



MEDIA RELEASE

ALTERNATIVE WASTE TREATMENT: SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY & NEEDS RESTORATION

A new poll by ReachTel shows strong support for 'red bin recycling' and affirms the NSW Government's recent moves to secure the future of the Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) industry, according to the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR).

The State-wide poll, undertaken in mid-February with 1546 representative respondents, produced the following results:

- **92.8%** agree that *"reducing waste and recycling products into new products and uses is important"*;
- **87.3%** support *"increasing recycling and reducing landfill by processing food and garden material from rubbish bins into useful products"*;
- **78.6%** support the use of *"organic material for farm use and land rehabilitation"* (having been told that the material comes from rubbish bins);
- **12.7%** were *"aware of the NSW Government's decision to stop further use of this recycled material"*;
- In terms of concerns about stopping this practice: **34.6%** concerned about *"increased landfill and less recycling"*; **16.7%** about *"more pollution in the environment"*; **15.3%** about *"Government walking away from recycling"*; **12.8%** about *"increased household recycling costs"*; **8.2%** about *"loss of jobs"*.

Pete Shmigel, ACOR CEO, said: "The community overwhelmingly supports the treatment and recovery of household residual material and it's diversion from landfill, as had been the practice by AWT operators in NSW for 18 years prior to a pre-emptive Government decision to delete the practice.

"It's pointless to send valuable material to landfill and to miss out on the benefits to farms, mine sites, the environment, and jobs. Hundreds of millions have been invested to bring NSW into line with international AWT practice, and that investment should be allowed to continue to produce an environmental and economic return.

"It's encouraging that the latest communication from the NSW Minister for the Environment seeks to assure the AWT sector about its regulatory certainty and Government support during any necessary transition, and looks to the Chief Scientist to independently determine what the future can look like.

"Now, the next step after the NSW election is for the Government and the EPA to collaborate with industry on the details of dollars, deadlines and delivery of a revived AWT sector."

FOR MORE INFORMATION: PETE SHMIGEL 0419 541 531

February 24th, 2018