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**From:** noreply@stategrowth.tas.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 December 2023 4:53 PM  
**To:** Climate Change  
**Subject:** Waste Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan - online submission form

**Categories:**

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How can we build on the work already underway to reduce emissions and build resilience?  
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I think alignment between the climate change office and the department of NRE would be beneficial. A Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy has just been released for Tasmania, and I would like to see these two departments engaging with each other for enhanced outcomes. There is a common sentiment in local government that responsibilities are pushed down from other tiers of government, without associated resourcing. I would like to see the State Government act as a collaborator and enabler who contributes strategically first and foremost, but also practically. There are regional collaborations between councils for both waste and climate who already work together to try and fill gaps with the resources available to us and the limited scope of our power. I am of the belief that the role of local government is in community-based work and practical service provision. This should be supported by an engaged State Government who is willing to use regulatory triggers, commission research, and plan strategically for the state. Local governments already do a wealth of work in the waste sector to provide education and resource recovery. Councils are however limited in their impact across the whole supply chain, being left to deal with wasted resources at the end of their lifecycle with little impact on the generation of these resources ending up as waste. Councils should be well supported to provide their existing and future waste services effectively and sustainably. Best practice guidelines and standardisation of resource recovery services are two key support mechanisms I have identified. At present, it is up to individual councils to investigate the feasibility of FOGO for their area and determine details such as accepted materials and collection frequencies. Smaller LGAs in particular are not well resourced to do this, and standardisation would play a key role in the uptake and success of FOGO services.

What future opportunities will have most impact:

Working to reduce organic waste to landfill is an appropriate priority area, as this will have a major impact on both emissions and resilience if done well. One of the biggest changes necessary is behavior change. There needs to be a shift in what is considered normal and acceptable for waste generation and the waste industry. I would like waste to move from something that is considered an inescapable byproduct of modern living to something that is an outdated concept, especially in terms of landfilling.

Priorities or future opportunities missing from draft Plan:

A key priority I see as lacking in this ERRP is the circular economy. Organics to landfill is an area with easy wins for reducing waste emissions, which is why I think this is an appropriate starting point. Beyond this, we need to consider the emissions associated with unnecessary production, transport, and processing of materials that end up as waste - even if these materials are considered inert once in landfill. For me, resilience in the waste sector lies primarily in strategic, proactive management of resources in the earlier stages of their lifecycle. Managing only from the point of disposal onwards will not significantly shift the

dial on the resilience of the sector to changing climates or environmental, social, and financial sustainability. To focus on recycling and resource recovery alone will only go so far in improving resilience and is unaligned with best practice principles such as the waste hierarchy and circular economy - which are broadly endorsed. The circular economy is a space where some local government are doing great, but isolated and limited, work. Largely this is in education and small scale community-based capacity building such as repair cafes. This is important work but only once piece of the puzzle. Planned statewide an national approaches are necessary, especially in regulation and management of producers. There are examples such as the City of Hobart's Single Use Plastics Bylaw where councils extend themselves to try and have some impact on the types of products entering their areas and ending up at their waste facilities. Local government is the wrong tier of government for this to happen. Both federal and state governments must be working in this space, to regulate packaging and beyond. Strategic planning for a circular economy framework in Tasmania is something I see as an excellent way forward for emissions reduction and resilience in this sector. This will need to be well planned, but also highly practical and implementable rather than being another strategy that sits on a shelf or is implemented without achieving it's full potential.

Any other ways we can collaborate:

It is likely that there are more opportunities which are yet to be identified. As the industry evolves and more data/research becomes available, working together to continue to identify opportunities and reassess priorities would be beneficial.

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