

COMMUNIQUE

WASTE ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The fourth and final meeting of the Advisory Group for 2020 was held on Friday 27 November.

Updates

It was advised that as part of the [NSW Budget](#), funding was announced to support the transition from *Waste Less Recycle More* to the 20-year Waste Strategy.

Updates were provided about the status of the NSW Government's negotiations with the Commonwealth on the Recycling Modernisation Fund. Further details will be announced shortly.

20 Year Waste Strategy

The key agenda item was again the NSW Government's [20-Year Waste Strategy](#).

Members contributed their advice in response to the current thinking about the 'strategy at a glance' which frames the key policy concepts, infrastructure planning and plastics. A deep dive discussion about data quality will be held over for a future meeting due to time constraints.

Members provided Government with advice about the importance of harmonisation, supporting materials created in NSW to have a value to prevent the importation of low-cost virgin materials and integrating waste and materials management into the planning system drive circulatory.

It was advised that a draft of the 20 Year Waste Strategy will be released for consultation at the end of the first quarter in 2021.

Production of recycled steel

Discussion was had about criminal activity that currently prevents greater availability of scrap metal for the production of recycled steel to be used in NSW infrastructure projects. It was noted that there are two statutory reviews underway - *Scrap Metal Industry Act* and the *Motor Vehicle Dealers Act*. Whilst the EPA does not have a regulatory role in relation to policing 'cash for cars', the EPA agreed to make representations on behalf of industry so that enforcement of the state's legislation is prioritised.

Energy from Waste Facilities

Industry advised the EPA and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) that application of the waste levy on the waste processed by these facilities will make them financially unviable. It was noted that as part of developing the 20 Year Waste Strategy, the role of the waste levy in promoting resources recovery will be considered. This will include consideration of all levers available to Government, including the levy, to ensure that the outcomes of the waste hierarchy are achieved.



Tracy Mackey
CEO and Chair