

# Roles and responsibilities in waste management and recycling

Working together for a reliable and resilient waste and recycling sector

*For a sustainable and thriving circular economy*

The Victorian Government is investing more than \$515 million to transform the state's waste and recycling systems, this includes \$380 million to deliver its circular economy plan, [\*Recycling Victoria: A new economy \(Feb 2020\)\*](#) for a cleaner, greener Victoria with less waste and pollution, more jobs and a thriving circular economy.

Central to the reform of the waste and recycling sector is ensuring that there is clarity about the specific roles and responsibilities of each of the Victorian Government agencies that engage with the sector and how they will support the transition to a thriving circular economy.

Victoria's **Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021**, passed by Parliament in December 2021 underpins Victoria's transition to a circular economy. It establishes Recycling Victoria as a statewide regulator that will provide strategic leadership, oversight and regulation of the waste and recycling sector.

Recycling Victoria, Sustainability Victoria, Environment

Protection Authority (EPA) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will each have specific, complementary roles to deliver the government's circular economy plan.

They will work together to share information, deliver a coordinated and evidence-led approach to managing risks in the sector and deliver a circular economy for Victoria.



## RECYCLING VICTORIA

Providing waste and recycling leadership

### Legislation

*The Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*

### Role in the waste and recycling sector

Recycling Victoria will provide strategic oversight of the waste and recycling sector and provide statewide leadership, product stewardship, regulatory and market oversight functions. Recycling Victoria will also lead in data collection for the sector and sharing this information with EPA, Sustainability Victoria and DELWP.

Recycling Victoria will have a strong regional focus and presence across the state to work towards improving the stability and performance of the waste and recycling market and to facilitate the growth of Victoria's circular economy.

### Responsibilities in relation to the waste and recycling sector

- providing leadership, stewardship and oversight of the new container deposit scheme which is established under the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*
- developing and implementing strategies and plans to foster sustainable, resilient and effective markets within a circular economy
- conducting inquiries into the sector to understand market issues
- collecting, analysing and reporting on data about the waste and recycling sector
- overseeing and building capacity for municipal waste and recycling service delivery, including by supporting procurement by local government and Alpine Resort Management Boards
- enforcing service standards in relation to the quality and performance of waste or recycling services
- regulating and enforcing compliance with requirements under the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*.



## SUSTAINABILITY VICTORIA

Facilitating and promoting sustainability

### Legislation

*Sustainability Victoria Act 2005*

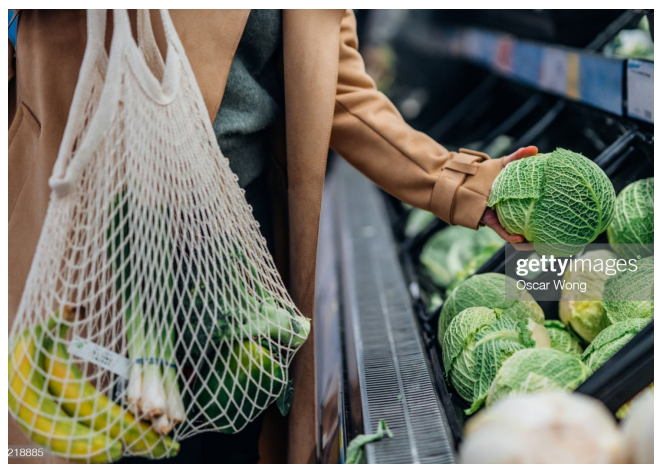
### Role in the waste and recycling sector

Sustainability Victoria promotes environmental sustainability through statewide education and behaviour change programs, industry investment and grants support and delivery of programs such as Resource Smart schools.

Sustainability Victoria will deliver programs to promote and facilitate waste avoidance, waste reduction and recovery, re-use, recycling of resources and best practices in waste management across the state.

### Responsibilities in relation to the waste and recycling sector

- delivering statewide education and behaviour change programs
- supporting industry including through grants funding and investment facilitation
- delivery of sustainability programs such as Resource Smart Schools
- delivering programs to promote statewide waste avoidance, waste reduction and recovery, re-use, recycling of resources and best practices in waste management.



## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

*Preventing harm from waste*

### Legislation

*Environmental Protection Act 2017*

### Role in the waste and recycling sector

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will continue to be responsible for regulating the waste and recycling sector, under environmental legislation and regulation, to minimise risks to human health and the environment from pollution and waste.

EPA also manages the collection of funds, including the waste levy.

### Responsibilities in relation to the waste and recycling sector

- identifying, assessing, monitoring and responding to risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste
- administering permissions relating to waste and resource recovery
- monitoring, supporting and enforcing compliance with environmental and waste duties.
- regulating the transport of waste
- collecting waste levy funds.



## THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING

*Setting statewide policy*

### Legislation

*Various legislative responsibilities*

### Role in the waste and recycling sector

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will continue to remain primarily responsible for developing statewide policy and legislation for the waste and recycling sector, growth of the circular economy, and coordination of the waste portfolio.

DELWP continues to be responsible for working with other state and federal government departments.

### Responsibilities in relation to the waste and recycling sector

- developing and reviewing statewide policy, legislation and regulations
- coordination across the waste portfolio
- program implementation and governance
- oversight of the Sustainability Fund
- working with the Australian Government and other state/territory governments.



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