

Mayor & CEO  
Ararat Rural City Council  
PO Box 246  
ARARAT 3377  
Email: [council@ararat.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@ararat.vic.gov.au)

13 June, 2022

Dear Mayor and CEO,

**Re: Local Government State-Wide Waste Forum**

I am writing on behalf of the recently assembled Local Government State-Wide Waste Forum. The Forum has been established through the Regional Waste Forums who voted unanimously to allow each of their Chairs to advocate to the to the State Government on their behalf in regard to the roll out of new Victorian Waste and Recycling Act. The seven Forum Chairs in total represent the 79 LGA's across the State.

The Local Government State-Wide Chairs Forum aims to ensure consistent representation across our rural, regional and metropolitan Councils to advise the State Government in the lead up to the establishment of the Circular Economy (Waste and Recycling) Bill 2021.

On commencement of Recycling Victoria (RV), the Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (WRRGs) will be dissolved and relevant functions will be transferred to Recycling Victoria. The Recycling Victoria Authority is set to commence from 1 July 2022. The State Government has yet to provide any concrete details as to an ongoing mechanism that would serve a similar function after 30 June 2022.

It has been my experience as Chair of the Grampians Central West Waste and Recovery Local Government forum that these groups have provided an important structure for regional collaboration between local governments, including for delivering effective services, achieving efficiencies of scale, sharing expertise, advocating for better policy and legislation, education and procurement.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change in her second reading speech said *"I intend to establish a local government advisory committee to advise the Head on the new functions, how these arrangements impact and can benefit Councils, and how the setup of Recycling Victoria can ensure effective relationships with local government across the State"*.

We would like to formalise the Forum so that beyond the 1 July 2022 date there continues to be a structure for ongoing collaboration for Councils on a regional and state-wide level. In order to facilitate this, we are proposing that each Council endorses the following motion and appoints a representative to participate.

## Motion

That Council:

1. Notes that the State Government has introduced legislation that dissolves the regional waste management groups effective from 1 July 2022;
2. Recognises the benefits of regional collaboration between local governments including for delivering effective services, achieving efficiencies of scale, sharing expertise, advocacy for better policy and legislation, education and procurement;
3. Notes that the WRRGs have provided an effective mechanism for regional collaboration between Councils; and
4. Appoints \_\_\_\_\_ as Councillor representative on recycling and waste matters for the purposes of:
  - a. Meeting with other Councils in the Grampians Central West region to consider recycling and waste matters and provide advice to Councils in the region;
  - b. Appointing a Chair of the Regional Advisory Group who would represent the region in a state-wide advisory group, including electing a state-wide Chair;
  - c. Developing a proposal for governance (including a Terms of Reference) of regional co-ordination between Councils, for consideration by Council at a future date; and
  - d. Calling on the State Government to support regional collaboration by providing the secretariat function via RV.

The Forum Chairs have formally requested a comprehensive briefing from representatives from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DWELP), in relation to the timeframes and the planned and proposed investment, policy and regulatory implementation measures that the State Government is considering in relation to the Circular Economy Bill. The Forum Chairs have also previously written to Minister Lily D'Ambrosio MP, and engaged with her office seeking The Minister and State Government's engagement with the Forum, which we look forward to commencing through the requested DELWP briefing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0418 323 221 or 0448 390 463 should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Cr Tom Sullivan**  
**Mayor, Moorabool Shire Council**  
**Chair, Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Forum**