

Melbourne Water submission on the draft MWRRIP

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Metropolitan Waste Management and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan.

Melbourne Water is supportive of the proposed implementation plan and the 10 key priority actions to improve recycling, reduce waste to landfill and plan for Melbourne's growth and future sustainability.

There are many opportunities that have been highlighted where Melbourne Water could increase its role in organic waste management and the 10 priority actions support this.

The key priorities that are of interest to Melbourne Water include:

Priority 2- Build the metropolitan organics processing network and maximise the networks productivity by accepting household and commercial food waste.

- Melbourne Water has the ability to process food wastes with the incoming sewage; however the current high levels of contamination of this material with plastics and other non-organic material would make this waste stream unattractive for co-treating at the wastewater treatment plants. Pre-treatment facilities that separate the organics from other contamination would make this waste much more attractive as a resource.

Priority 3- Ensure hubs support industry, while protecting communities and the environment through; defining the role of a hub; promoting best practice; acting on opportunities to co-locate with water utilities.

- Melbourne Water agrees with the need to protect communities and the environment from the potential impacts of waste management practices through the use of best practice technologies and operational practices.
- There are opportunities to consider the co-location of waste assets with water utilities to maximise both waste treatment infrastructure and the value of buffer land, however it will be essential that any of these facilities be well operated so as not to adversely impact the good social licence MW enjoys with its neighbourhood communities.

Priority 5- Support and promote small on-site organic processing infrastructure.

- There are opportunities to work closely with the wastewater treatment plant operators to determine the best whole of community solution for organic waste management. As industry and the community changes the opportunity to manage waste in non-traditional ways increases. Melbourne Water would like to work collaboratively with the MWRRG when considering such initiatives.

Priority 7- Establish relationships between commercial food waste generators and organic processors.

- To maximise the opportunity to collocate waste management infrastructure and ensure maximisation of community assets for waste treatment and resource recovery, Melbourne Water will require a greater level of certainty around waste types and volumes that would be available to be treated with sewage. To achieve this we would welcome the opportunity to develop trusted relationships with commercial food waste generators to enable infrastructure to be planned and built to meet the objectives of this plan. Currently there is limited information available that can be used to plan and obtain approval for large infrastructure that could be required for organic waste treatment and resource recovery with any certainty. The ability to form and build relationships with waste generators will allow Melbourne Water as a potential waste treater to better understand the nature of the waste and the opportunities that this offers both the waste generator and the broader community.

Priority 9- Community and stakeholders are engaged in waste and resource recovery decision making

- Melbourne Water supports the need to work closely with key stakeholders in developing waste and resource recovery options

We would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group as part of the implementation of the draft plan.

If you have any further questions please contact David Hardy; Team Leader Valued Resources, Integrated Planning on