



WARR Act Review  
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## **Review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007**

It is timely that the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 is the subject of a review. Although it is set to be periodically reviewed every 5 years, it is now already 3 years overdue. Perhaps the Act should be reviewed in a timely manner and not stipulated at 5 years, i.e. as the situation requires.

Since the WARR Act created the Waste Authority in 2008 as an agent of the State, it has various advisory functions including strategic policy and planning. The progress of such functions has been at a snail like pace.

My comments are as follows:

1. Bins – There should be one system for the Metropolitan Region. Local Government councils have bins for different types of waste. Some Local Government Councils do not have bulk bins and have verge collections. Waste Management education and non-contamination of green-waste and recyclables are critical for a successful system. To improve the education of waste management and source separation it would be beneficial to have the one system covering the whole metropolitan area. In Belmont, ratepayers have two bins: one for household waste and one for re-cycling. They are also entitled to four bulk bins per annum, which is a choice of household waste or green-waste. Stirling had a one-bin system which cross-contaminated all waste and provided no education on source separation. Even after manual and mechanical separation the waste went to landfill. Bayswater has a three bin system, however generally there are limitations on space for more than two bins. As a basic requirement to improve the source separation of waste, the same bin system should apply to all metropolitan waste. I support the current trial of the 3 bin system and request more funding into this area.

2. Landfill sites – Should more landfill sites be required, land use planning for future land fill sites should be carried out as a priority. Whether the land is owned by private industry or Local Government there should be certainty in land fill use as an industrial zone. The opposition against the York land fill site is an example of poor implementation of strategic planning. All land fill sites in WA should be lined and the owner must give financial guarantees for the site to be rehabilitated after closure.
3. Collections – The collection of waste can be carried out directly by Local Government, as in the City of Swan, or by a private contractor, as in the City of Belmont who utilise Cleanaway. This part of the process currently works well and should be maintained. However, there should be no verge side collection. This does not create source separation responsibility.
4. Timing – There should be a minimum standard level of service for all council collections. The timing of waste collection should be the same. For example, re-cycling bin emptied weekly in Cockburn and fortnightly in Belmont. This would increase the collection of recyclables and reduce contamination. Many fill their bin weekly and then put their re-cycling into the household waste bin causing contamination of re-cyclables.
5. Processing of waste – Currently waste is sorted, collected and processed in different ways. The waste levy should apply to all Western Australian households where a bin service is provided. All landfill sites should be lined to prevent ground water contamination. To reduce the levels of waste, education of source separation and contamination of waste would be more effective if the same message applied to all bin users.
6. Education – Currently the metropolitan area has a range of methods of collection, therefore the education of waste avoidance is confusing. With all local authorities on the same system, education would be less confusing and easier to understand. More should be done from the Waste Levy to educate Western Australians about waste.
7. Waste Levy – The Waste Levy should apply to all regional centres (including Peel) that provide a pick-up service from the home.
8. Clinical Waste – A significant proportion of sharps waste (needles, scissors, scalpels) that is being sent to processors for destruction contain residual pharmaceuticals. It is

WA State policy that all pharmaceuticals must be incinerated, and yet sharps may legally be processed through an autoclave in Western Australia. All sharps containing pharmaceuticals must be sent to incineration and not sent to landfill.

9. Regional Councils – There should be 3 Regional Councils to management the waste industry in the metropolitan area. A comparison of the structure of each of the current 5 Regional Councils should be undertaken. I understand this model is supported by the Forum of Regional Councils (FORC).
10. Within the proposed three Regional Council areas a depot should be provided for a drop off area for household items such as lounge suites and good second hand material. Different types of waste management and processing technologies should be encouraged and financed by the State Government.

I look forward to the final report and the implementation of many of the suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenys Godfrey". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle name.

Glenys Godfrey MLA  
**MEMBER FOR BELMONT**