

From: Cr Nathan Clark <Cr.Nathan.Clark@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 10 June 2022 6:27 PM

Subject: Maintaining the community voice in the Circular Economy: Establishment of the Local Government State-Wide Waste Forum

PDF Attached

Dear colleagues,

Re- Local Government State-wide Waste Forum

I am writing on behalf of the recently assembled Local Government State-Wide Waste Forum. The Forum has been established through the Regional Waste Forums who voted unanimously to allow each of their Chairs to advocate to the State on their behalf regarding the roll out of the Waste Act and Recycling Victoria. There are seven of us in total and between us we represent 79 LGAs across Victoria.

The Local Government State-Wide Waste Chairs Forum aims to ensure consistent representation across our rural, regional, and metropolitan Councils to advise the State Government in the lead up to the establishment of Recycling Victoria (Waste Authority), and implementation of the *Circular Economy (Waste and Recycling) Bill 2021*.

On commencement of Recycling Victoria (RV), the Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (WRRGs) will be dissolved, and relevant functions will be transferred to Recycling Victoria. The Recycling Victoria Authority is set to commence from 1 July 2022 and the State Government has yet to provide any concrete detail as to an ongoing mechanism that would serve a similar function after June 30, 2022. It has been my experience as the Chair of the Goulburn Valley WRRG Forum, that these groups have provided an important structure for regional collaboration between local governments including for delivering effective services, achieving efficiencies of scale, sharing expertise, advocating for better policy and legislation, education, and procurement.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change in her second reading speech said: *"I intend to establish a local government advisory committee to advise the Head on the new functions, how these arrangements impact and can benefit councils, and how the set-up of Recycling Victoria can ensure effective relationships with local governments across the State."*

We believe that the Forum is ideally positioned to support and advise the State Government as part of its design of regulatory and implementation measures associated with the Bill. We also believe it ensures effective relationships with local governments are fostered across the state and inform policy decisions that affect Councils in waste and resource recovery.

We would like to formalise the Forum so that beyond the 1 July 2022 there continues to be a structure for ongoing collaboration for Councils on a regional and state-wide level. To facilitate this, we are proposing that each Council endorses the following motion and appoints a representative to participate:

That Council

Note that the State government has introduced legislation that dissolves the regional waste management groups effective from 1 July 2022.

Recognises the benefits of regional collaboration between local governments including for delivering effective services, achieving efficiencies of scale, sharing expertise, advocating for better policy and legislation, education and procurement.

Notes that the WRRGs have provided an effective mechanism for regional collaboration between councils and -

- *Appoints _____ as councillor representative on recycling and waste matters including for the purposes of:*
 - *Meeting with other councils in the Goulburn Valley region to consider recycling and waste matters, and to provide advice to councils in the region.*
 - *Appointing a chair of the regional advisory group on recycling and waste, who would represent the region in a state-wide advisory group, including electing a state-wide chair.*
 - *Developing a proposal for governance (including a Terms of Reference) of regional coordination between the councils, for consideration by Council at a future date.*
 - *Calling on the state government to support regional collaboration by providing the secretariat function via RV.*

The Forum has formally requested a comprehensive briefing from senior representatives from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), in relation to the timeframes and planned and proposed investment, policy and regulatory implementation measures that the State Government is considering in relation to the *Circular Economy Bill*, with a particular focus on the establishment of Recycling Victoria (waste authority). The Forum has also previously written to the Minister for Environment, Lily D'Ambrosio MP, and engaged with her office, seeking the Minister and State Government's engagement with the Forum, which we look forward to commencing through the requested DELWP briefing.

Please contact me, Nathan Clark, for further information.

Best,



Cr Nathan Clark, Mitchell Shire Council
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Member - Local Government State-wide Waste Forum
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