



Environment,
Climate Change
& Water

Volume 1

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Progress Report

2010

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VOLUME 2 provides supporting information for the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Progress Report 2010

Glossary

AWT	Alternative Waste Technology
DECCW	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW
C&I	Commercial and Industrial
C&D	Construction and Demolition
EPHC	Environment Protection and Heritage Council
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ERA	Extended Regulated Area (Hunter, Central Coast, Illawarra)
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measure
NRA	Non Regulated Areas (rural and regional NSW)
SMA	Sydney Metropolitan Area
VENM	Virgin Excavated Natural Material
WARR	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery
WRAPP	NSW Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy

Foreword

Waste avoidance and resource recovery are key strategies for reducing our environmental 'footprint'.

This *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Progress Report* summarises the improvements made by the NSW community in many areas of waste management and resource recovery. Through these efforts NSW is achieving better materials recovery, stronger control of litter and illegal dumping, and reduced toxicity risks.

I am pleased that this report shows good progress toward meeting resource recovery targets for 2014. It also outlines areas where greater resource recovery is still needed. Recent government programs have established a good framework to allow industry, local government and the community to build on current successes and achieve further progress.

Recycling rates for all sectors and regions are growing steadily with recycling increasing across all waste streams. In 2008–09, total recycling reached a new high of 59 per cent, with over 9.5 million tonnes of material being recycled. Statewide, recycling is estimated to conserve at least 2.67 million tonnes of CO_{2e} and 18,000 megalitres of water. Improved recycling is stimulated by increases in the Waste and Environment Levy and from the implementation of targeted programs funded by levy revenue.

Improvements in recycling rates and work on waste avoidance are supported by a range of initiatives, including: the Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment scheme for funding council environmental activities, waste minimisation campaigns such as the 'Love Food Hate Waste' program; and the Sustainability Advantage initiative for businesses. Reforms to provide a regulatory gateway for resource recovery and streamlined waste licensing categories have facilitated resource recovery and helped to establish a clear framework that distinguishes genuine resource recovery from waste disposal. The NSW Government has also played a leading role in a new national Product Stewardship framework being developed through the National Waste Policy.

There is still more work to be done to support existing programs. New initiatives and strategies are now being planned to ensure that we achieve our goals. I look forward to continued cooperation between the broader NSW community, government organisations and industry to maintain progress to the 2014 targets.

While beyond the scope of this report, in 2010, I engaged David Richmond AO to undertake a review of the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy and waste policy. The Government's response to the review will also include ways to strengthen the NSW community's capacity to achieve the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.

Frank Sartor

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment

Executive summary

This report demonstrates that the New South Wales community is travelling well towards the targets and objectives of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy*. The report is based on 2008–09 data, which represents the half way point between the 2002–03 establishment of the Strategy and the 2014 targets.

Key Findings

Resource Recovery:

- The community has made good progress towards the 2014 recycling targets. NSW recycled 59% of its waste in 2008–09, up from 52% in 2006–07 and 45% in 2002–03. This represents 9.5 million tonnes of materials put back into the NSW economy. Recycling has increased across all three waste streams (see Table i).

Table i: Progress towards the NSW recycling targets, by waste stream

	2002–03*	2004–05	2006–07	2008–09	2014 Target
Municipal	30%	33%	38%	44%	66%
C&I	34%	38%	44 %	52%	63%
C&D	64%	62%	67%	73%	76%
Overall	45%	46%	52%	59%	

*First WARR Strategy established.

- Recycling also increased across all NSW regions. Total recycling in Sydney increased from an estimated 48% in 2002–03 to 62% in 2008–09. C&D recycling in Sydney reached 77%, which already exceeds the 2014 target of 76%.
- Recycling in the Hunter, Central Coast and Illawarra regions increased from 56% in 2006–07 to 59% in 2008–09, while estimated recycling in regional and rural areas grew from an estimated 15% in 2002–03, to 39% in 2006–07 and to 42% in 2008–09.

Waste Prevention and Avoidance:

- As recycling rates have increased, waste disposal has fallen both as a proportion of total material flows and in absolute terms. Overall waste to landfill has dropped from 7.4 million tonnes in 2006–07 to 6.7 million tonnes in 2008–09. Remarkably, this is close to the 2002–03 disposal amount of 6.5 million tonnes, even though population and the economy have grown substantially.

Toxicity

- NSW continues to push for national action on product stewardship issues to reduce the use of toxic substances in products and materials and to improve the end of life management of products that already contain them. NSW is working within the National Waste Policy process and supports the Commonwealth's commitment to implement national Product Stewardship Framework legislation to support schemes for televisions and computers.
- The NSW government also funds the Household Chemical CleanOut program to collect household hazardous waste in regional areas. Between 2003 and 2008–09, the CleanOut program collected and safely treated 3,940 tonnes of potentially hazardous materials. In 2008–09, the schemes collected 1,058 tonnes across NSW.

Litter and Illegal Dumping

- The number of litter items and their volume has trended upwards from 2008–09 to 2009–10, but are still below the levels recorded five years ago. The recent upward trend needs to be addressed and reversed particularly at sites with the greatest impact. The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW) continues to undertake and support anti-litter activities at state and local government levels. NSW is also working through the national waste policy framework to investigate additional national measures to reduce the impacts of packaging litter.
- The National Litter Index shows reduced illegal dumping in NSW, reflecting increasing action to tackle illegal dumping. The number of illegal dumping investigations by the Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squads has grown from 1,540 in 2006–07 to 3,479 in 2009–10. The number of penalty infringement notices (PINs) issued in this period has increased from 459 to 583 and the number of clean up notices issued has also increased from 35 (2006–07) to 154 (2009–10).
- DECCW has a strong waste and compliance program to tackle illegal dumping and inappropriate waste management. Over 1,000 DECCW waste compliance inspections were conducted in 2008–09.

Opportunities for Improvement

The Minister recently commissioned David Richmond AO to review the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy and waste policy. That review helped identify ways to support the community's capacity to achieve the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy. The following challenges and opportunities have been identified:

- Improve the effectiveness of dry recyclables recovery and expand systems to recover food waste and garden organics from households;
- Improve recovery of paper/cardboard and establish new systems to recover food, timber pallets and plastic film from the C&I sector;
- Encourage greater C&D recovery in areas outside of Sydney;
- Continue to focus on waste avoidance through reducing unnecessary food waste, improved packaging and product design and supply chain improvement;
- Continue to work with the Commonwealth and states and territories to resolve existing national product stewardship schemes and initiate action on additional national priority wastes;
- Build on the success and effectiveness of the Household Chemical Cleanout program to provide households with greater access to collection facilities;
- Improve actions to drive down litter including exploring options for further national measures to deal with packaging litter;
- Continue to work with local governments and the community to reduce illegal dumping.

1 Introduction

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001* requires a report every two years on progress towards the objectives and targets established in the *NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy*. This report is a half way progress report based on 2008–09 data. Table 1 lists the key result areas (KRAs) and targets in the WARR Strategy. The reports methodology is outlined in Appendix A.

Table 1: Key result areas and targets in the WARR Strategy.

<p>1. Increased recovery and use of secondary resources</p>	<p>By 2014, to:</p> <p>Increase recovery and use of materials from the municipal waste stream, from 26% (in 2000) to 66%</p> <p>Increase recovery and use of materials from the commercial and industrial waste stream, from 28% (in 2000) to 63% and</p> <p>Increase recovery and use of materials from the construction and demolition sector, from 65% (in 2000) to 76%.</p>
<p>2. Preventing and avoiding waste</p>	<p>To hold level the total waste generated for 5 years from the release of <i>Waste Strategy 2003</i>.</p>
<p>3. Reducing toxic substances in products and materials</p>	<p>By 2014:</p> <p>To phase out priority substances in identified products as a first choice or, if not possible, to achieve maximum recovery for re-use.</p>
<p>4. Reduce litter and illegal dumping</p>	<p>Reduce total amount of litter reported annually.</p> <p>Reduce total tonnes of illegally dumped material reported by regulatory agencies and RID squads annually.</p>

2 Key findings in each result area

KRA 1: Increasing recycling and use of secondary materials

This report marks the half-way point toward the WARR Strategy's 2014 resource recovery targets. Based on data from 2008–09, it shows that NSW has made solid progress towards achieving these targets. Recycling rates for all waste streams have grown steadily since 2002–03 and since the last progress report in 2008. In 2008–09, NSW was recycling 59% of all waste generated (9.5 million tonnes), up from 45% in 2002–03 and 52% in 2006–07 (Table 2).

Table 2: Progress towards the NSW recycling targets, by waste stream

NSW	2002–03*	2004–05	2006–07	2008–09	2014 Target
Municipal	30%	33%	38%	44%	66%
C&I	34%	38%	44 %	52%	63%
C&D	64%	62%	67%	73%	76%
Overall	45%	46%	52%	59%	

*First WARR Strategy established.

Proportionally, the greatest change since 2006–07 has been in Municipal recycling, which increased by 26% (381,000 tonnes) to a 44% recycling rate. 22% more organics were recovered from kerbside collections in the two years to 2008–09. Additionally, the number of Councils providing kerbside collections of organic materials increased from 54 in 2006–07 to 61 in 2008–09. Overall household recovery through kerbside recycling increased from 303,000 tonnes in 2002–03 to 1.04 million tonnes in 2008–09.

Commercial and industrial (C&I) recycling increased by eight percentage points (539,000 tonnes) since 2006–07, which increased the NSW C&I recycling rate to 52% in 2008–09. This was driven by substantial increases in recovery of organic materials and sand/soil/rubble, plus moderate increases in glass and food recovery. Since 2002–03, tonnages of materials recovered from the C&I sector have more than doubled (2.84 million tonnes recycled in 2008–09 compared to 1.37 million in 2002–03).

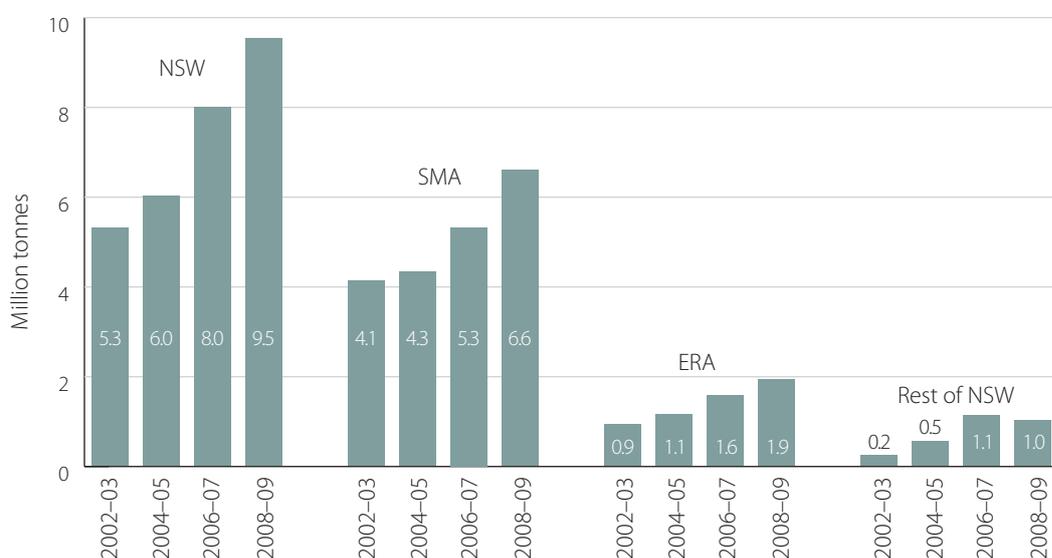
Construction and demolition materials recorded the greatest increase in recycling tonnages (613,000 tonnes) since 2006–07. That resulted in a six percentage point increase in the recycling rate, to 73%, which is already close to the 2014 76% target. The increase was predominantly due to better recovery of asphalt and sand/soil/rubble.

In Sydney, recycling across all three waste streams increased from 48% in 2002–03 to 62% in 2008–09 (Figure 1). That represented an increase of 60% (close to 2.5 million tonnes) in the amount of materials recovered compared to 2002–03. Over half of that increase (1.3 million tonnes) occurred between 2006–07 and 2008–09, after substantial waste and environment levy rate increases. By waste stream, the Sydney area in 2008–09 recycled: 51% of their municipal waste (up from 42% in 2006–07), 50% of C&I waste (up from 42% in 2006–07) and 77% of C&D waste (up from 70% in 2006–07), which already exceeds the 2014 target of 76% recycling for C&D waste.

The Hunter, Central Coast and Illawarra regions increased their recycling rate by three percentage points since 2006–07 to 59% in 2008–09. Municipal recycling increased from 41% to 44% (an additional 38,000 tonnes) and a substantial jump in C&I recycling from 48% to 60% (over 192,000 additional tonnes). There was a four percentage point drop in the C&D recycling rate for the region, from 72% in 2006–07 to 68% in 2008–09. That percentage recycling decrease occurred despite an additional 143,000 tonnes of C&D materials being also recycled in the region, but that was offset by increased estimates of waste generation.

Waste and recycling data from regional and rural areas is limited. It is estimated that recycling in these areas contributes about 1 million tonnes of materials to the 9.5 million tonnes recovered across the state (approximately 10%). The estimated recycling rate for these areas has increased from 15% in 2002–03 and 39% in 2006–07 to 42% in 2008–09.

Figure 1: Total amount of waste recycled for NSW and key regions*, 2002–03 to 2008–09



* Sydney Metropolitan Area (SMA), Extended Regulated Area (ERA), consisting of the Hunter, Central Coast and Illawarra regions, and the rest of NSW.

Further detailed resource recovery data is provided in Appendix B.

KRA 2: Preventing and avoiding waste

Waste prevention and avoidance is very difficult to measure, aggregate or report. There are no accepted methodologies worldwide.

In the context of household waste, waste prevention and reduction can occur at three points of intervention: at the point of purchase or delivery, during useful life of a product and at the point of disposal. The most significant issue emerging from the evidence and research is that consumers appear to have limited understanding of 'waste prevention' or the actions needed to deliver it. There is a tendency to equate the idea of 'reducing waste' with 'recycling'. That lack of understanding is also compounded by lack of visibility. Waste prevention is usually a very personal behaviour, done imperceptibly (e.g. when shopping) or out of the sight of others (at home).

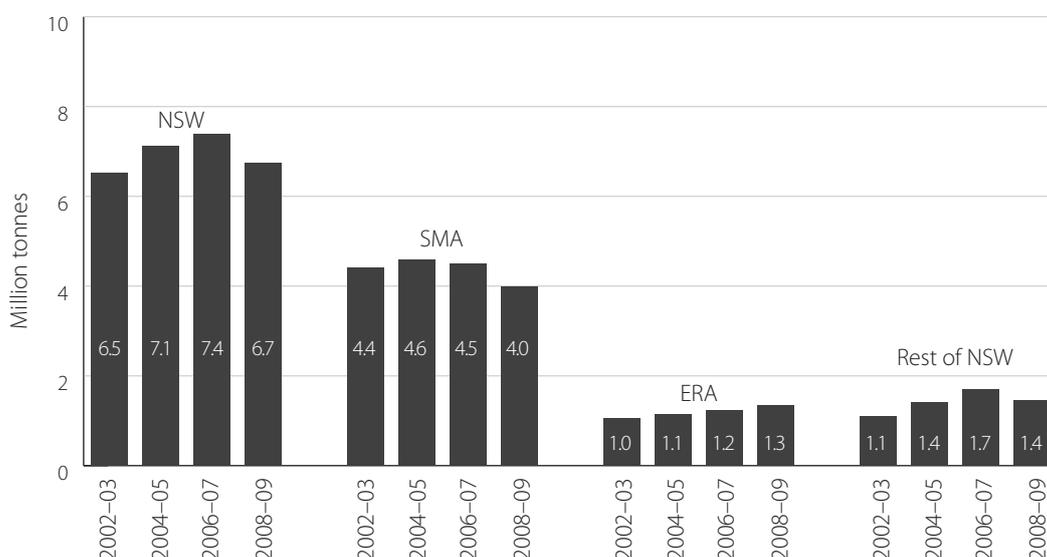
Amounts of waste disposal can give some indication of waste prevented and avoided although it is recognised that this can also occur due to other factors. After steadily increasing since 2002–03, the total amount of waste disposed to landfill in NSW has begun to decrease. Between 2006–07 and 2008–09, the total amount of waste disposal to landfill in NSW dropped from 7.4 million tonnes to 6.7 million tonnes, a decrease of 9% (Figure 2). This has brought the amount of waste being disposed of to landfill in NSW back to close to the 2002–03 level of 6.5 million tonnes.

The amount of waste going to landfill has also decreased on a per capita basis, falling from 1,081 kg per person in 2006–07 to 964 kg in 2008–09. This also brings the NSW per capita disposal rate below the 2002–03 level of 1059 kg per person.

The greatest decrease has been in Sydney, where per capita disposal in 2008–09 was 171 kg less than in 2002–03 and 202 kg below the high point of 1,221 kg per person reached in 2004–05. Decreases have been experienced across all three waste streams.

Per capita disposal in the Hunter, Central Coast and Illawarra areas peaked in 2007–08 at 1,035 kg per person and subsequently dropped to 997 kg per person in 2008–09. Falls in per capita municipal and commercial and industrial waste have been marginally off-set by an increase in construction and demolition waste in these areas.

Figure 2: Total calculated tonnes of waste disposed for key regions and the whole of NSW, 2002–03 to 2008–09



The decrease in waste to landfill between 2002–03 and 2008–09 occurred despite a substantial increase in estimated waste generation. Similar to other states and territories and other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, estimated waste generation (disposal + recycling) in NSW has continued to grow over this period (Figure 3). The total amount of materials reported as entering the NSW waste management system has increased by 0.9 million tonnes since 2006–07, and by almost 4.5 million tonnes since 2002–03. However, about 30% of this increase was due to improved measurement and reporting of disposal and recycling tonnages, rather than any actual increase in tonnages. This included improved reporting from regional areas and reporting on additional material streams, such as textiles, rubber and previously unreported organics streams. Without the addition of these new categories, total waste generation would have declined by approximately 20,000 tonnes between 2006–07 and 2008–09.

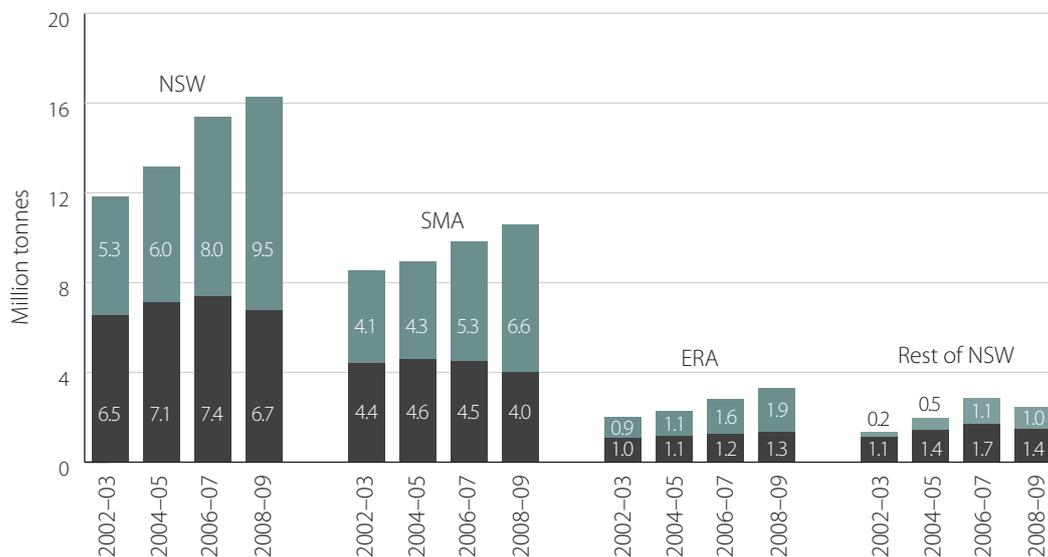
In addition, most of the actual increases in waste generation were recycled. When the additional categories of materials are included, 81% more materials were reported to be recycled in 2008–09 than in 2002–03. Much of this increase has been driven by the Waste and Environment Levy, which makes disposal more expensive and avoidance and recycling more financially attractive.

The increased waste generation is also likely to be attributable to increases in population growth and an expanding economy. Over the same period: the NSW population grew by 6.9%; the NSW Gross State Product (adjusted to exclude the effect of changes in prices) also increased by 9.5%; and, relatedly, the NSW household final consumption expenditure (also adjusted to exclude the effect of changes in prices) increased by 22%. These related factors provide an indication of an increase in material flows in the NSW economy with likely upward pressure on the amount of materials passing through the NSW waste management system (waste disposal and reuse/recycling).

Government programs continue to focus on helping to prevent the generation of unnecessary waste. That includes the Love Food Hate Waste program, which aims to reduce the \$2.5 billion worth of food which households dispose of each year, instead of eating it. The NSW Government is also working with brandowners and the packaging industry through the Australian Packaging Covenant to improve packaging design, such as light-weighting. Light-weighting can have significant environmental benefits throughout the packaging lifecycle.

Further details on this Key Result Area are provided in Appendix C.

Figure 3: Total estimated tonnes of waste generated (recycled plus disposed) for key regions and the whole of NSW, 2002–03 to 2008–09



KRA 3: Reducing toxicity in products and materials

NSW, like all states and territories in Australia, is constrained by national market requirements when dealing with product content requirements. NSW has therefore sought to influence product content and toxicity issues in products by working closely with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, industry, local government and the broader community to bring about co-ordinated and consistent national action.

For example, NSW has supported action by the Commonwealth to set mandatory limits to reduce the mercury content in fluorescent lamps and NSW continues to work with the PVC Industry through the Vinyl Council of Australia to phase out the use of heavy metals in additives by specified dates. Through this initiative, cadmium stabilisers were phased out in 2004 and the Vinyl Council reports the phase out of lead stabilisers in all applications is on track to be completed by the end of 2010. The PVC industry also reports that their commitment to phase out the use of lead, cadmium and hexavalent chrome pigments by the end of 2010, where technically feasible and alternatives are available, is also on track.

NSW has also been working at the national level to facilitate the development of effective national product stewardship schemes to properly manage and, where appropriate, recycle, waste products that contain toxic substances. NSW has played a leading role in developing a product stewardship scheme for televisions and computers and supports the Commonwealth's proposed Product Stewardship Framework legislation that is being developed under the National Waste Policy to support this scheme. The proposed legislation is expected to be passed in 2011 with the scheme to start shortly after.

NSW also continues to work with existing product stewardship schemes to ensure effective implementation in NSW. This includes ChemClear and DrumMuster for agricultural and veterinary chemicals and chemical containers, MobileMuster for mobile phones, FluoroCycle for mercury containing lamps from the commercial sector (where an estimated 90% of mercury from lamps is currently generated), and the Product Stewardship for Oil program for used motor oil.

In November 2010, the Environment Protection and Heritage Council supported a NSW led initiative to develop a comprehensive workplan for addressing additional products at the national level beyond the current list of national priority wastes. Additional products put forward for consideration include a number of products on the NSW list of wastes of concern, including paint, batteries and other electricals.

The NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water is also directly involved in ensuring the safe recovery and treatment of household hazardous products and materials through the Household Chemical CleanOut program, which is run in the Sydney, Hunter and Illawarra areas, and through providing funding for similar local government programs in regional NSW. These programs provide NSW householders with a safe and environmentally appropriate means to dispose of potentially hazardous household wastes. Between 2003 and 2008–09, the CleanOut program supported 112,420 households to safely dispose of over 3,940 tonnes of potentially hazardous materials. In 2008–09 alone, these programs collected 1,058 tonnes of such materials across NSW. High volume, low toxicity items such as paints, oils, gas bottles and lead acid batteries have made up approximately 85% of the materials collected so far. The remaining materials are low volume, high toxicity items, including poisons and pesticides, which are disposed of safely as a result of the program.

KRA 4: Reducing litter and illegal dumping

NSW litter analysis is based on data drawn from the Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) *National Litter Index* survey, which has been undertaken each year in NSW since 2005–06. The survey covers both litter and illegal dumping.

Since the first *National Litter Index* in 2005–06, NSW has reduced the number of items littered and illegally dumped by 6 per cent and the volume by 10 per cent. However, the most recent survey in 2009–10, indicated that litter is trending upward, increasing from 65 items per 1,000m² in 2008–09 to 75 items in 2009–10. This is still below the 80 items per 1,000m² measured in 2005–06. The average volume of litter and illegal dumping in NSW has also been increasing, from 12.13 litres per 1,000m² in 2008–09 to 13.43 litres per 1,000m² in 2009–10, although again, this is below the 14.95 litres per 1,000m² measured in 2005–06.

In 2009–10, the most littered sites were generally industrial sites, car parks and highways. Retail sites had high numbers of litter items, but lower volume. These findings are similar to earlier years and consistent with litter in other jurisdictions. Cigarette butts continue to be the most littered item in NSW at 46 per cent of all items littered. Plastic litter was the largest contributor to the volume of litter at 3.00 litres per 1,000m² followed closely by paper/paperboard objects at 2.72 litres per 1,000m².

Compared to other states and territories, NSW is below the national average for litter. When normalised to reflect population density, NSW is the second best performing of all the states and territories in terms of the number of items littered and third in terms of volume of items littered. However, the recent apparent upward trend needs to be addressed and reversed particularly at sites with the greatest impact.

The NSW government continues to undertake and support anti-litter activities at state and local government levels. For example, 14,055 penalty infringement notices (PINs) were issued for littering in the two year period 2007–09 compared to 13,583 in years 2005–07. NSW is also involved in national work to investigate additional national measures to reduce the impacts of packaging litter.

According to the *National Litter Index*, the volume of illegal dumping reported in NSW is falling. In 2009–10, the average illegal dumping volume was 5.47 litres per 1,000m², down from 5.58 in 2008–09 and 7.15 litres in 2006–07. Action to tackle illegal dumping has been increasing. The number of illegal dumping investigations by the Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squads has grown from 1,540 in 2006–07 to 3,479 in 2009–10. (PINs) issued in this period have increased from 459 to 583 and clean up notices issued have also increased from 35 (2006–07) to 154 (2009–10). DECCW has an active waste enforcement program across the State with DECCW compliance officers undertaking more than 1,000 waste enforcement inspections in 2008–09.

3 Key NSW policies and programs supporting the WARR Strategy

A wide range of DECCW policies and programs have supported progress towards the WARR strategy objectives. These programs are delivered by working with households, councils, businesses and within Government departments to improve waste practices and to promote more sustainable behaviours. Details are provided in Appendix D.

Major policies and programs include:

- Providing a clear regulatory gateway for resource recovery;
- Growing markets for recovered resources;
- Support for councils, regional waste groups, aboriginal communities, Regional Illegal Dumping squad;
- Household chemical collection programs;
- Sustainability Advantage initiatives;
- Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.

It is also intended that the levy will provide an increasingly strong incentive for both waste avoidance and resource recovery as the future levy increases are legislated and known to councils and industry. The extent of that incentive is apparent by the fact that levy rates for waste disposal are legislated to increase from 2008–09 to 2015–16 by about \$74, \$80 and \$70 per tonne in 2010 dollars in the SMA, ERA and RRA respectively, to reach about \$120 per tonne in the SMA and ERA and \$70 per tonne in the RRA.

4 Future Opportunities

Good progress has been made at the 2008–09 half-way point towards the 2014 targets. However, greater efforts will be needed to ensure efficient and effective systems are maintained and extended. The following challenges have been identified for the future:

Resource Recovery

The challenge for resource recovery will be to increase the effectiveness of existing systems and build new systems for recovering materials that are currently experiencing low recovery rates. In the municipal sector, there is a need to improve the effectiveness of existing recovery systems for dry recyclables and to substantially expand food and garden organics recovery in those councils that are not currently recovering these materials.

Effective and efficient systems are already working in some NSW councils, for example, average dry recyclables recovery rates in NSW councils range from 43% to close to 90% in the best performing councils. Food waste remains the largest untapped material stream in many councils, making up close to 40% of the domestic (household) waste stream or over 900,000 tonnes of material going to landfill. Garden organics make up a further 11%. Approximately three quarters of the residual domestic waste stream is biodegradable material (largely food, garden, paper, cardboard waste) that could be recycled but is currently landfilled, where it contributes to climate change.

For commercial and industrial waste, more resource recovery gains can be made through the improved recovery of paper and cardboard and by building efficient and effective systems targeting the remaining three major materials in the C&I waste stream: plastics (particularly film, which makes up close to half of the plastics stream), food and timber (particularly pallets that make up close to half of the timber stream). Together with paper and cardboard, these materials make up close to 60% of the C&I waste stream going to landfill, or almost 1.5 million tonnes of material.

For construction and demolition waste, recovery in Sydney already comfortably exceeds the 2014 target. However, in the rest of the State, recovery of C&D materials has not kept pace with C&D waste generation and C&D recovery rates have lagged. Further work is needed to boost recovery in these areas.

Waste Prevention and Avoidance

The increasing levy should continue to encourage the NSW community to prevent and avoid waste. Further work is needed on avoiding generation of unnecessary waste, such as improving packaging design and, through the Love Food Hate Waste Program, to reduce the \$2.5 billion in food that NSW households purchase and then discard uneaten.

Toxicity

To drive further improvements in reducing toxicity in the waste stream, further action at the national level is needed, particularly the implementation of the long awaited national product stewardship scheme for televisions and computers, as well as the take up of additional priority products onto the national agenda, such as paint and batteries. Additional gains can also be made by building on the success of the Household Chemical CleanOut program to increase community access to drop off points. Opportunities will be sought to coordinate these two approaches with national product stewardship programs being established for high volume low toxicity materials like paints and batteries combining with improved access to collection points.

Litter and Illegal Dumping

Renewed effort is required to reduce littering, including collaboration between state agencies and local governments on improved anti-litter education, infrastructure and enforcement, and continuing work on further national measures to reduce packaging litter.

For illegal dumping, the challenge will be to continue to reduce illegal dumping. This will come through continued strong enforcement activities and through continued cooperation and support for RID squads and clean up activities, such as the Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up Program (ALCUP).

