



Environment Protection Authority

National Waste Policy Action Plan – NSW Government Implementation Plan

August 2025



A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the page featuring intricate Aboriginal artwork. It includes a large circular motif with a central dot, surrounded by concentric circles and radiating lines. Below this, there are patterns of dots and wavy lines, and at the bottom, a stylized representation of a kangaroo or similar animal in a leaping pose.

Acknowledgement of Country

The NSW Environment Protection Authority acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, honours the ancestors and the Elders both past and present and extends that respect to all Aboriginal people.

We recognise Aboriginal peoples' spiritual and cultural connection and inherent right to protect the land, waters, skies and natural resources of NSW. This connection goes deep and has since the Dreaming.

We also acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees who are an integral part of our diverse workforce and recognise the knowledge embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and culture.

Aboriginal artwork by Worimi artist Gerard Black

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About this plan

This document, the *NSW Government Implementation Plan* (the implementation plan), sets out the actions by NSW that support the strengthened 2024 *National Waste Policy Action Plan* (the Action Plan). The Action Plan was agreed upon by Australia’s environment ministers in December 2024. For completeness, this implementation plan should be read in conjunction with the 2024 Action Plan.

This implementation plan builds on the achievements by all governments, industry, business and the not-for-profit sector under the former 2019 Action Plan.¹

The implementation plan recognises that the Australian, state and territory governments share responsibility for implementing the 2024 Action Plan and are jointly accountable for achieving its targets (except for target 1, which is primarily the responsibility of the Australian Government). This approach reflects the roles and responsibilities of different governments in managing wastes and effectively recovering resources.

In line with the 2024 Action Plan, the actions in the implementation plan focus on the priority areas where governments can have the most influence, and the material types for which the greatest gains can be made against the targets. Action in these areas will accelerate progress towards the national targets and help Australia’s transition towards a circular economy.

The initiatives in this implementation plan complement, or are in addition to, other priority work NSW is undertaking. This includes work being progressed collectively by governments through the Environment

Ministers’ Meeting that does not fall within the scope of the 2024 Action Plan.

2024 National Waste Policy Action Plan

Targets

1. Ban on export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, commencing in the second half of 2020
2. Reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030
3. 80% average resource recovery rate from all waste streams following the waste hierarchy by 2030
4. Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry
5. Continued phase out of problematic and unnecessary plastics
6. Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill for disposal by 2030
7. Make comprehensive, economy-wide and timely data publicly available to support better consumer, investment and policy decisions

Priorities

- ⊕ Government legislation, regulation, policies, standards and guidelines
- ⊕ Investment in infrastructure, procurement and funding support
- ⊕ Market development and support through innovation, reducing barriers and generating demand.

Material types

- ⊕ Organics (food and garden)
- ⊕ Building and demolition
- ⊕ Ash
- ⊕ Hazardous waste
- ⊕ Paper and cardboard
- ⊕ Timber (target 6).

¹ *National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019; National Waste Policy Action Plan Annexure 2022; National Waste Policy Summary Report 2021; National*

Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy

The *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041* (WaSM) is the NSW Government's overarching strategy demonstrating our commitment to the priorities in the National Action Plan.

Stage 1: 2021–27 of this strategy sets nine key targets for modernising our waste and resource recovery sector. The nine targets largely align with the national targets first expressed in the 2019 National Action Plan and reaffirmed in the 2024 plan. The nine NSW targets will be achieved through initiatives that have their own plans and programs: these are outlined in the *NSW Waste Delivery Plan*.

Waste Delivery Plan

The *NSW Waste Delivery Plan*, published in 2021, details the key initiatives for reaching state and national waste targets.

Circular Economy Summit

On 1 November 2024, as part of a Circular Economy Summit, the NSW Minister for the Environment outlined further priority actions the NSW Government is taking to address the looming waste management shortfall and other critical circular economy challenges and opportunities facing NSW.

The actions fall under four key pieces of work:

- Plan and develop critical waste infrastructure
- Reduce waste going to landfill
- Grow recycling rates and opportunities
- Take action to prevent contamination.

These actions build on the WaSM and the NSW Waste Delivery Plan and most intersect

with the targets, priorities and material types of the 2024 National Action Plan.

Reporting on the implementation plan

The NSW Government will report annually on the actions identified in this implementation plan, via an annual 'report card'. Every year, the EPA will provide the Australian Government with data to include in a national report on progress towards the targets. This reported NSW data will be made available online.

The NSW Government will review this implementation plan every two years, in line with the findings of the two-yearly review of the *National Waste Policy Action Plan*. It may also update the implementation plan at any time, to ensure it remains effective.

The implementation plan: taking action

The table below outlines the high-level actions that NSW is taking to support targets 2–7 of the *National Waste Policy Action Plan* set out above. Target 1 is mainly the responsibility of the Australian Government. The actions align with, and build on, the WaSM and the *NSW Waste Delivery Plan*.

Key initiatives and supporting actions

Initiative	Impact	Deliverables	Targets supported						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Build industry capacity to divert and process organic waste into quality recycled organic products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recover significantly more organic waste material Diverts organic materials from landfill reducing greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enact and implement mandated separate collection of food and garden organic waste by 2030 							
Build industry capacity and infrastructure to collect, separate, recycle and remanufacture materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports growth in the recycling and reprocessing industry and markets. Maximise the useful life of materials and keeps them in circulation for longer Reduce the volume of waste going to landfill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement the NSW Waste Infrastructure Plan from 2025 Review and reform the resource recovery framework from 2025 							
Problematic and unnecessary plastics phased out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problematic and unnecessary plastics are no longer used or sold by businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement NSW Plastics Plan and Circular Plastics Program Implement additional plastic reforms outlined in the <i>NSW Plastics: The Way Forward</i> paper 							

Initiative	Impact	Deliverables	Targets supported						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Continue to provide statewide community recycling and container deposit schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household waste is recycled through the Community Recycling Centre network Containers continue to be returned for recycling through the Return and Earn scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued delivery of the Community Recycling Centre and Household Chemical CleanOut events Continued delivery of the NSW Container Deposit Scheme 							
Expand end markets through government procurement of recycled content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End markets for recycled materials increase as a result of NSW Government procurement of recycled content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Choose Circular initiatives for government procurement 							
Building on our work to protect the environment and human health from waste pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume of litter in land and marine environments is reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver environmental improvement programs 							
Increase the availability and accessibility of waste and resource recovery data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More publicly accessible data and information is made available to help inform effective decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide publicly waste performance data and other data on material flows and waste audits 							



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