



COMMUNIQUE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The third and final meeting of the Advisory Group for 2020 was held on Friday 27 November.

Updates

It was advised that as part of the [NSW Budget](#), funding was announced to support the transition from *Waste Less Recycle More* to the 20-year Waste Strategy.

It was noted that the EPA wrote to all Council general managers and CEO's on the evening the state budget was handed down on 17 November 2020.

A priority for 2021 is to work with local government to develop transition plans to guide the use of this funding.

20 Year Waste Strategy

The key agenda item was again the NSW Government's [20-Year Waste Strategy](#).

Members contributed their advice in response to the current thinking about the 'strategy at a glance' which frames the key policy concepts, infrastructure planning, storm water litter, plastics and data quality.

Members provided Government with advice about the importance of harmonisation and supporting materials, created in NSW, to have a value to prevent the importation of low-cost virgin materials. Members raised with the EPA the confusion that exists about which levels of government have responsibility for the management of marine litter and the EPA agreed to provide councils with advice about this matter. Incentives to support local councils to risk manage stormwater litter was put forward by members as an option.

Members also advised that the infrastructure planning should link with other reforms such as Special Activation Precincts and reform of employment zones to drive circularity. A deep dive discussion was had about the quality of data, the importance of data sharing and the barriers created by commercial-in-confidence arrangements. Members raised the need for data sharing to be a condition of government funding and advised that any new data systems created, need to be able to use the data already being collected.

It was advised that a draft of the 20 Year Waste Strategy will be released for consultation at the end of the first quarter in 2021.

EPA Roadshow

The EPA consulted with the group on the design and timeframe for the 2021 EPA Roadshow where members of the EPA Executive will travel to regional locations to meet with local councils and licensees.



Tracy Mackey
CEO and Chair