



## ACOR points to gaps in Vic infrastructure plan

By Inside Waste, Monday 21 November 2016

In October, Infrastructure Victoria released the state's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy that amongst a number of needs, seeks to address and manage pressures on landfill and waste recovery facilities.



Consultation closed on October 31 and the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR) has made a number of recommendations to further emphasise the importance of the waste and resource recovery sector in Victoria.

The [draft infrastructure plan](#) noted that landfills and waste recovery facilities are expected to come under pressure over the next five to 15 years and recommended incentivising waste minimisation and removing barriers to increase waste recovery rates as well as securing capacity for waste management.

Specifically, Infrastructure Victoria proposed greater use of recycled materials in construction by removing barriers in public sector procurement processes, accelerating actions identified in the Victorian organics resource recovery strategy to increase recovery of organic waste sent to landfill, reviewing waste disposal charges to landfill and investigating different pricing mechanisms within five years, revising planning provisions to provide greater guidance for landfills and sensitive land uses and greater integration of

the EPA's buffer zones for landfills within five years, and minimising barriers to long-term investment in waste management infrastructure by ensuring that planning and provisions for future waste management and landfill sites are clear.

ACOR CEO Grant Musgrove told *Inside Waste* there were gaps in the plan, adding that it "wasn't talking to" Sustainability Victoria's Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP).

"There was no mention of the SWRRIP in the infrastructure plan and hopefully the different arms can work closer to achieve regulatory and policy alignment," Musgrove said.

He said ACOR supported the strategy but put forward a few recommendations of its own, urging Infrastructure Victoria to consider:

- Providing incentives to business, industries, and local councils to upgrade or expand existing infrastructure and services to increase recycling capacity and optimise efficiency;
- Supporting the entire supply-value chain, including waste generators, collectors, processors, recyclers, and manufacturers to maximise resource recovery and their application to highest use;

- Reducing waste disposed to landfill through diverting waste from landfill to recycling, as many of landfill sites may reach capacity due to exponential rates of waste generation;
- Limiting or reducing the likelihood of establishing new landfills in Victoria given the availability of advanced waste treatment technologies, including MBTs and EfW facilities;
- Increasing the number of recycling programs for e-waste, organic, construction and demolition waste, as well as safe transport and disposal of hazardous waste;
- Aiming for a higher recovery rate in the state - learning from SA;
- Considering and revising landfill buffers to minimise impacts to communities;
- Reforming and aligning Victorian landfill levy with those in NSW and SA. Other states have set clear targets for levy increases up to the next 30 years and ACOR is encouraging Infrastructure Victoria to contact both South Australia and New South Wales for their own economic analysis of pricing mechanisms;
- The large expenditure of landfill levies accrued in the Sustainability Fund that will be required to meaningfully manage the forecast volumes; and
- Full alignment with the SWRRIP to be articulated.

"ACOR stands ready to further assist Infrastructure Victoria in the review and implementation process of the draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy," Musgrove said.

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