Mr Michael Court
Acting Under Treasurer
Department of Treasury and Finance
Albert Facey House
469 Wellington Street, PERTH WA 6000
Submission by email: ProcurementAdvice@dtf.wa.gov.au

3 November 2026

Dear Mr Court

Re: Review of the Procurement Act 2020

The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the statutory review of the *Procurement Act* 2020. As the national peak body representing Australia's $20 billion waste and resource recovery (WARR) sector, WMRR has more than 2,300 members from nearly 400 entities nationwide, representing the breadth and depth of the sector, including representation from business organisations, the three (3) tiers of government, universities, and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), including research bodies. WMRR represents more than 180 individual members from over 35 organisations across Western Australia. Based on the most recent available economic assessment, the waste and resource recovery sector contributes $724 million to the Western Australian economy annually and employs more than 5,070 people.

The waste and resource recovery (WARR) sector in WA provides valuable inputs for local manufacturing and should be considered a core part of "Made in WA" – supported by government purchasing commitments that create reliable demand for locally recovered materials. Consequently, in WMRR's view, this review of the operation and effectiveness of the *Procurement Act* 2020 should result in locally recycled content receiving clear and practical support under *General Procurement Direction 2025/15*, alongside the establishment of mandatory purchasing requirements and transparent reporting. In particular, "Made in WA" should be utilised as an important policy vehicle to drive commercial success of WA's recovered materials industries by supporting products made using resources recovered in WA —creating local jobs, retaining material value and giving businesses the confidence to invest.

WMRR makes the following comments for the Department's consideration

i. *Recognise WARR as a supplier of inputs to WA manufacturing and connect "Made in WA" with materials actually recovered in WA*

WMRR notes that one of the objects of the Act is "*to provide a legislative scheme that is responsive to changing community expectations and that supports innovation in the Western Australian economy".*

There are a number of local WA players within the sector who are supplying locally manufactured products incorporating recycled content, meeting procurement policy requirements and are able to offer competitive pricing. These include businesses that innovate and transform recovered materials

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into usable inputs and finished products as contributors to local manufacturing, such as recycled aggregates, glass, plastics, rubber, and compost. However, insufficient uptake through local government and commercial procurement has undermined their long-term viability.

The WARR sector is an essential part of WA's manufacturing supply chain – it recovers and processes materials that can replace virgin resources and become inputs into new products, construction materials and soil improvement products. WA's circular economy depends on those materials being purchased and used in place of virgin and imported materials. Increasing collection and processing without developing viable end markets places further pressure on resource recovery businesses and undermines the commercial foundations of recycling and other innovative recovery technologies.

WMRR recommends that local manufacturing procurement measures under Made in WA explicitly support the use of suitable materials recovered and reprocessed in WA. This should extend to requiring clear evidence of where materials are recovered, processed and manufactured, and their recycled content, in order to award those licensed operators who recover materials from local supply chains - not just process imported materials. A WA supplier's address alone should not demonstrate a contribution to WA recycling or manufacturing, however being licensed to undertake these operations should be.

Government purchasing should help build the complete local supply chain: recovery, reprocessing, manufacturing and use. Assessments of local economic benefit should examine where material inputs originate and where value is added, alongside where the finished product is manufactured. This would encourage WA manufacturers to purchase locally recovered inputs and help retain the economic value of those resources within the State.

Furthermore, the introduction of minimum local recycled content targets in WA manufacturing would provide greater market certainty, stimulate demand for locally recovered resources, and help establish the scale needed to make local recycling and remanufacturing operations commercially viable.

WMRR recommends progressively increasing, category-specific minimum recycled-content requirements for suitable government purchases and publicly funded infrastructure. Requirements should:

- Specify clear percentages and commencement dates, informed by industry capacity and product performance.
- Include explicit objectives for using WA-recovered and reprocessed inputs, implemented consistently with applicable procurement obligations.
- Apply to principal contractors and relevant subcontractors.
- Require evidence of the recycled content actually supplied.
- Allow documented, time-limited exemptions where compliant materials are unavailable or unsuitable.

Priority categories should be identified with industry, including construction materials, road products, plastic products and suitable landscaping applications. A general obligation to consider sustainability provides insufficient certainty for businesses deciding whether to invest in processing or manufacturing capacity.

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ii. Ensure locally recycled content benefits from General Procurement Direction 2025/15

General Procurement Direction 2025/15 allows authorised exemptions from minimum competitive requirements to support WA manufacturing for procurements up to $5 million, subject to its conditions. WMRR specifically requests that the Government ensure products manufactured in WA using locally recovered and reprocessed materials receive the benefit of *General Procurement Direction 2025/15 — Supporting Local Manufacturing,* subject to the Direction's applicable conditions.

Recycled and recovered materials should have a fair opportunity to demonstrate their value against virgin alternatives. Procurement evaluation should consistently assess whole-of-life costs and benefits, including durability, maintenance, repairability, resource consumption, verified emissions performance and end-of-life management. Tender criteria should give meaningful, disclosed weight to these outcomes and to local economic benefits, including employment, manufacturing capability and supply resilience. Carbon benefits should be assessed using consistent evidence and methods, rather than assumed solely because a product contains recycled material.

Moreover, procurement arrangements should provide accessible pathways for small and medium resource recovery businesses and manufacturers, including regional businesses. Measures should include proportionate tender requirements, reusable product assurance documentation, accessible supplier panels and smaller contract packages where appropriate. Major contractors should identify opportunities to use recovered materials and engage relevant WA suppliers early enough to influence project design and purchasing decisions.

WMRR recommends that the WA government:

- undertake a coordinated review of government specifications and standard tender documents to identify requirements that unnecessarily prevent the use of recovered materials. Specifications should focus on the performance, safety and environmental outcomes required. Where recovered materials satisfy those requirements, procurement documents should enable their use. To further facilitate the uptake of recovered materials in WA, government should support common testing and product acceptance processes across agencies. Suppliers should not have to repeatedly establish the suitability of the same product for equivalent applications, adding cost and delaying market access.

- issue clear guidance confirming how the Direction applies to recycled-content products and to the processing of recovered materials into manufacturing inputs and finished products. Suppliers seeking support for recycled-content products should identify the source of recovered inputs, the processing undertaken in WA and the local manufacturing contribution. Supporting these products can create and sustain jobs across collection, sorting, reprocessing, manufacturing and product supply. It would also help address the ongoing commercial pressures facing WARR facilities by improving access to government purchasing opportunities and strengthening demand for their outputs. The benefits should reach through the supply chain.

- revise the procurement direction to establish reporting obligations and clear agency responsibilities. Reporting should distinguish:
    - Materials promised in tenders from materials actually purchased and used.

- Total recycled content from content recovered and reprocessed in WA.
- Local manufacture from local material sourcing.

To ensure that progress is measured and transparent, the WA government should publish annual results covering purchasing volumes, expenditure, compliance and exemptions, including the use of *General Procurement Direction 2025/15* to support eligible recycled-content products.

iii. Provide demand certainty that supports investment by publishing a procurement pipeline

WMRR emphasises that a key objective of this review should be to support dependable commercial markets for recovered and recycled materials to be used within WA supply chains (beyond individual trials or demonstration projects). Resource recovery operators and manufacturers need visibility of future demand to invest in plant, equipment, product development and workers.

WMRR recommends publishing a forward pipeline of likely government demand for priority recycled-content products, including indicative volumes, specifications and purchasing timeframes. Coordinated purchasing and appropriately structured supply contracts should connect WA processors with manufacturers and government buyers. Regional opportunities should reflect available supply, local processing capability and realistic transport distances. Government investment in recovery infrastructure should be accompanied by procurement measures that support demand for its outputs.

WMRR reiterates that local manufacturing alone does not establish recycled content or environmental benefit; both production and demand should be assessed transparently.

Please contact the undersigned if you wish to further discuss WMRR's comments.

Yours sincerely



Gayle Sloan

Chief Executive Officer

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