

Recycled Resources Procurement Policy

Many resource streams are generated by Queensland's waste management industry as a result of waste processing activities. Although many or all of these products may be suitable for use by state and local government and private enterprise, and less expensive, they are not being considered due to ignorance of the respective market application or restrictions set down by legislation and regulation.

Queensland, and other states of Australia, have practices, beliefs and regulation in place that prohibits the use of recycled resources that compare favourably in quality, price and access with virgin materials. WRIQ, and its members that participate in the waste industry believe that there are opportunities to address major market issues through advocacy of procurement of recycled resources by state and local government and private enterprise.

This document sets out the Association's policy in relation to considering and favouring recycled materials when Local Government, State Government and Private Enterprise are procuring goods and services.

WRIQ POSITION

1. The Association aims to encourage the development and promotion of businesses in the waste management industry that improve the reuse of waste resources in the community, and, in so doing, assist in creating growth and employment in the industry.
2. Government and private enterprise should seek to consider failures in the recycling marketing process when procuring materials to address existing or potential stockpiling or recycling to landfill issues.
3. For entities that procure materials for which recycled resources are an option, to do so in a transparent manner so that the waste management industry can accurately assess returns and confidently invest in recycling where feasible.

4. State Government and Local Government should develop thoughtful and synchronous policies that are implemented and maintained in a stable and equitable manner to promote investment in recycling.
5. Recovered resource procurement policies should be legal, certain and not be subject to question by any party due to ambiguities wherever possible.
6. Recycled resource markets should be developed sensibly with aspirational targets and consideration of current markets, infrastructure and enterprises.
7. Existing facilities should be assessed for upgrade whenever new infrastructure solutions are required to avoid potentially higher costs associated with new facilities and arbitrarily making an existing operation obsolete due to impacts on businesses, employees and the surrounding community.
8. Policies for the state or individual municipalities should be accessible by the public and promoted to develop awareness of recycled resource availability.
9. A scorecard should be used for the state to measure the changes in use of recycled resources, showing where specific material markets have succeeded or failed.
10. Parties to long term contracts should be encouraged to assess the costs and benefits of varying contracts to increase the use of recycled resources, subject to mutual agreement by the parties.