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ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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Our Ref: (031195: G:\EOWM\Shar\minimisation\packaging NEPM/Tas Government Action Plan)tm

20 January 2009

National Packaging Covenant Secretariat
Level 6
457 St Kilda Road
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3004

Dear Sir

Please find enclosed the Tasmanian Government Action Plan Report for the period 2007/08.

If you have any queries in relation to the report please contact the officer nominated at the head of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Warren Jones', written over a vertical line.

Warren Jones
DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY



Tasmania
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NATIONAL PACKAGING COVENANT

Tasmanian State Government Annual Report

July 2007 to June 2008

Overview

This document reports against the Tasmanian State Government Action Plan for the period July 2007 to June 2008 for the National Packaging Covenant.

In the reporting period, 51,880 tonne of material was recovered by Tasmanian materials recovery facilities (MRFs) in comparison to 47,452 tonne in the 06-07 period,

There is significant room for improvement in waste data and reporting in Tasmania. However, there have been a number of initiatives in State and Local Government in Tasmania over the last 12 months which will assist in better data collection for future reporting periods.

A Tasmanian draft Waste and Resource Management Strategy has been developed in consultation with local government, the waste management industry and the community. One of the key objectives of the strategy will be to develop and implement an improved waste data collection and management regime for waste, resource recovery and recycling. Once the improved data collection system has been in place and a 3-year database has been accumulated, the intention is to develop reduction targets for specific materials and sectors in line with identified and agreed strategic directions, including the objectives of the National Packaging Covenant.

The three regional bodies within Tasmania, which represent Councils in the north, north-west and south, are at various stages of developing their waste management strategies. The strategies (or frameworks developed for the future strategies) generally focus on waste disposal, infrastructure, kerbside recycling services, litter control, waste auditing and community education.

There has been a revived focus on State and Local Government collaboration in waste management initiatives and data collection and it is anticipated that this will greatly improve the quality and quantity of data available in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian State government has also established relationships with a number of industries in the implementation of 'CleanBiz', a cleaner production program to contribute to waste avoidance and eco-efficiency initiatives. A Resource Recovery program was also undertaken which was aimed at facilitating and increasing the opportunities for resource recovery within the state. In addition, new litter legislation was enacted in late 2007, along with a new public litter reporting system, increasing the education, enforcement capabilities and data collection associated with the litter stream.

All these initiatives will have positive impacts on data collection and the education of the broader community on waste avoidance, waste minimisation and recycling and subsequently meeting the objectives of the National Packaging Covenant.

GOAL 1 – PACKAGING OPTIMISED TO INTEGRATE CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT RESOURCE EFFICIENCY, MAXIMUM RESOURCE RE-UTILISATION, PRODUCT PROTECTION, SAFETY AND HYGIENE	
KPI 8 Consumer packaging as a % of weight by total waste and relative to other waste stream components	
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government is committed to working with stakeholders to report: a) % of consumer packaging by weight of household waste & relative to other household waste streams b) % of consumer packaging by weight of commercial & industrial waste & relative to other household waste stream components
Report against Action Plan	There were 2 surveys by the Southern Waste Strategy Authority undertaken in 2005, one of 270 households indicating 19.3% of packaging in the household waste stream and the other of 104 households giving a result of 25%. In 2006 a repeat survey of the same 104 households revealed that packaging comprised just 6.9% of the household garbage stream. This decrease was probably due to the introduction of MGB's for recycling that have increased capacity over the crate system and have led to increased yields. No current data is available as to the proportion of consumer packaging in the commercial and industrial waste stream.
GOAL 2 – EFFICIENT RESOURCE RECOVERY SYSTEMS FOR CONSUMER PACKAGING AND PAPER	
KPI 11 Number of Councils operating according to good practice collection principles & state-based benchmarks	
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government will work with regional groups and Councils to report on: a) No. of Councils meeting regional benchmarks (and %)
Report against Action Plan	A process of stakeholder consultation on the draft Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy is currently being undertaken, and as such no statewide benchmarks have been established for Tasmania as yet. However the regions have a general minimum preferred service standard being an MGB garbage service with a manual single crate system for recyclables. Many councils have now introduced MGB's for the collection of mixed recyclables.
KPI 15 Percentage of Councils & government agencies providing public place recycling infrastructure	
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government will work with work with regional groups, Councils and other government agencies in relation to reporting: a) % of government agencies with public place responsibilities b) % of local councils with PPR recycling bins provided
Report	

against Action Plan	<p>a) In Tasmania, State government agencies are not responsible for public waste management. Public place recycling is predominantly the responsibility of local government. It is to be noted that no Councils have 100% coverage of public place recycling facilities throughout their municipality – they are generally located in areas of high visitor numbers (e.g. malls, tourist venues).</p> <p>b) In the Southern region 100% of Councils offer public place recycling. In the Northern region 25% of Councils offer public place recycling. In the North-West region 22% of Councils offer public place recycling facilities.</p> <p>In total for the state, 55% of Councils offer PPR.</p>
KPI 16 Percentage of signatories providing recycling collection facilities for post-consumer packaging generated on-site	
Action Plan Commitments	<p>a) The Tasmanian Government is committed to obtaining data relating to the number of Government departments providing on-site collection facilities for post-consumer packaging.</p>
Report against Action Plan	<p>a) Five Tasmanian Government departments (50%) offer recycling facilities for post-consumer packaging, however the coverage of recycling facilities to all areas of the state is not consistent. A department may offer facilities for inner city office blocks, however rural parks facilities or regional outposts for example may not have collection services available.</p>
GOAL 3 – CONSUMERS ABLE TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT CONSUMPTION, USE AND DISPOSAL OF PACKAGING OF PRODUCTS.	
KPI 17 Amount & type of consumer packaging in the litter stream	
2006-07 Action Plan Commitments	<p>The Tasmanian Government will work with relevant stakeholders and refer to the National Littering Index in order to contribute to this KPI:</p> <p>a) Tonnage & type of consumer packaging in litter stream</p>
Report against Action Plan	<p>In 2007/08 the Tasmanian Government did not fund Keep Australia Beautiful to conduct data collection in Tasmania for the National Litter Index. However it did continue to support KAB Tasmania with other litter education and prevention programs such as Tidy Towns.</p> <p>The key focus of the Tasmanian Government for 2007/08 period was the implementation of the new litter legislation for Tasmania. Via the Litter Program Working Group, the Tasmanian Government worked with relevant litter enforcement and litter education stakeholders, including the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources, Southern Waste Strategy Authority, Local Government Association of Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service. Throughout 2007 this Working Group met regularly to be kept informed of progress with the implementation of the new litter legislation and to provide feedback to the process and to guide the process. A key aim of this Working Group was to promote strategic efforts in litter enforcement and litter education in Tasmania.</p> <p>The <i>Litter Act 2007</i> commenced December 2007. The Litter Reporting System was launched in January 2008 and the Monetary and Penalties Enforcement System (MPES) started in April 2008.</p> <p>The new litter legislation provides Tasmania with an improved framework for litter enforcement whilst the data management systems provide opportunity for reporting on the type and amount of litter. The Litter Reporting System provides data from public</p>

	<p>reports of littering offences, whilst MPES provides data from all infringements issued by state and local government enforcement agencies. Data from these sources will contribute information about the amount and type of packaging in the litter stream for the Tasmanian context.</p> <p>Current data analysis from the Litter Reporting System shows that the most commonly reported littered consumer packaging is food wrapping and packaging, with beverage containers the next most frequently littered item.</p>
KPI 18 Contamination rates in consumer packaging recovery systems (eg kerbside, events, venues, public places, workplaces)	
Action Plan Commitments	<p>The Tasmanian Government will continue to work with local government, recycling service providers and reprocessors to report against:</p> <p>a) % contamination by system type</p>
Report against Action Plan	<p>Contamination in kerbside recycling crate systems average 1 to 2 %, whereas the newly introduced MGB systems average around 11% contamination.</p> <p>It has been demonstrated that extensive community education and bin audits (with rejection stickers) on collection days have reduced contamination in Councils which implement these methods.</p>
KPI 20 Improvements in littering behaviour	
Action Plan Commitments	<p>The Tasmanian Government will work with relevant stakeholders and refer to the National Littering Index in order to contribute to this KPI:</p> <p>a) Specific aspects of littering behaviour & trends over time</p>
Report against Action Plan	<p>In 2007/08 the Tasmanian Government did not fund Keep Australia Beautiful to conduct data collection in Tasmania for the National Litter Index. However it did continue to support KAB Tasmania with other litter education and prevention programs such as Tidy Towns.</p> <p>The key focus of the Tasmanian Government for 2007/08 period was the implementation of the new litter legislation for Tasmania. Via the Litter Program Working Group, the Tasmanian Government worked with relevant litter enforcement and litter education stakeholders, including the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources, Southern Waste Strategy Authority, Local Government Association of Tasmania and the Parks and Wildlife Service. Throughout 2007 this Working Group met regularly to be kept informed of progress with the implementation of the new litter legislation and to provide feedback to the process and to guide the process. A key aim of this Working Group was to promote strategic efforts in litter enforcement and litter education in Tasmania.</p> <p>The <i>Litter Act 2007</i> commenced December 2007. The Litter Reporting System was launched in January 2008 and the Monetary and Penalties Enforcement System (MPES) started in April 2008.</p> <p>The new litter legislation provides Tasmania with an improved framework for litter enforcement whilst the data management systems provide opportunity for reporting on the type and amount of litter. The Litter Reporting System provides data from public reports of littering offences, whilst MPES provides data from all infringements issued by state and local government enforcement agencies. Data from these sources will contribute information about the amount and type of packaging in the litter stream for the Tasmanian context.</p>

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GOAL 4 – SUPPLY CHAIN MEMBERS AND OTHER SIGNATORIES ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THEIR ACTIONS CONTRIBUTE TO GOALS (1) – (3) ABOVE.																			
KPI 21 Estimated tonnage of consumer packaging recycled and sent to landfill respectively, from on-site collection facilities																			
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government will continue to work with local government, recycling service providers and reprocessors to report against: a) Tonnes of consumer packaging & % of total waste sent for recycling b) Tonnes of consumer packaging & % of total waste sent to landfill																		
Report against Action Plan	<p>2007/08 Tonnes recovered in Tasmanian MRF's (From all recycling collection services)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Product</th> <th>Tonnes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Material Type</td> <td>Tonnes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Packaging Paper</td> <td>24,056</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Non Packaging Paper</td> <td>15,632</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Glass</td> <td>8,856</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Plastics</td> <td>2,119</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Aluminium</td> <td>409</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Steel</td> <td>808</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>51,880</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This represents a diversion rate from landfill of 12.4%.</p>	Product	Tonnes	Material Type	Tonnes	Total Packaging Paper	24,056	Total Non Packaging Paper	15,632	Total Glass	8,856	Total Plastics	2,119	Total Aluminium	409	Total Steel	808	Total	51,880
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KPI 24 Implementation of NEPM procedures by jurisdictions																			
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government will report on: a) Number of potential "free-riders" contacted																		
Report against Action Plan	<p>In 2007 to 2008, the Tasmanian Government continued to liaise with the National Packaging Covenant secretariat with respect to monitoring potential brand owners in Tasmania who may be potential signatories.</p> <p>As a result of contact with several companies it was determined that as far as we are aware there are no "free riders" in Tasmania.</p>																		
KPI 25 Enforcement of the NEPM to "free-riders" and non-complying Covenant signatories																			
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government will report on: a) Number of formal enforcement actions taken																		
Report																			

against Action Plan	No Environment Protection Notices (EPN) were needed to be issued to enforce the NEPM.
KPI 26 Implementation of Buy Recycled purchasing policy or practices	
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government will continue to work with all departments to implement buy recycled purchasing policies or practices in order to report: a) Whether departments have a policy or practice in place
Report against Action Plan	a) The Department of Environment Parks Heritage and the Arts (DEPHA) currently practices 'buy recycled' purchasing. The program continues to expand, with the intention of developing a purchasing policy. The DEPHA will continue to work with other departments to implement such policies and practices.
GOAL 5 – ALL SIGNATORIES DEMONSTRATE CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR MANAGEMENT OF PACKAGING THROUGH THEIR INDIVIDUAL ACTION PLANS AND ANNUAL REPORTS.	
KPI 27 Establishment of baseline performance data	
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government is committed to the following actions to meet this KPI: a) Establish indicative baseline data, including qualifiers and assumptions. b) Baseline data reported
Report against Action Plan	a) Previous reports will act as the baseline and data collection will be incorporated into the waste management strategy. b) Annual Report submitted.
KPI 28 Annual Reporting against Action Plan	
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government is committed to the following action to meet this KPI: a) Annual reporting against Action Plans and milestones
Report against Action Plan	a) Annual Report submitted.
KPI 29 Demonstrated improvement and achievements against individual targets and milestones	
Action Plan Commitments	The Tasmanian Government is committed to the following action to meet this KPI: a) Annual reporting against Action Plans and milestones
Report against Action Plan	a) Annual Report submitted

Nominated Contact Officer:

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