

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**23 February 2018**

## **VWMA congratulates the Victorian Government's intent to form Recycling Industry Task Force**

Interventions, solutions and action to address the current recycling issue facing Victoria require a collaborative approach and involvement from relevant stakeholders including State and Local Government and industry (transporters, processors, and landfills, small and large operators). VWMA welcomes the opportunity to represent its members on the Recycling Industry Task Force.

The VWMA would advocate that any Government Task Force include fair representation of the waste and resource recovery sector which includes involving waste transports, small and medium operators and not just Victoria's larger players.

The VWMA welcomes the opportunity to represent our significant member base on any proposed Task Force and has been assured by relevant government agencies that we will have a seat at the table.

### **VWMA believes priorities for the government task force should include:**

1. Contractual models for waste and resource recovery
2. Unlocking the Sustainability Fund
3. Stimulating local markets through state and local government procurement
4. Educating the community on the essential nature of the services that are provided
5. Reinforcing the value of recycling to the community and environment

The VWMA hopes the Task Force will be steered by higher order principles that may include factors that support:

- A competitive and diverse resource recovery sector
- Circular economy principles that preference local job creation to overseas exports or landfilling

### **Comments attributable to VWMA Executive Officer Mark Smith:**

*The VWMA looks forward to working with the Victorian Government on the long term approach to how Victoria will manage its waste and recyclable materials*

*The current situation presents us with a number of challenges but also opportunities. We need to consider the Task Force's guiding principles and commitment to sustainable outcomes, local employment opportunities and start to realise the potential for Victoria to more fully embrace circular economy concepts.*

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### **About the Victorian Waste Management Association**

The Victorian Waste Management Association (VWMA) is one of Australia's oldest waste and recycling associations representing Australia's largest membership of waste and resource recovery businesses including collection and transporters, processors, recycling facilities and landfills. For more information on the VWMA please visit: <http://www.vwma.com.au/>

**For further information contact Brian O'Neil on 0411 055 285**

**Previous VWMA media releases can be found here:**

<http://www.vta.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/VWMA-Release-22-Feb-National-Sword.pdf>