



## Waste

Proper waste management is a matter of social, environmental and economic urgency. Tasmania is currently borrowing from the lifestyle of future generations to pay for the profligacy of today, due, in part, to the historical failure of successive Governments to ensure an adequate revenue stream to properly manage waste.

Consequently, Tasmania has an appalling record of solid and liquid waste management. Our diversion rates for solid waste are half the national average, and compare very poorly with international best practice. Sewage spills are regular occurrences, with many going unreported as monitoring levels at sewage treatment plants by the Environment Department are unsatisfactory.

The Greens believe that the recovery and recycling sectors offer massive economic and social opportunities for Tasmania in the form of investment in new recycling processes, and regional employment growth

The Greens believe that those responsible for the generation of waste should be responsible for its management by ensuring that true costs of waste management are met by those sectors of society which are responsible for creating the waste. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) when mandated will keep products and materials out of the waste stream and reduce their environmental impact.

### **Specific measures the Greens will take:**

**State Waste Strategy:** introduce a state strategy to improve the recovery, recycling, transport, handling, use, storage and disposal of waste products

**Extended Producer Responsibility:** legislate to mandate full EPR in Tasmania after discussion with stakeholders regarding an appropriate model; ensure that EPR involves waste producers taking full responsibility for the environmental impact of their products from design to the post-consumer stage

**State Waste Levy:** initiate, immediately, a statewide waste levy as a first step to a complete EPR system so that local ratepayers do not subsidise the true costs of landfill out of the general rate base; create a State Waste Fund, quarantined from consolidated revenue, which supports research into waste management, attracts investment into resource recovery and recycling industries, and assists local governments with diversion and landfill management

**Better Sewage Management:** legislate to increase the fines for illegally dumping chemicals in sewerage and stormwater systems; increase monitoring and increase maximum fines for sewage spills to provide a financial incentive for Local Governments to upgrade infrastructure

**Litter:** increase penalties for littering and increase monitoring

**Container Deposit Levy (CDL):** introduce deposit legislation for Tasmania which alters community behaviour by attributing a value to resources currently regarded as valueless waste;



ensure that deposit legislation puts the financial onus for resource recovery on those who produce the waste, rather than on local ratepayers

**Contaminated Sites:** audit all past and present landfill sites in Tasmania prior to establishing a register of contaminated sites in Tasmania; make public access to this register a matter of urgency

**Education:** establish educational programs to inform the whole community about all areas of waste management and the necessity for positive community involvement; introduce schemes where the diversion from the solid waste stream, and sorting of items into classification, occurs at the source of the waste, principally households and businesses

**Resource Recovery:** mandate that resource recovery and recycling facilities be a feature of all landfill sites; ensure that such facilities, whilst self funded, be paid a management fee based on materials recovered, providing extra space in landfill; fund such a scheme by a revenue stream initially sourced from a statewide waste levy

**Government:** initiate a Whole-of-Government Strategy to ensure that preference is given to recycled products whenever purchasing contracts are negotiated; introduce mandatory recycling of waste paper from Government departments and other large institutional users of paper

**Hazardous waste:** implement more stringent standards for the storing, handling and disposal of hazardous waste; legislate against the importation, use or storage of highly toxic substances, including nuclear waste

**Plastic Bags:** introduce a consumer levy on plastic carry bags as a means of discouraging wasteful plastic packaging, with monies raised to flow into the State Waste Fund; encourage schemes for the recycling of used plastic bags; support a ban on plastic shopping bags as part of a national approach

**For more information about this policy contact:**

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**This policy complements other Tasmanian Greens policies:**

[www.tas.greens.org.au/policy](http://www.tas.greens.org.au/policy)