



MEDIA RELEASE

TASSIE'S NEW WAR ON WASTE IS WELCOMED BY RECYCLING INDUSTRY

The Hodgman Government's release of a draft Waste Action Plan and the weekend's dual appointment of the Treasurer and Minister for Environment represent the very welcome starter's gun on a new recycling race for Tasmania.

Pete Shmigel, CEO of the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), the national peak body for the resource recovery industry that nationally employs 50,000 people, said:

"The Tasmanian draft Waste Action Plan is strongly welcomed by the recycling sector as **smart and progressive** reform. It is very likely to increase the combined environmental and economic benefits that Tasmanians get from improved resource recovery.

"ACOR also thinks it's **terrific innovation** that the Treasurer Peter Gutwein will also be Environment Minister. It helps recognise that recycling is a great way to combine 'green' and 'gold' as it is both an economic and environmental positive. Every 10,000 tonnes of material recycled generates some 6 jobs.

"This new Plan can start turning the Apple Isle **from a recycling laggard to a recycling leader**, and that's something our industry and no doubt the people of Tasmania support."

ACOR notes the following particularly positive features of the draft Waste Action Plan:

- introduction of a container deposit and refund scheme as per South Australia, NSW, ACT, Northern Territory, Queensland and (soon) Western Australia to reduce litter and improve recycle quality;
- introduction of a pro-recycling incentive in the form of a State-wide landfill levy, and its reinvestment in important waste minimisation initiatives;
- setting of waste reduction goals and targets to bring Tasmania up to par with other States, including emphasis on construction and demolition and organic materials;
- commitment to a new administrative structure for waste minimisation, hopefully along the lines of Sustainability Victoria or Green Industries SA;
- conduct of a resource recovery infrastructure audit to determine what gear is needed;
- acknowledgement of the need for national coordination.

"We now encourage the Tasmanian Government to: a) set the new levy at a **sufficient level** that really drives positive results and industry investment; b) ensure that the dedicated management body to guide improved resource recovery involves **both local government and industry experts**; c) ensure high performance targets, consumer convenience, full transparency and **independent governance** in running its new container deposit / refund scheme, and; d) make commitments to **positive procurement** of recycled content products to boost local manufacturers," Pete Shmigel said.

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