



Australian Government

Department of the Environment,  
Water, Heritage and the Arts



EPHC  
Environment Protection and Heritage Council

# National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

July 2010



National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources Implementation Plan

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## Purpose

This Implementation Plan presents the aims, key directions, priority strategies and roles and responsibilities of governments as outlined in the *National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources* (the National Waste Policy). It sets out the governance arrangements that support the Environment Protection and Heritage Council and notes that government resourcing will be allocated periodically and agreed using the standard Council of Australian Governments cost sharing arrangements. Priority initiatives and key milestones for the first five years of the ten year policy and arrangements for tracking progress and monitoring performance are identified.

Details of the priority commitments, initiatives and key milestones as well as how these will be grouped together to enhance synergies and lead agencies responsible for implementing the National Waste Policy are set out in Appendix A and summarized in Table 1 below.

This plan is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of everything that will be done in Australia toward producing less waste for disposal or managing waste as a resource to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits. It focuses on those strategies and priority initiatives that require a national approach and those that involve collaboration among jurisdictions. Individual jurisdictions will continue to manage waste in line with their strategic objectives and constitutional responsibilities.

It is intended that this implementation plan be a living document that is regularly updated as initiatives are scoped, consultation occurs and details on timing and nature of initiatives are developed, initiatives are completed and new work is agreed.

Table 1. Summary of detailed information presented in Appendix A

<b>Table no.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Comment</b>
2	Timeframe for delivery of Environment Protection and Heritage Commission priorities and commitments	Information is presented in accordance with the six National Waste Policy directions
3	National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones	Outlines next steps & key milestones for each of the 16 National Waste Policy strategies for the period 2010-2015
4	Strategy clusters for implementing the National Waste Policy	Sorts the 16 National Waste Policy strategies into seven groups
5	Lead agencies in each jurisdiction responsible for implementing the National Waste Policy	Provides web addresses for general waste information in each jurisdiction
6	Outcomes of the National Waste Policy	Sets out the high level vision for the National Waste Policy

## **Background**

On 5 November 2009 Australia's environment ministers through the Environment Protection and Heritage Council endorsed the *National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources* (the National Waste Policy). The National Waste Policy aims to avoid the generation of waste; reduce the amount of waste (including hazardous waste) for disposal, manage waste as a resource and ensure that waste treatment, disposal, recovery and re-use is undertaken in a safe, scientific and environmentally-sound manner. In acknowledgement of the potential to achieve wider community objectives, the National Waste Policy also aims to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy conservation, raise water efficiency and enhance productivity of the land.

The National Waste Policy establishes Australia's waste management and resource recovery agenda across six key directions for the period to 2020:

1. Taking responsibility—shared responsibility for reducing the environmental, health and safety footprint of products and materials across the manufacture-supply-consumption chain and at end-of-life.
2. Improving the market—efficient and effective Australian markets operate for waste and recovered resources, with local technology and innovation being sought after internationally.
3. Pursuing sustainability—less waste and improved use of waste to achieve broader environmental, social and economic benefits.
4. Reducing hazard and risk—reduction of potentially hazardous content of wastes with consistent, safe and accountable waste recovery, handling and disposal.
5. Tailoring solutions—increased capacity in regional, remote and Indigenous communities to manage waste and recover and re-use resources.
6. Providing the evidence—access by decision makers to meaningful, accurate and current national waste and resource recovery data and information to measure progress, educate and inform the behaviour and the choices of the community.

Sixteen priority strategies that build on these key directions and give focus to the work of individual jurisdictions are also identified.

This National Waste Policy Implementation Plan was developed jointly by all Australian governments, with input from industry, business and community. It was approved by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council on 5 July 2010.

## **Priorities**

The scale and complexity of tackling Australia's growing waste stream has been recognised by governments in the assignment of a ten-year period for the National Waste Policy. Fulfilling the sixteen strategies will involve a mix of new activity as well as building on existing policies and programs.

There are already a number of clearly articulated priorities in the National Waste Policy and in Environment Protection and Heritage Council agreed communiqués. This Implementation Plan recognises these priorities and commitments (see Table 2). More information on the initiatives for delivering on these commitments including key milestones can be found in Table 3.

Work will commence across all six key directions and sixteen strategies of the National Waste Policy within the first five years. Emerging obligations relating to Australia's international agreements such as the need to reduce the presence of an additional nine persistent organic pollutants are likely to provide focus for future action under the National Waste Policy.

Consistent with these commitments, the primary focus of the first two to three years in implementing the National Waste Policy will be product stewardship. National product stewardship framework legislation will be enacted and the television, computer and tyres industries assisted in their development of product stewardship schemes. Administrative arrangements to support the product stewardship legislation will also be established.

Other key priorities in the first five years include:

- Identifying opportunities where nationally consistent waste (including hazardous waste) classification and data would be beneficial in supporting evidence based decisions;
- supporting agencies to use sustainable procurement principles;
- facilitating development of national standards and/or specifications for re-use of concrete and tyres and reprocessed organics in specific applications;
- developing strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions from landfills and other waste activities;
- establishing an approach to reduce hazardous substances in products and articles;
- monitoring the environment for selected chemicals of concern;
- undertaking an infrastructure audit for selected remote Indigenous communities; and
- publication of the 2013 national waste report.

Initiatives to deliver against these commitments (Table 3) fall into three groups, noting that the pace, scope and number of initiatives under each direction will vary. The first group are agreed initiatives for which work has already commenced. The national product stewardship framework legislation is an example. The second group involves initiatives that need scoping and analytic work to be undertaken before a decision on next steps can be made. For example undertaking a process to assess current waste classifications and identify options where a more consistent national approach would be beneficial. The third group involves initiatives that will be developed or refined over time in light of available evidence, the outcome of community consultation, administrative or legislative processes and jurisdictions' resources. Assessment of approaches best suited to Australia to reduce hazardous substances in products and articles sold in Australia is an example.



## Major milestones

Major milestones for each key direction are presented in Figures 1 to 6. More detailed milestones for each of the 16 National Waste Policy strategies (including the milestones set out in Figures 1 to 6) are presented in Table 3.

Figure 1 – Selected milestones for National Waste Policy ‘Taking Responsibility’ direction

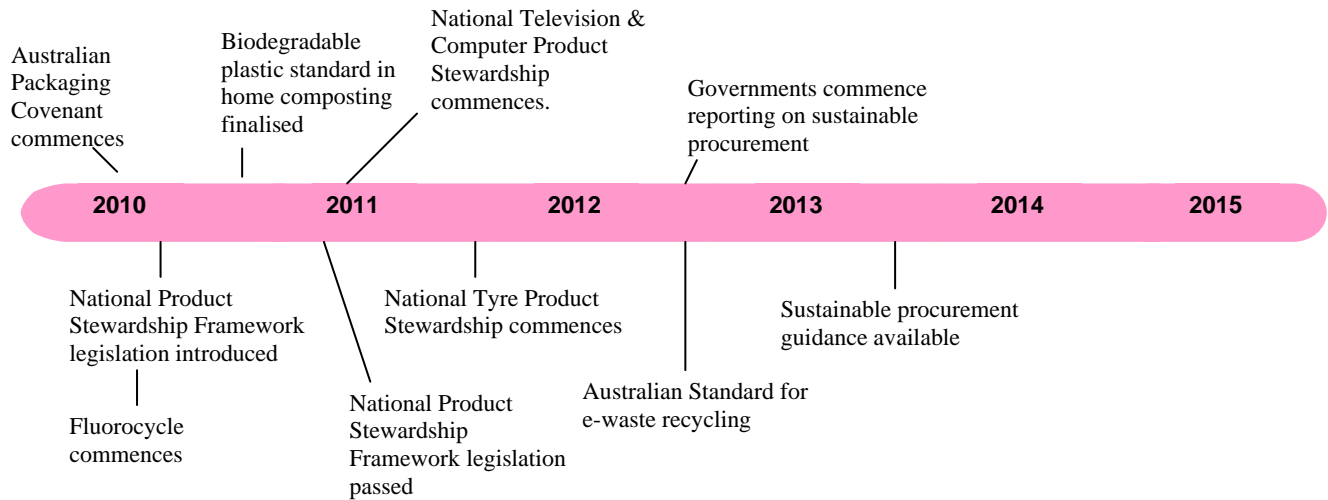


Figure 2 – Selected milestones for National Waste Policy ‘Improving the market’ direction

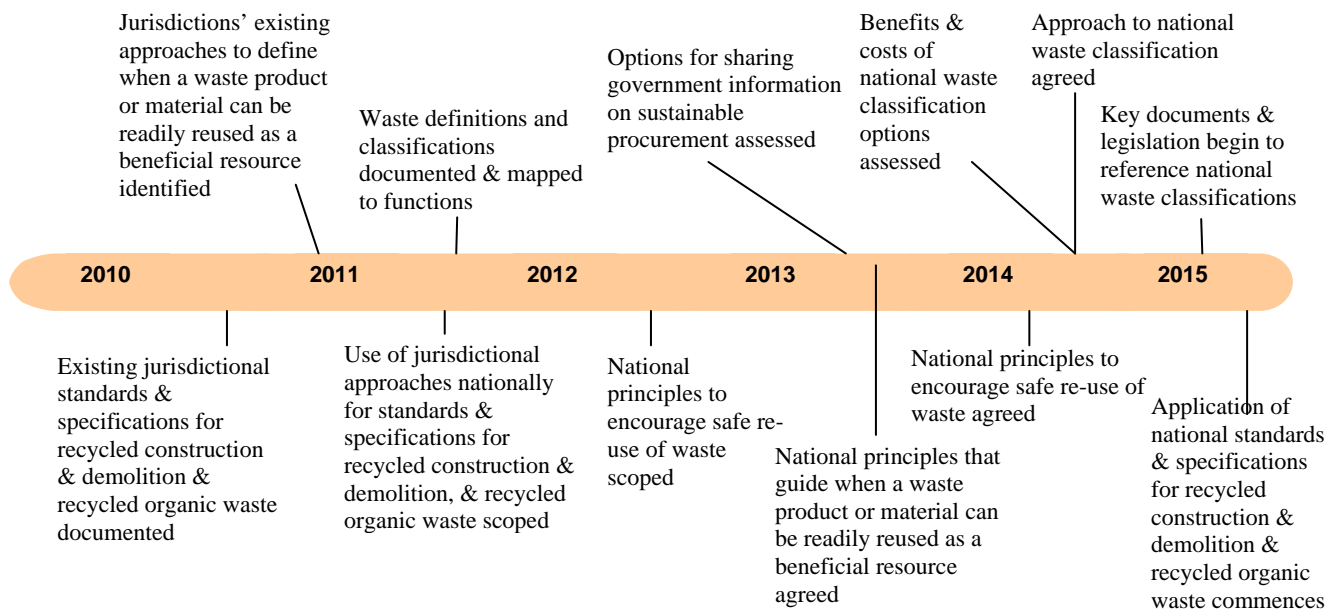


Figure 3 – Selected milestones for National Waste Policy ‘Pursuing sustainability’ direction

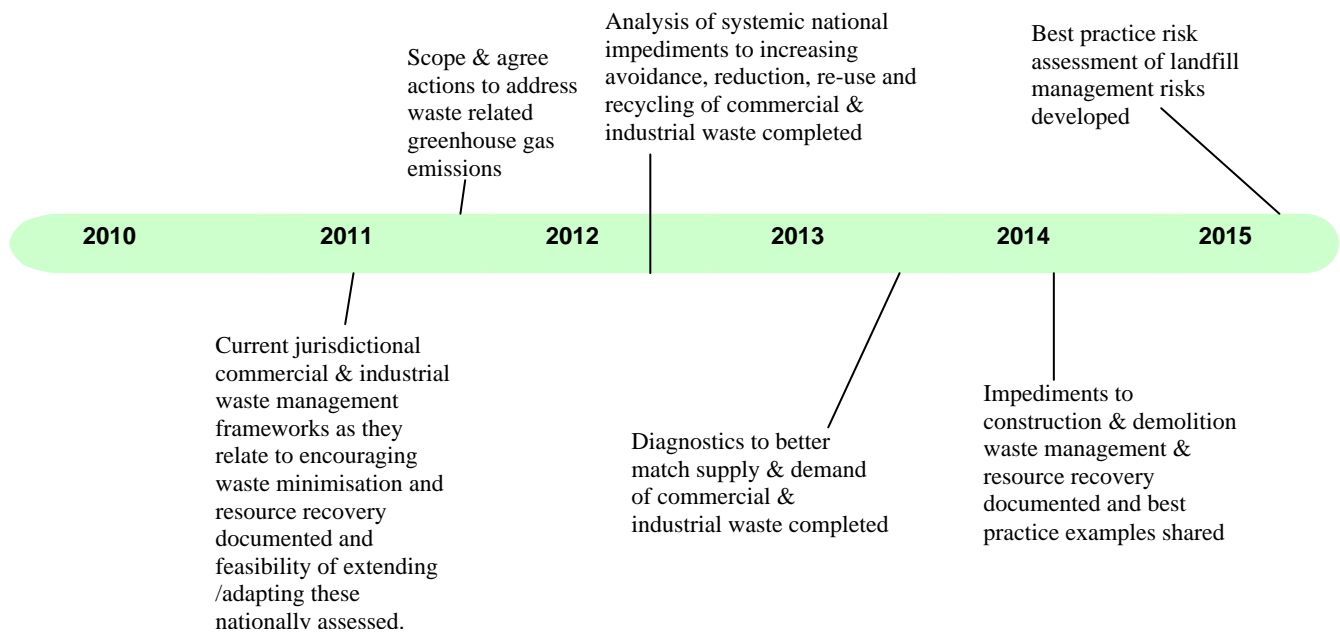


Figure 4 – Selected milestones for National Waste Policy ‘Reducing hazard & risk’ direction

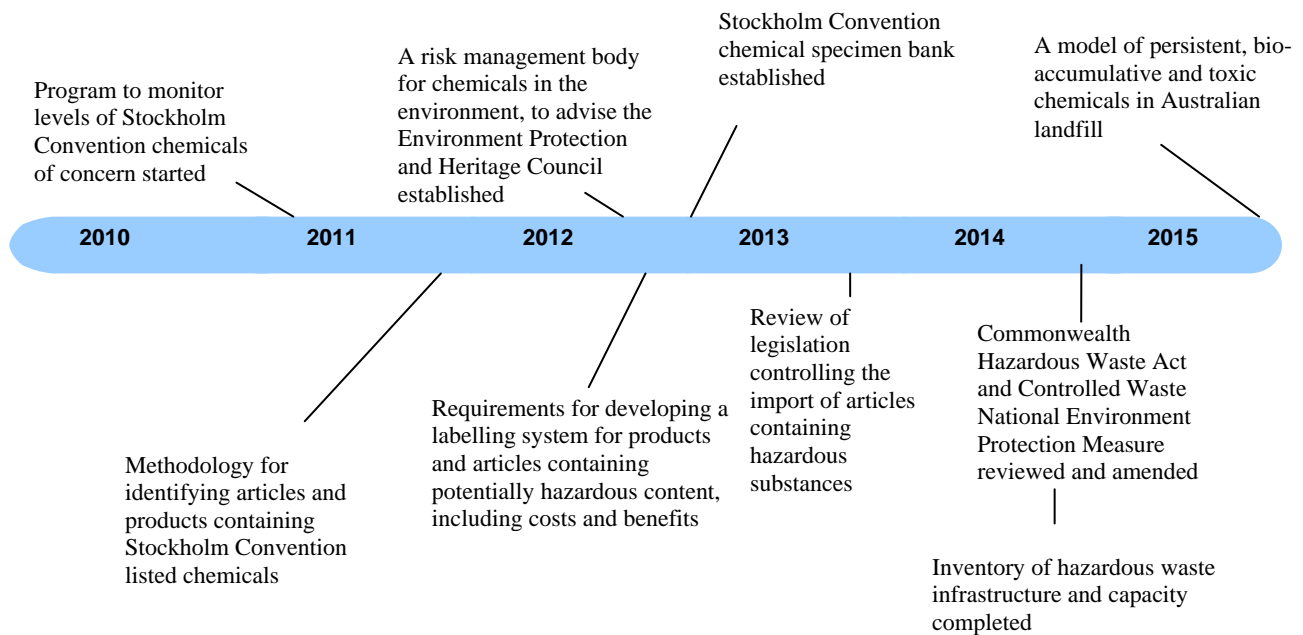




Figure 5 – Selected milestones for National Waste Policy ‘Tailoring solutions’ direction

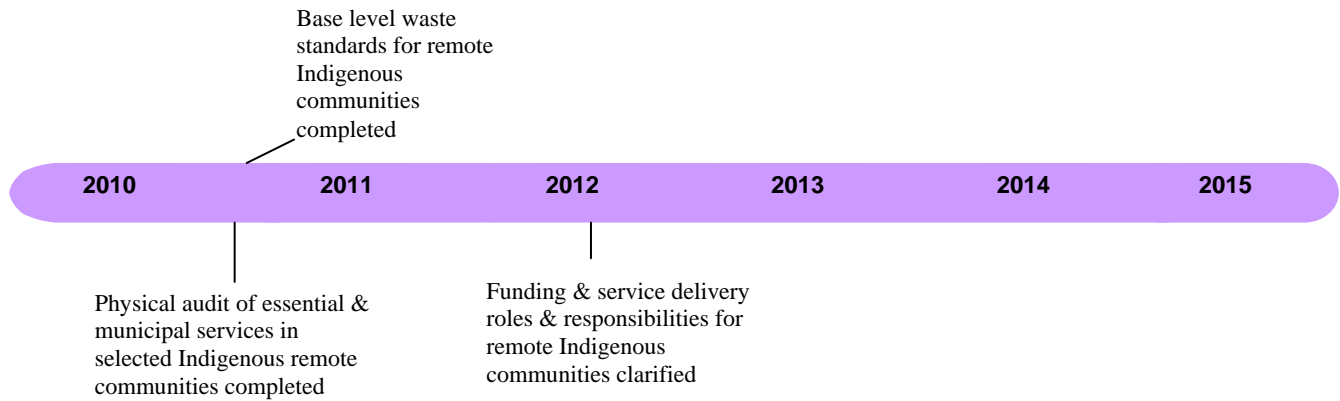
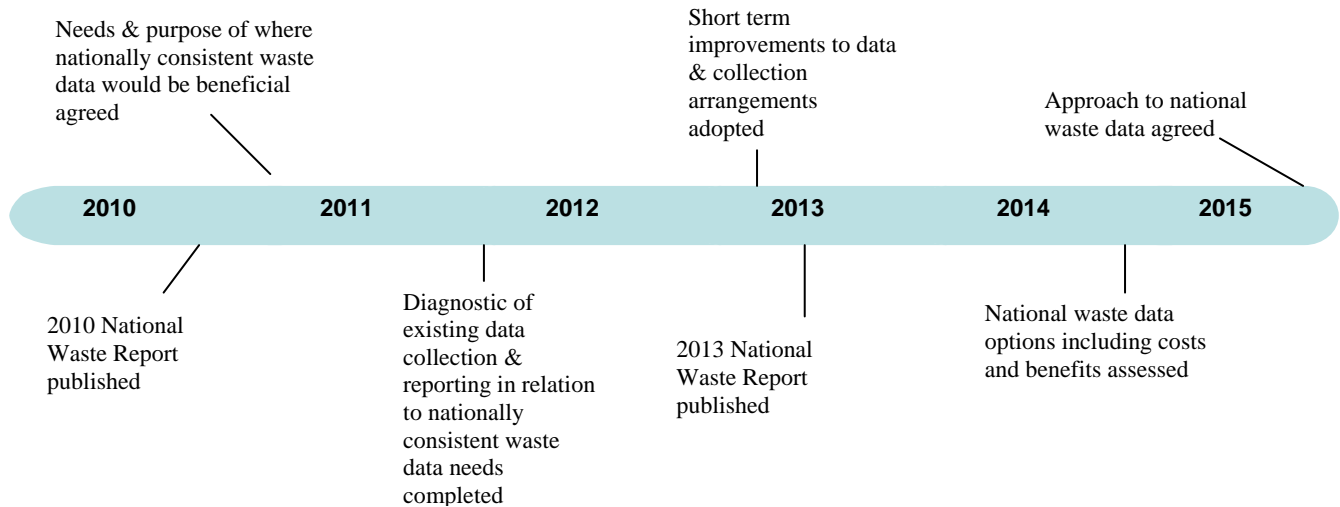


Figure 6 – Selected milestones for National Waste Policy ‘Providing the evidence’ direction



**Governance arrangements**

Effective implementation of the National Waste Policy relies on active partnerships, multi-agency management arrangements and multi-disciplinary initiatives by a range of players including governments of all levels, industry and the community. This sense of shared responsibility is a central tenet of the National Waste Policy and reflected in this Implementation Plan.

The 16 National Waste Policy strategies have been clustered into seven Environment Protection and Heritage Council working groups (see Table 4). Each working group will be led by a nominated government chair (or co-chair) and supported by other jurisdictions. The working group will be dedicated to the development and management of a work program for that cluster of strategies including scoping work, project planning, consultation, identifying and assessing new priorities as they arise and delivery of outputs. Sub groups may be set up to progress individual initiatives or strategies. These sub groups can be led by any jurisdiction and will report to the working group. Stakeholder implementation and reference groups may also be established, as appropriate. Effective project management and a consistent approach across the various National Waste Policy collaborative initiatives will be encouraged through use of templates and guidance.

The Australian Government will lead strategies that flow from Australia's international obligations or relate to the development of Commonwealth legislation. Strategies that require a national or coordinated approach and are the primary responsibility of states and territories will be led by a nominated jurisdiction. Lead agencies for each jurisdiction with responsibility for implementing components of the National Waste Policy and their website addresses are presented in Table 5 below.

Oversight of the National Waste Policy will occur through the Environment Protection and Heritage Council. Australia's environment Ministers will monitor progress in implementing the National Waste Policy through consideration of annual reports to the Environment Protection and Heritage Council and provide direction where appropriate. Senior officials from all three tiers of Australian government, known as the Environment Protection and Heritage Standing Committee, will be responsible for agreeing and monitoring collaborative initiatives to implement the National Waste Policy. The Environment Protection and Heritage Standing Committee will also agree any updates to this Implementation Plan and initiate an evaluation of the National Waste Policy prior to 2020. An implementation working group has been convened to report on progress (see below). Administrative support will be provided by the National Environment Protection Committee Service Corporation.

### **Tracking progress and monitoring performance**

Australia's vision for less waste and more resources in 2020 is set out in the eight high level outcomes of the National Waste Policy (see Table 6).

Regular reporting is essential to chart progress. Annual reports will be provided to the Environment Protection and Heritage Council and be made public. The major milestones for each strategy covering the first five years of the National Waste Policy are contained in Table 3. An evaluation of the National Waste Policy will be undertaken prior to 2020. The annual reports will serve as the key building blocks and will be complemented by a range of other evidence. A framework will be developed to assess the extent that the outcomes expected under the National Waste Policy have been achieved.

### **More information**

Visit the Australian Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website [www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy](http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy) to:

- download the National Waste Policy, the National Waste Report or this implementation plan
- register your interest in receiving progress updates on implementation
- find out how you can contribute to delivery of the National Waste Policy.

Email questions to [wastepolicy@environment.gov.au](mailto:wastepolicy@environment.gov.au) or write to the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, GPO Box 787, Canberra, ACT 2601.

## **Appendix A**

<b>Table 2</b>	Timeframe for delivery of Environment Protection and Heritage Council priorities and commitments
<b>Table 3</b>	National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones
<b>Table 4</b>	Strategy clusters for implementing the National Waste Policy
<b>Table 5</b>	Lead agencies in each jurisdiction responsible for implementing the National Waste Policy
<b>Table 6</b>	Outcomes of the National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources

Table 2. Timeframe for delivery of Environment Protection and Heritage Council priorities and commitments mapped against the six directions of the National Waste Policy

National Waste Policy Direction	Year	Environment Protection and Heritage Council Commitment
1. Taking responsibility	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That the Australian Packaging Covenant replace the National Packaging Covenant.</li> <li>▪ Release the final choice modelling survey report on packaging to the stakeholder reference group</li> <li>▪ Australian Standard for biodegradable plastics in home composting finalised</li> <li>▪ To establish partnerships with industry to increase recycling of mercury containing lamps in Australia</li> </ul>
	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commonwealth National Product Stewardship Framework legislation enacted</li> <li>▪ Co-regulatory television &amp; computer product stewardship scheme commences under the national framework</li> <li>▪ Industry led voluntary tyre product stewardship scheme commences</li> </ul>
	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A number of voluntary product stewardship schemes are accredited and reporting under the national product stewardship framework.</li> <li>▪ Guidance on sustainable procurement such as standard specifications and model contract clauses are available to procurement officials</li> </ul>
2. Improving the market	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National principles to encourage safe re-use of waste are agreed and national specification for use of recycled construction &amp; demolition waste in pavements &amp; fit for purpose use of organics &amp; biosolids derived from organic waste commenced</li> </ul>
	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Existing classification arrangements are assessed, options developed for where national harmonisation is appropriate together with their costs and benefits and an approach agreed</li> </ul>
3. Pursuing sustainability	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strategies for addressing and/or offsetting emissions from landfill that complement the approach to resource recovery from organic waste released</li> </ul>
4. Reducing hazard and risk	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New standard setting body for chemicals in the environment established</li> </ul>
	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment of the approach best suited to Australia to reduce hazardous substances in products &amp; articles sold in Australia completed and a decision made</li> </ul>
5. Tailoring solutions	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Audit of existing waste infrastructure and local capability in selected remote Indigenous communities completed and recommendations provided</li> </ul>
6. Providing the evidence	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First National Waste Report released (completed)</li> </ul>
	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Second National Waste Report published</li> </ul>
	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The basic national dataset and how best to improve data collection and streamline business reporting requirements and administration, to align with national directions is scoped and developed.</li> </ul>

Table 3. National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones<sup>1</sup>

<b>Taking responsibility:</b> Shared responsibility for reducing the environmental, health and safety footprint of manufactured goods and materials across the manufacture-supply consumption chain and at end of life.		
<b>Strategy 1:</b> To establish a national framework underpinned by legislation to support voluntary, co-regulatory and regulatory product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes to provide for the impacts of a product being responsibly managed during and at end of life.		
<i>National Action</i>	<i>Initiatives</i>	<i>Major Milestones</i>
<b>Lead:</b> Australian Government  <b>Support:</b> States & Territories  Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,3,4,7,8	Develop and enact Commonwealth national product stewardship framework legislation.	Stakeholder reference group established May 2010 Discussion paper released July 2010 Bill introduced into Parliament in spring 2010 sitting period. Legislation in place by 2011.
	Develop and implement national television and computer product stewardship scheme	Implementation Working Group established March 2010 Stakeholder consultation from April 2010 Draft scheme developed by industry by July 2010 Scheme commences by mid 2011 National code of practice for e-waste recyclers developed and transitioned to an Australian Standard by December 2012
	Develop and implement national tyre product stewardship strategy	Implementation Working Group established April 2010 Strategy developed by industry by May 2011 Strategy commences by end 2011
	Develop and implement Fluorocycle scheme for mercury containing lamps	Program commences by September 2010
<b>Strategy 2:</b> Governments as significant procurers of goods, services and infrastructure embody and promote sustainable procurement principles and practices within their own operations and delivery of programs and services to facilitate certainty in the market.		
<b>Lead:</b> Australian, state, territory &, local governments  Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	Enhance education, awareness and communication of sustainable procurement within and across governments.	National information exchange mechanism on sustainable procurement scoped by 2013 (refer to strategy 6)
	Support implementation of sustainable procurement	Guidance on sustainable procurement for key areas such as major infrastructure and office fit outs available by 2013.
	Report uptake of sustainable procurement principles and practices	All governments publicly report sustainable procurement within their operations, program and service delivery from 2012

<sup>1</sup> These priority initiatives will contribute towards delivery of governments' commitments as outlined in Table 2 of this implementation plan.

Table 3. National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones (cont.)

<b>Taking responsibility: Shared responsibility for reducing the environmental, health and safety footprint of manufactured goods and materials across the manufacture-supply consumption chain and at end of life.</b>		
<b>Strategy 3:</b> To better manage packaging to improve the use of resources, reduce the environmental impact of packaging design, enhance away from home recycling and reduce litter.		
<b>National Action</b>	<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Major Milestones</b>
<p><b>Lead:</b> Australian government</p> <p><b>Collaboration:</b> State, territory &amp;, local governments, industry and the community</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,4,7</p>	Develop and implement the Australian Packaging Covenant	<p>Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement by May 2010</p> <p>Decision Regulatory Impact Statement released by June 2010</p> <p>National Environmental Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure amended by end June 2010</p> <p>Australian Packaging Covenant commences July 2010</p>
	Scope and develop national standards	<p>Draft Australian Standard for biodegradable plastics in home composting released for comment in February 2010.</p> <p>Research on the rate and extent of biodegradable plastics in relevant Australian soil and marine environments completed by September 2010</p> <p>Australian Standard for degradable plastics in home composting finalised September 2010.</p> <p>Two additional standards on plastics and biodegradable plastics by 2012.</p> <p>Scope need for other packaging standards by 2012.</p>
	Additional measures to improve recycling of packaging and reduce litter	<p>Survey of community attitudes on willingness to pay to improve recycling of packaging and to reduce litter (choice modeling) completed by July 2010.</p> <p>Environment Protection and Heritage Council consider choice modeling report by July 2010.</p>

Table 3. National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones (cont.)

<p><b>Improving the market:</b> Efficient and effective Australian markets for waste and recovered resources, and local technology and innovation are sought after internationally.</p>		
<p><b>Strategy 4:</b> To introduce a national definition and classification system for wastes (including hazardous and clinical wastes) that aligns with definitions in international conventions, provides for when a product or material ceases to become a waste, and reflects these classifications in relevant policies and instruments.</p>		
<p><b>Lead:</b> Australian government</p> <p><b>Collaboration:</b> State &amp; territory governments</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 2,5,6</p>	<p>Establish a baseline</p>	<p>Existing waste definitions and classifications in Australia are documented by 2010.</p> <p>How existing waste definitions and classifications in Australia relate to functions (eg licensing or reporting) and to international conventions are mapped by end 2011.</p>
	<p>Scope options</p>	<p>National principles that provide for a waste product or material to be readily reused as a beneficial resource are identified by 2012.</p> <p>Options for moving toward a nationally consistent waste classification system that aligns with current and future needs scoped by 2013</p> <p>Benefits and costs of options for nationally consistent waste classifications that align with current and future needs assessed by 2014.</p>
	<p>Agree an approach for waste classification</p>	<p>Environment Protection and Heritage Council decision on principles that provide for a waste product or material to be readily reused as a beneficial resource made by 2013.</p> <p>Environment Protection and Heritage Council considers costs and benefits of options and a decision on an approach toward nationally consistent waste classifications made by 2014</p>
<p><b>Strategy 5:</b> To facilitate the development of a suite of agreed national principles, specifications, best practice guidelines and standards to remove impediments to the development and operation of effective markets for potential wastes.</p>		
<p><b>Lead:</b> Australian government</p> <p><b>Support:</b> State &amp; territory governments</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 2,3,4,6,7</p>	<p>National standards and specifications for recycled construction &amp; demolition material and recycled organics.</p>	<p>Existing jurisdictional standards, specifications and industry initiatives as well as relevant international standards and specifications are documented by 2010.</p> <p>Options for extending existing jurisdictional approaches nationally, and developing new guidance, including costs and benefits are scoped and stakeholders consulted by 2011.</p> <p>Environment Protection and Heritage Council agrees a work program by 2012.</p> <p>Application of national standards &amp; specifications for recycled construction &amp; demolition, recycled organic waste in place by 2015.</p> <p>National guidance is published and referenced as appropriate in government guidelines and licensing arrangements from 2015.</p>
	<p>Safe re-use of waste</p>	<p>Existing approaches documented by 2011.</p> <p>National principles developed by 2012.</p>



Table 3. National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones (cont.)

<b>Improving the market:</b> Efficient and effective Australian markets for waste and recovered resources, and local technology and innovation are sought after internationally.		
<b>Strategy 6:</b> To provide access to knowledge and expertise in sustainable procurement and business practices.		
<i>National Action</i>	<i>Initiatives</i>	<i>Major Milestones</i>
<p><b>Lead:</b> Australian government</p> <p><b>Support:</b> State, territory &amp; local governments, industry, business and the community</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,6,7</p>	<p>Establish sustainable procurement information exchange mechanism</p>	<p>Information needs and functional requirements in relation to sustainable procurement and business practices identified by 2012.</p> <p>Options for sharing Commonwealth, state, territory and local government sustainable procurement information including costs and benefits identified by 2013.</p> <p>Approach developed and agreed by 2014.</p>
<b>Pursuing Sustainability:</b> Less waste and improved use of waste to achieve broader environmental, social and economic benefits.		
<b>Strategy 7:</b> Building on existing commitments, continue to phase down the amount of biodegradable material sent to landfill.		
<p><b>Lead:</b> State &amp; territory governments</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Local governments</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,6,7</p>	<p>Markets for biodegradable waste</p>	<p>Progressed through the development of national standards (see strategy 5).</p> <p>The 2013 National Waste Report includes up to date information on jurisdictional policies and programs</p>
<b>Strategy 8:</b> Ensure the safety and health risks arising from landfill gas emissions are managed across all landfills through appropriate regulation and license requirements.		
<p><b>Lead:</b> State &amp; territory governments</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Local governments</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,6,7</p>	<p>Risk management</p>	<p>Approaches for assessment of risk from landfills across all jurisdictions identified and national guidance prepared by 2015.</p> <p>The 2013 National Waste Report includes up to date information on jurisdictional policies and programs.</p>

Table 3. National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones (cont.)

<p><b>Pursuing Sustainability:</b> Less waste and improved use of waste to achieve broader environmental, social and economic benefits.</p>		
<p><b>Strategy 9:</b> To develop a strategy for measures to address emissions from disposal of waste to landfills and other waste activities and these support the operation of a future Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.</p>		
<i>National Action</i>	<i>Initiatives</i>	<b>Major Milestones</b>
<p><b>Lead:</b> Australian Government</p> <p><b>Support:</b> State and territory governments</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,6,7</p>	<p>Scoping</p>	<p>Scope opportunities, costs and benefits of beneficial and/or innovative use of organic waste to increase productivity of the land, provide a source of energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Agree an approach by 2011.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 10:</b> To achieve major improvements in waste avoidance and re-use of key materials in the commercial and industrial waste stream.</p>		
<p><b>Lead:</b> State, territory and local governments</p> <p><b>Support:</b> Australian Government, industry and business</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8</p>	<p>Scoping and priority setting</p> <p>Note link to strategy 5</p>	<p>Current jurisdictional commercial and industrial waste management programs, policies and planning frameworks documented as they relate to encouraging waste minimisation and resource recovery and feasibility of extending/adapting these nationally assessed by 2011</p> <p>Analysis of systemic national impediments to increasing avoidance, reduction, re-use and recycling of commercial &amp; industrial waste completed by 2012</p> <p>Diagnostics to better match supply and demand completed by 2013.</p> <p>Future work program agreed by 2014</p>
<p><b>Strategy 11:</b> All governments continue to encourage best practice waste management and resource recovery for construction and demolition projects.</p>		
<p><b>Lead:</b> Australian, state, territory &amp;, local governments</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8</p>	<p>Scoping and information exchange</p> <p>Note link to strategy 5</p>	<p>Impediments documented and jurisdictional best practice examples shared by 2014.</p> <p>Work program agreed by 2015.</p>

Table 3. National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones (cont.)

<b>Reducing Hazard and Risk:</b> Potentially hazardous content of wastes is reduced and waste recovery, handling and disposal is consistent, safe and accountable.		
<i>Strategy 12:</i> To ensure that: our international obligations are met; hazardous materials entering the waste stream are reduced; transboundary movement of hazardous waste is effectively, efficiently and legally undertaken within Australia and complies with international requirements; product stewardship is adopted to provide for the impacts of a product with potentially hazardous materials being responsibly managed during and at the end of life; and facilities are available to handle and dispose of hazardous substances that become waste in an environmentally sound manner.		
<i>National Action</i>	<i>Initiatives</i>	<i>Major Milestones</i>
<b>Lead:</b> Australian Government  <b>Support:</b> State and territory governments  Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	Managing the risks of hazardous material	A risk management body for chemicals in the environment, to advise the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, established by April 2012 as agreed by the Council of Australian Governments.  Costs and benefits of environmental labelling of chemicals, by December 2012.  Commonwealth Hazardous Waste Act and Controlled Waste National Environment Protection Measure reviewed and amended by June 2014.
	Disposing of hazardous waste safely	In line with Australia's international obligations, a model of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemicals in landfills across Australia developed by June 2015  Inventory of existing capacity and infrastructure, for the safe handling, disposal and/or storage of hazardous waste products and articles, completed by June 2014.
	Monitoring hazardous substances in the environment	National Pollutant Inventory statutory guidance materials updated (ongoing)  Program to monitor levels of chemicals of concern in air over time as required by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants started by December 2010.  Chemical specimen bank established and samples archived from June 2012.
<i>Strategy 13:</i> To adopt a system that aligns with international approaches, to reduce hazardous substances in products and articles sold in Australia that represent a potential risk during and at end of life to human health, safety or the environment.		
<b>Lead:</b> Australian Government  <b>Support:</b> State and territory governments  Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5,7	Reducing hazardous content at source	Methodology for identifying articles and products containing Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants listed chemicals developed by June 2011.  Requirements for developing a labelling system for products and articles containing potentially hazardous content, including costs and benefits, assessed by June 2012.  Legislation for controlling the import of articles containing hazardous substances reviewed, and requirements identified, by June 2013.

Table 3. National Waste Policy - priority initiatives and major milestones (cont.)

<b>Tailoring Solutions:</b> Increased capacity in regional and remote communities to manage waste and recover and re-use resources.		
<b>Strategy 14:</b> To identify regional and remote waste and resource recovery actions to build capacity and ensure an appropriate suite of services is available to communities.		
<i>National Action</i>	<i>Initiatives</i>	<i>Major Milestones</i>
<p><b>Lead:</b> State, territory &amp;, local governments</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8</p>	Regional networks	Best practice in regional and remote stakeholder waste networks to build capacity and enhance development opportunities shared by 2015
<b>Strategy 15:</b> To undertake an audit of existing waste infrastructure and local capability in selected remote Indigenous communities as part of a larger municipal and essential services audit under the Council of Australian Governments' National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing.		
<p><b>Lead:</b> Australian Government (FaHCSIA)</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 2,4,5,8</p>	Audit of selected communities	<p>Base level waste standards that draw on existing national guidelines and frameworks and a review of jurisdictional standards, guidelines and/or regulations agreed by 2010.</p> <p>Clarification of roles and responsibilities with respect to funding and service delivery, with new arrangements to be in place by 1 July 2012.</p>
<b>Providing the evidence:</b> Decision makers have access to meaningful, accurate and current national waste and resource recovery data and information.		
<b>Strategy 16:</b> To develop and publish a three-yearly current and future trends waste and resource recovery report. This will be underpinned by a system that provides access to integrated national core data on waste and resource recovery that is accurate, meaningful and up-to-date and available online.		
<p><b>Lead:</b> Australian Government</p> <p><b>Support:</b> State and territory governments</p> <p>Link to National Waste Policy outcomes: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8</p>	National data	<p>Needs and purpose of data agreed by jurisdictions by 2011.</p> <p>Diagnostic of existing data collection and reporting arrangements against agreed national data needs completed and gaps identified by 2012.</p> <p>Short term improvements to data and collection arrangements identified and implementation commenced by 2013</p> <p>Options for collecting and reporting national waste data, including costs and benefits assessed by 2014.</p> <p>Approach agreed by 2015.</p>
	National Waste Report	2013 National Waste Report published.

Table 4. Strategy clusters for implementing the National Waste Policy

<b>National Waste Policy Strategy</b>	<b>Strategy cluster 1: Product stewardship</b>		<b>Chair: Australian Government</b>
	1	The Australian Government, with the support of state and territory governments, will establish a national framework underpinned by legislation to support voluntary, co-regulatory and regulatory product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes to provide for the impacts of a product being responsibly managed during and at end of life.	
	3	The Australian Government, in collaboration with state and territory governments, industry and the community will better manage packaging to improve the use of resources, reduce the environmental impact of packaging design, enhance away from home recycling and reduce litter	
	<b>Strategy cluster 2: Markets &amp; standards</b>		<b>Co-chairs: NSW and Victoria</b>
	2	All governments as significant procurers of goods, services and infrastructure, will embody and promote sustainable procurement principles and practices within their own operations and delivery of programs and services to facilitate certainty in the market.	
	4	The Australian Government, in collaboration with state and territory governments, will introduce a national definition and classification system for wastes (including hazardous and clinical wastes) that aligns with definitions in international conventions, provides for when a product or material ceases to become a waste, and reflects these classifications in relevant policies and instruments	
	5	The Australian Government, in collaboration with state and territory governments through the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, will facilitate the development of a suite of agreed national principles, specifications, best practice guidelines and standards, to remove impediments to the development and operation of effective markets for potential wastes.	
	6	The Australian Government, in collaboration with state and territory governments, local governments, industry, business and the community, will provide access to knowledge and expertise in sustainable procurement and business practices.	
	<b>Strategy cluster 3: Landfill management</b>		<b>Chair: Victoria</b>
	7	State and territory governments building on existing commitments, continue their focus to phase down the amount of biodegradable material sent to landfill.	
	8	State and territory governments ensure the safety and health risks arising from landfill gas emissions are managed across all landfills through appropriate regulation and licence requirements.	
	9	The Australian Government, in collaboration with state and territory governments, will develop a strategy for measures to address emissions from disposal of waste to landfills and other waste activities, and these support the operation of a future Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.	
	<b>Strategy cluster 4: Commercial &amp; industrial, construction &amp; demolition &amp; governments</b>		<b>Chair: Queensland</b>
	10	State and territory and local governments, in collaboration with the Australian Government, industry and business, to achieve major improvements in waste avoidance and re-use of key materials in the commercial and industrial waste stream.	
	11	All governments continue to encourage best practice waste management and resource recovery for construction and demolition projects.	
	<b>Strategy cluster 5: Reducing hazard</b>		<b>Chair: Australian Government</b>
12	The Australian Government, in collaboration with state and territory governments, will ensure that: our international obligations are met; hazardous materials entering the waste stream are reduced; transboundary movement of hazardous waste is effectively, efficiently and legally undertaken within Australia and complies with international requirements; product stewardship is adopted to provide for the impacts of a product with potentially hazardous materials being responsibly managed during and at the end of life; and facilities are available to handle and dispose of hazardous substances that become waste in an environmentally sound manner.		
13	The Australian Government, with the support of state and territory governments, will adopt a system that aligns with international approaches, to reduce hazardous substances in products and articles sold in Australia that represent a potential risk during and at end of life to human health, safety or the environment.		
<b>Strategy cluster 6: Regional &amp; rural Australia</b>		<b>Chair: WA</b>	
14	State and territory and local governments to work together to identify regional and remote waste and resource recovery actions to build capacity and ensure an appropriate suite of services is available to communities.		
15	The Australian Government will undertake an audit of existing waste infrastructure and local capability in selected remote Indigenous communities as part of a larger essential services audit under the Council of Australian Governments' National Indigenous Housing Partnership Agreement.		
<b>Strategy cluster 7: Data</b>		<b>Co-chairs: Australian Government &amp; NSW</b>	
16	The Australian Government, in collaboration with state and territory governments, will develop and publish a three-yearly current and future trends waste and resource recovery report. This will be underpinned by a system that provides access to integrated national core data on waste and resource recovery that is accurate, meaningful and up-to-date and available online.		

Table 5: Lead agencies in each jurisdiction responsible for implementing the National Waste Policy

Jurisdiction	Lead agency	Further information
Australian Government	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	<a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy">www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy</a> email: <a href="mailto:wastepolicy@environment.gov.au">wastepolicy@environment.gov.au</a>
New South Wales	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	<a href="http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/">www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/</a>
Victoria	Environment Protection Authority	<a href="http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/">http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/</a>
Queensland	Department of Environment and Resource Management	<a href="http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/waste/waste_management/">www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/waste/waste_management/</a>
Western Australia	Department of Environment and Conservation	<a href="http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/category/32/758/1577/">http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/category/32/758/1577/</a>
South Australia	Environment Protection Authority	<a href="http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/waste">http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/waste</a>
Tasmania	Department of Primary Industry, Parks, Water and Environment	<a href="http://www.environment.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=346">www.environment.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=346</a>
Australian Capital Territory	Department of Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water	<a href="http://www.environment.act.gov.au">www.environment.act.gov.au</a>
Northern Territory	Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts	<a href="http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/waste/index.html">www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/waste/index.html</a>
Local Government	Australian Local Government Association	<a href="http://www.alga.gov.au">www.alga.gov.au</a>

Table 6. Outcomes of the National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources

Outcome	
1	Australia manages waste, including hazardous waste, in an environmentally safe, scientific and sound manner, and has reduced the amount per capita of waste disposed
2	Waste streams are routinely managed as a resource to achieve better environmental, social and economic outcomes, including saving water, energy, greenhouse gas emissions and finite resources, and to increase productivity of the land.
3	Australia has increased the amount of products, goods and materials that can be readily and safely used for other purposes at end-of-life.
4	Opportunities to safely manage, reduce and recycle waste are available to all Australians, including approaches that have been tailored to meet the needs of remote and rural communities.
5	<p>The risks associated with waste and hazardous substances are understood and managed to minimize current and intergenerational legacy issues.</p> <p>Australia manages its products, materials and chemicals that contain potentially hazardous substances, in particular those that are persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic, consistent with its international obligations and using best available evidence, techniques and technologies.</p> <p>Local stockpiling of hazardous waste has been significantly reduced, particularly for rural and remote areas.</p> <p>There are consistent and clear requirements for disposal of hazardous material, and for content labelling of manufactured goods, that also provide a level playing field for Australian manufacturers and importers and informs consumers.</p>
6	The interaction of regulatory frameworks and operational processes across government agencies aligns with world's best practice and facilitates waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate end-of-life management arrangements within their own operations as well as by business and the community.
7	<p>There are efficient and effective Australian markets for waste and recovered resources, and local technology and innovation are sought after internationally.</p> <p>Businesses, including those in manufacturing and the supply chain, embrace innovations that support the creation of value from potential waste streams and minimise their environmental footprint.</p> <p>As part of a seamless national economy, there is a consistent and coherent regulatory environment that facilitates business activity in resource recovery and waste management.</p>
8	<p>Governments, industry and the community have embraced product stewardship and extended producer responsibility approaches.</p> <p>Product stewardship and extended producer responsibility is adopted in business operations, leading to improvements in the design, longevity and disassembly of products, a reduction in hazardous content, less waste, and more thoughtful consumer choices.</p>



