The Hon Roger Cook MLA

Premier of Western Australia

13th Floor Dumas House

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12 November 2026

Dear Premier

Urgent action required: protect WA's energy-from-waste investment and deliver overdue waste and resource recovery reforms

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) is the national peak body representing the entire waste and resource recovery supply chain. We seek your urgent intervention to address policy and regulatory delays that are undermining the investment environment for Western Australia's resource recovery industry, and in particular energy-from-waste (EfW) facilities.

In accord with the waste management hierarchy, WMRR supports and integrated system where prevention, reuse and recycling comes first, followed by energy recovery from suitable residual waste and safe disposal of what remains- recognising that all products at some stage reach end of life. A reliable system needs all these facilities and services, with clear and consistent policy settings that support the hierarchy.

As you are aware, significant capital has been invested in both the Kwinana and East Rockingham EfW facilities to provide alternatives to landfill for residual waste, recover energy and materials, and support skilled employment. WMRR is concerned that these facilities face increasing financial pressure, compounded by the absence of a timely, substantive review of levy settings and a workable resource recovery pathway for incinerator bottom ash aggregate (IBAA). WA encouraged investment in this infrastructure. Government must now deliver the settings needed for that investment to achieve the outcomes the State sought. As such WMRR requests-

1. Completion of the levy review and make recovery commercially viable

We acknowledge the increase in levy in July 2024 and the published five-year schedule. However, small adjustments do not keep up with inflation, definitely do not keep up with the increasing costs of construction and fail to provide an effective incentive to move suitable material from landfill into resource recovery and support the recovery infrastructure WA has encouraged industry to build. This statement is supported by the latest data published by the Waste Authority showing recycling rates decreasing by 3% in the 2024/25 data report.

Government must now implement levy settings that reflect the waste management hierarchy, recognise the environmental costs of landfill and provide a predictable incentive for recovery. This must include clear, appropriate treatment of processing residues and an accelerated pathway for the lawful use of IBAA, in order that recoverable material is not unnecessarily landfilled at additional cost. These reforms are already consistent with Infrastructure WA's Recommendation 54, which the Government supported in February 2023. Industry needs decisions and a clear implementation timetable, rather than another lengthy review.

WMRR appreciates the ongoing concerns of cost of living, however the reality is that levy increases are only paid if material goes to landfill, and with all bar three (3) metropolitan councils residual waste contracted to EfW, levy increases can be insulated.

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2. Accelerate a lawful pathway to use IBAA

EfW's contribution extends beyond electricity generation. After appropriate treatment and metal recovery, bottom ash can provide aggregate for suitable construction applications, subject to demonstrated environmental and engineering performance. Without a clear pathway to lawful use in WA, recovered aggregate risks being directed to landfill rather than replacing virgin material. This adds disposal costs, reduces recovery outcomes and weakens project economics.

The Waste Authority's December 2025 update identified 2027 as the target for implementing the Resource Recovery Framework. That timetable does not address the immediate needs of facilities in which investment has already occurred and industry has seen little to no progress in this area for almost 12 months. WMRR asks that IBAA be urgently prioritised, with published assessment requirements, contaminant and leaching criteria, permitted uses, quality assurance and decision timeframes. DWER, Main Roads WA and other public infrastructure agencies must work together on both regulatory acceptance and fit-for-purpose specifications. Government procurement should provide a market for compliant material.

3. Treat Tamala Park as a call for coordinated transition

Mindarie Regional Council's statement of 20 July 2026 confirms that Tamala Park is approaching its predicted 2028/29 closure and needs environmental protection works to support completion and rehabilitation. Reducing the volume of suitable residual waste buried can reduce future methane generation, leachate burdens and demand for landfill capacity. The Mindarie community is bearing the impact of Tamala Parks leachate management issues however the two (2) EfW plants have sufficient capacity to assist with this closure.

WA has supported investment into EfW and is now in the enviable position of having two (2) operating facilities. The State must coordinate the transition from landfill around evidence, available capacity and whole-of-life costs. Existing EfW recovery infrastructure should be assessed as part of the solution before WA becomes more dependent on replacement landfill capacity.

4. Release the revised strategy and commit to delivery

The Waste Authority approved the final draft *Beyond WAste 2030 Strategy and Roadmap* on 31 March 2026, anticipating release in mid-2026. Its July 2026 update stated that the documents remained under Government consideration. WMRR respectively requests confirmation when the revised strategy and roadmap will be released, and what is delaying approval. Industry needs funded actions, responsible agencies and binding delivery milestones for levy reform, resource recovery approvals, market development and residual-waste infrastructure.

WA has an opportunity to demonstrate how recycling, organics processing and EfW can work together to reduce landfill dependence. Allowing policy delays to weaken infrastructure already built would undermine both that opportunity and confidence in future investment. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you directly and work with your government to resolve these issues urgently.

Yours sincerely



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