

An aerial photograph of a wide river valley. In the foreground, there are green fields and some buildings. The river flows through the middle ground. In the far distance, a city skyline is visible under a clear sky. A large blue circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Update: Council of Mayors (SEQ) Waste Working Group

SEQ Waste Management Plan
– A Journey of Shared Vision

WARRQ Conference – 20-21 October 2021



Council of Mayors

South East Queensland

Today's presentation

- **Overview of the process and objectives**
- **Core insights from the evidence base**
- **Challenges**

Who is the Council of Mayors (South East Queensland)

OUR MISSION *to consistently deliver better regional funding, policy and collaborative outcomes for the communities of South East Queensland.*

Australia's largest regional advocacy organisation

- Representing over 3 million residents across 10 Councils in SEQ (one in seven Australians)

One region, one voice

- Using the collective influence of our Councils to shape positive government policy and funding outcomes for SEQ

Region-shaping projects

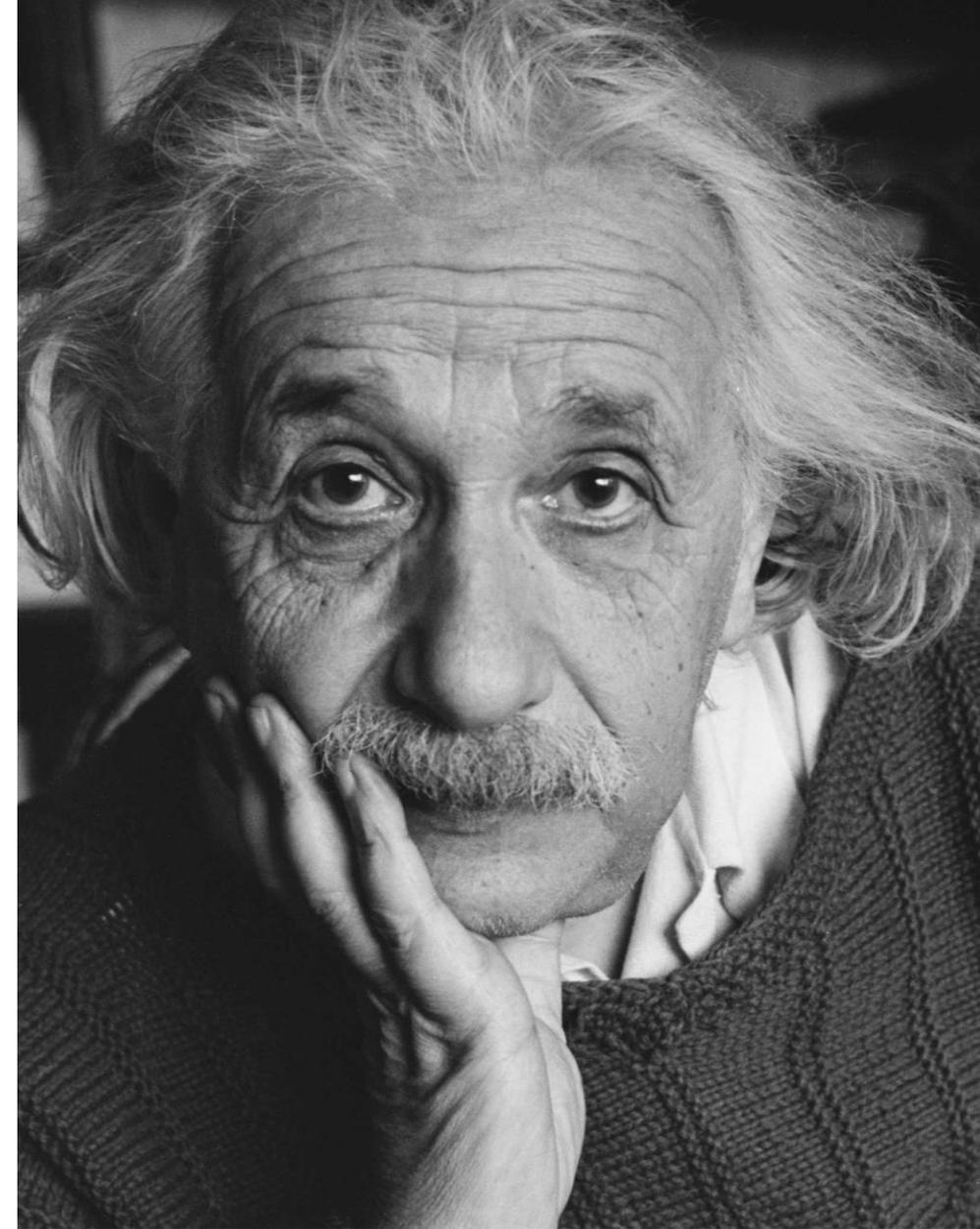
- Working together to explore and deliver solutions to SEQ's challenges and opportunities (Brisbane 2032 Olympics & Paralympics, Waste/Resource Recovery etc)



A few informing truisms

“Problems cannot be solved with the same mindset that created them.” **Albert Einstein**

- Municipal Solid Waste is a household problem.
- Without change in mindset and accountability by households, change from “waste” to “resource recovery” will be a slow and difficult process.
- Our younger generations are generally showing strong interest and buy-in to this challenge.
- It is not Leadership if you are focussed on the political cycle rather than the foundations of the future.
- Solutions not driven by data will usually fail.



The CoM(SEQ) Waste Working Group

- An initiative led by the Council of Mayors (SEQ) Board
- Working Group is made up of elected councillors and Council SMEs
- Supported by involvement from State officers from QTC and the Department of Environment and Science
- Program of work facilitated by McKinsey & Co.
- Data driven dialogue based on an agreed fact base
- Respect for individual Council circumstances
- Intent – best outcome for our communities and environment

It's time for action!

Operating environment is driving alignment across all tiers of government.

Key drivers for regional collaboration:



Current levy rebate arrangements expire June 2022:

- Negotiations with State progressing around agreed fact base, principles and desired outcomes
- DES showing leadership and keen to support a transition and collaborate on options/solutions



City Deal imminent:

- Waste likely to be a key component and CoMSEQ wants coordination with the plan
- Opportunity for alignment across three levels of government – all levers pulled



SEQ plan provides a pathway forward

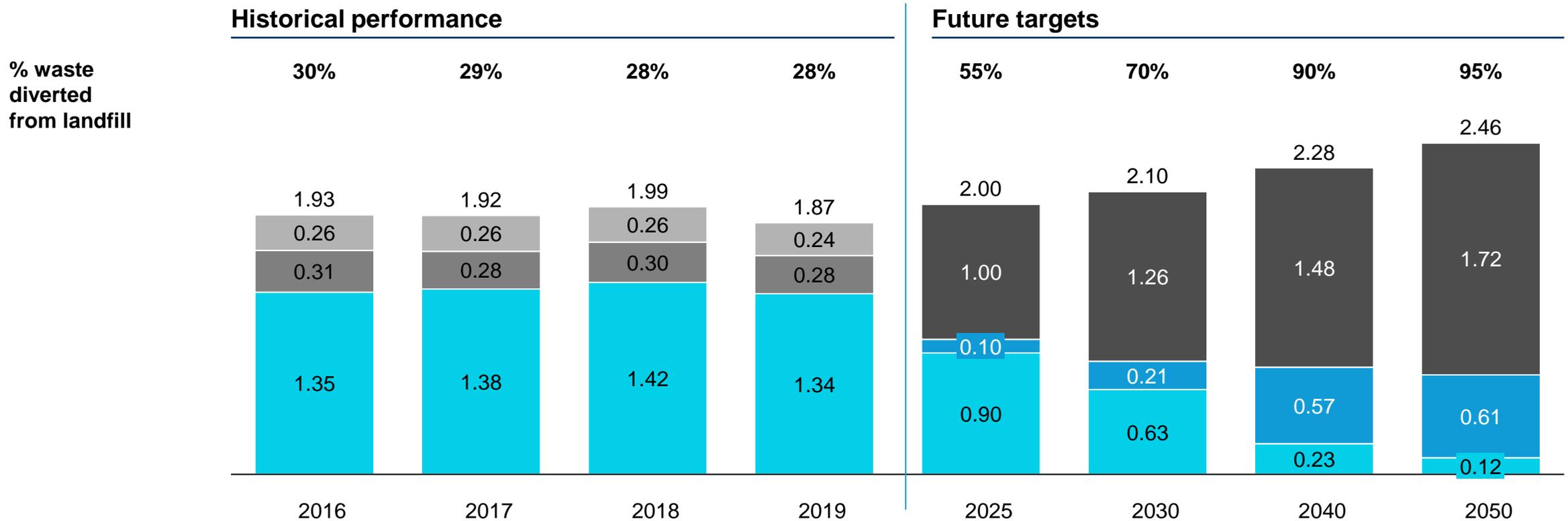
- Key issues have been identified (eg, behaviour change required to get the right things in bins and some councils are close to decisions on FOGO and infrastructure investment)
- Provides prioritisation and rationale for order of initiatives and where councils need to collaborate (and where they don't)
- Provides an overall solution that protects ratepayers, meets recovery targets, considers opportunities for economic development and employment, creates orderly change and considers variable nature of CoMSEQ councils eg, landfill capacity, contract terms, desire for short term change (FOGO, MRF, EfW)

A SEQ Waste Management Plan



Landfill diversion targets defined by the State Government represent a significant shift from SEQ's current state and trajectory

SEQ municipal solid waste generation and diversion from landfill (million tonnes)



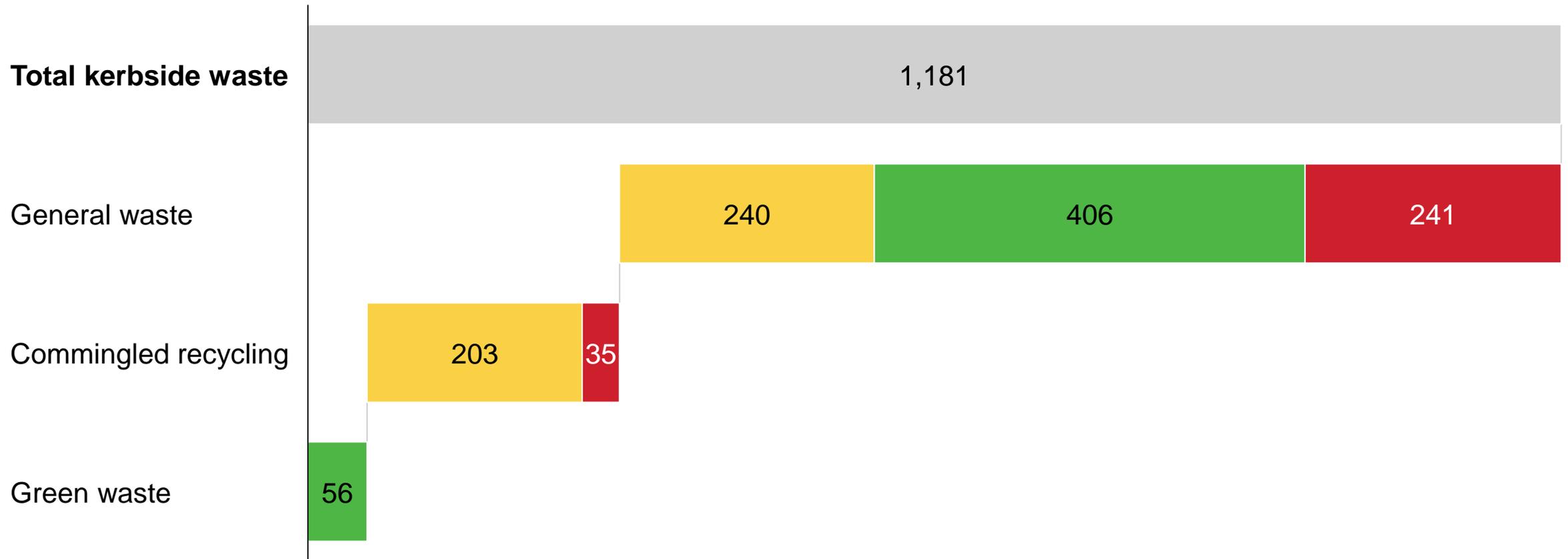
- Reused or recycled - Comingled Recycling
- Landfill
- Energy from Waste
- Reused or recycled - Green Waste
- Reused or recycled

Note 1. Excludes flows from MRFs to landfill from contamination in yellow bin. Includes municipal self-haul and collections from public places. Source: DES Local Government Survey, Queensland Waste Strategy targets, Arup target modelling using ABS medium population growth scenario

This challenge requires action across three core waste streams: general waste, co-mingled recycling, and organic waste

Municipal waste generated in SEQ by type, 2018-19, Kilo-tonnes

Recycling Organic waste Residual



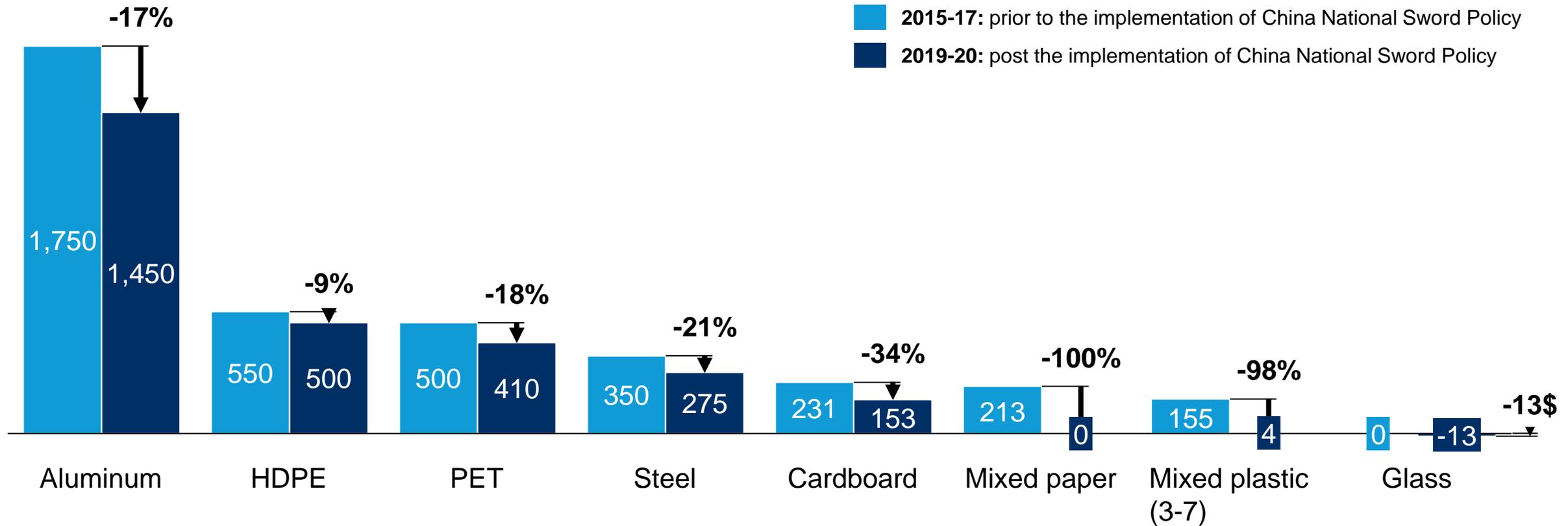
1. Waste generated adjusted down from workshop 1 (1.87mt vs. 1.80mt) post exclusion of 'MSW from other councils'

2. Self-haul recovery rate highly variable between councils, and is not possible to be inferred accurately from available DES survey data. Councils have suggested 15-70%

Source: DES local government waste survey, 18-19, 13 sets of SEQ compositional waste audits (>25k bins). The data used in this chart is subject to several data limitations including survey methodology (self-reported by councils), sub-optimal equipment (no weighbridges) in some locations, and variable methods and definitions in measuring waste

Post China Sword, recyclable commodity prices went to near zero or negative for mixed paper, mixed plastic and glass

Recyclable commodity prices, 2015-2017 and 2019-2020
\$/tonne



1. Mixed paper, mixed plastic and glass remain the largest reductions if either the minimum or maximum values are used instead

Source: Sustainability Victoria Recovered resources market bulletin July 2020, March 2019, Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (Market Impact Assessment Report: Chinese Import Restrictions for Packaging in Australia), Parliament of Australia (Key challenges and opportunities for Australia's recycling effort, VISY submission to APH paper).

Challenges – high level overview



Comingled recycling

- Low commodity prices compared to historic levels in wake of China National Sword Policy
- Highly concentrated MRF and under-developed local secondary markets
- Lackluster home-sorting behaviours compared to other states
- High priority for short to medium term action



Organics

- Low green bin penetration starting point for most councils means adding an additional costly extra collection - not economically rational to switch
- Complex behaviour change ask for rate payers in homes
- High priority for short to medium term action



Residual

- Some councils are running out of landfill soon, others have plentiful airspace
- No easy alternative to landfill – planning timeframes, community acceptance & State EFW Policy requirements to demonstrate true residual waste
- Low priority for longer term action

Where to from here?

- ✓ Education, Education, Education!
- ✓ Share learnings (e.g. current FOGO trials)
- ✓ Develop solutions based on an agreed fact base
- ✓ Strength in tailored collaboration. One size or style may never fit all, but we all need answers.
- ✓ Best value for our communities will always be a driver in our thinking

Don't lose sight of the goal in the cut and thrust of the journey

Brave Leadership and Courageous Cultures are what it takes to deliver transformation. (Brene Brown)

Questions?