

## Priority 5\*: Contingency planning and climate resilience

Strengthening the waste sector's planning, adaptability and response to emergency events.

The draft waste strategy (the strategy) sets out the goals, targets and priorities for achieving a sustainable, low-waste future powered by a circular economy where our communities, economies and environment can thrive.

**A circular economy keeps products and materials circulating in the economy for longer, at their highest value, and brings multiple economic, social and environmental benefits.**

The strategy identifies five priorities, all of equal importance, that will inform development of a roadmap which sets out key initiatives and actions to be implemented over the next five years with the aim of achieving the strategy's goals and targets.

### Background

Waste management is critical in emergencies. With climate-driven natural disasters such as floods, fire and cyclones expected to increase, managing the waste generated from these events, as well as recovery efforts, is crucial. Emergency events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and biosecurity events (livestock disease outbreaks) can also generate large amounts of waste.

Waste and recycling infrastructure can also be impacted by fire, machinery breakdowns, maintenance requirements, market failures or financial circumstances. A resilient waste sector will have the capacity to respond efficiently to emergencies and other events. Improved planning at State and Local Government levels, and by the waste sector, will enable waste generated in emergencies and other events to be managed appropriately, reducing the impacts on human health and the environment.

The following table sets out the **current activities** being implemented and proposes **additional 'draft'** actions that could be implemented to support the achievement of this priority and the relevant waste strategy targets. The actions have been included here to help stimulate discussion and brainstorming around actions to include in the roadmap that will make meaningful contribution towards achieving the targets.



\*The draft revised strategy's priorities are equally important. The priority numbering is for reference only.

Our current activities	Actions and ideas to build on in the waste strategy roadmap		
<p><b>Leadership, advocacy, policy, programs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Water and Environmental Regulation representation in the State Emergency Management Committee</li> </ul> <p><b>Data and metrics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing data and advice as needed during emergency response events</li> </ul>	Key initiatives – what we want to achieve	Proposed State Government-led actions	Proposed collaborative actions
	<p><b>5.1 Local government is supported to develop climate resilience and emergency preparedness</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support local governments to plan and prepare for waste management following an emergency or natural disaster.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress SEMC Emergency Waste Management project to better support Hazard Management Agencies, local and state governments/departments for disaster response and recovery.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.2 Improved data and information on emergency waste disposal options</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress a statewide approach to Emergency Waste Management including updates to plans and guidance to aid in disaster response and recovery actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress SEMC Emergency Waste Management project to better support Hazard Management Agencies, local governments, and Government Departments for disaster response and recovery needs.</li> <li>Investigate alternative landfill contingency opportunities between Perth and Peel, as identified in the <i>State waste infrastructure plan</i>.</li> </ul>	



**Discussion questions**

- How well do these draft actions support our priority to strengthen the waste sector’s planning and response to emergencies?
- Are there other actions that will support this priority?