

News Release

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Hon Paul Caica

Minister for Sustainability, Environment
and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River
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SOUTH AUSTRALIA TAKES NEXT STEPS TOWARDS ZERO WASTE

A new State Government plan to divert more waste from landfill will aim to see South Australians recycling 70 per cent of their household waste by 2015.

Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Minister Paul Caica today released a new waste strategy which commits South Australia to further enhancing our recycling and reuse of waste.

“From our long established container deposit system, to the check-out style plastic bags, it is well known that South Australia leads the nation in waste management and resource recovery, but we know there is more to be done,” he said.

“The Strategy has two main objectives; to maximise the useful life of materials through re-use and recycling, and to avoid and reduce waste. It aims to tackle waste reduction and avoidance by being more efficient with our resources.

“It also takes advantage of a stronger national focus, and recognises sustainability as an integral part of future prosperity. The strategy also focuses on changing behaviours and engaging with business, government and community to encourage sustainable living.”

Key targets in the new strategy, that has undergone an extensive consultation period, include:

- Diverting 70% of household waste – including organic waste - from landfill by 2015.
- Diverting 75% of commercial and industrial waste by 2015.
- Diverting 90% of construction and demolition waste by 2015.

South Australians currently divert 55 per cent of household waste, 60 per cent of commercial and industrial waste and 80 per cent of construction and demolition waste.

“Since 2004 the State Government has adopted a strategic approach towards waste management by working with industry, local and state governments and community,” Mr Caica said.

“We have rolled-out many programs which ensure recycling and resource efficiency remain a priority.

“The widespread introduction of the three-bin kerbside collection system, the start of food scrap recycling, incentives for business and industry and the successful ‘Wipe Out Waste’ schools program have also helped to transform our attitudes towards waste.

“Despite a population increase, South Australians reduced waste going to landfill by about 17 per cent between 2003 and 2010, which is an excellent result. The new waste strategy also feeds into the South Australia’s Strategic Plan 2011 target of reducing waste to landfill by 35 per cent by 2020.”

The strategy can be downloaded from www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au.