Leanne Reid on 6467 5522 or [leanne.reid@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:leanne.reid@dec.wa.gov.au)

**Media Contact: Ashlee Biggs at LastSay Communications – 0424 434762.**