

WRINT

Essential for community Essential for environment

Waste Recycling Industry Association (NT) inc

WRINT 2016 State Election Policy Plan

Advocating thought leadership, innovation, economic development and job growth for the industry



wrint.com.au

About WRINT



Rick Ralph
Chief Executive Officer
WRINT

The Waste Recycling Industry Association (NT) (WRINT) is the premier industry association represents owners and operators of the waste and recycling industry in the Northern Territory. The organisation members represent large multi – national and international corporations and small family based and social enterprises. WRINT engages and advocates with its stakeholders a wide range of legislative and regulatory issues members have identified as impacting the industry. It promotes thought leadership, innovation, economic development and jobs growth for the sector.

These issues if left unresolved have the direct link to impeding the sectors business confidence, resulting in limited economic and jobs growth. Central to WRINT's role in advocating these important issues is a fundamental requirement that our industry investments are secure and remain sustainable in all operations and service delivery throughout the community. Such values are underpinned by the central belief that all businesses must operate in an environment that is consistent with the principles enshrined by the term a 'commercial level playing field'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Ralph', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.



The Northern Territory waste management and recycling sector is an essential services industry. It contributes directly to the Territories economy and society through employment, investment and assisting with the efficient use of waste materials and resources protecting both public health and the environment. The industry comprises companies involved in the collection, transfer, handling, sorting, re-processing and disposal of all waste materials, liquid, hazardous and solids generated by society.

In order to continue to advance this essential service industry and increase its contribution to the economic value and growth of the Territory current industry practices and sector inequities must

be addressed. Historical policies biased towards the end of pipe options coupled with an unreasonable amount of focus on domestic waste streams, and litter have achieved minimal environmental business outcomes and done little to stimulate growth or innovation.

The Northern Territory needs policies that pull secondary resources and other materials into the production economy and promotes sustainable domestic solutions. The industry is therefore seeking formal acknowledgment of the key issues impacting the sector and a response from all elected representatives to the issues being advocated by WRINT.

The Waste Recycling Industry Association of Northern Territory State Election Policy statements have been identified by industry as being priority action areas for the attention of a newly elected 2016 Northern Territory Government.

WRINT advocates these industry actions by seeking formal responses to them from the Country Liberals, Australian Labor Party, The Greens and all Independent Representatives.

WRINT advocates

1

Agreement to separate responsibility of waste policy from The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority the industry's current Regulator, and reassign it to an appropriate Government Industry, Small Business or Manufacturing portfolio.

2

A newly elected Government commit within the first twelve months of being elected to commission a formal review of the Northern Territory's Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1999 and its subordinate regulatory framework.

3

The elected Government initiate within the first six months' commission a panel of key stakeholders and industry experts to review the existing NT Disaster Waste Management Plans. The review must include revising all plans to address, manmade disasters, (oil spills), natural events (earth quakes, cyclones and fire) as well as bio security incidents (foot and mouth outbreaks) respect to managing all wastes, their final disposal and contractual clarity.

4

WRINT advocates a formal response from Government to the specific actions it will enact that lead to supporting the central objectives scoped in the industry plan 'PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE' Advocating thought leadership, innovation, economic development and job growth for the industry

1

WRINT Policy Position Statement 1

Reassign and separate responsibility for Waste Policy from the Environmental Regulator

Northern Territory Government historically follows a model that policy ownership of the waste management and secondary resources industry is a responsibility chartered to the Environmental Regulator the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority. (NT EPA)

In July 2015 the NT EPA Published the Waste Management Strategy for the Northern Territory. The document provides a consultation framework and action items for understanding and improving the management of waste in the Northern Territory to reduce the generation of waste, increase rates of resource recovery and to minimise environmental impacts caused by waste. It provides an overarching summary of the waste management issues currently being faced and aspires to set the direction for managing waste and recycling issues over the next decade in this state.

To the credit of all involved in scoping this strategy, and WRINT acknowledges that it was consulted, the document published is fundamentally focused at management issues rather than achieving strategic intent. As result the actions aspired to are focussed upon environmental outcomes and underestimate the business and economic drivers

that ultimately create the jobs and investments that in turn deliver the environmental reforms.

It is therefore not unexpected that the document fails to deliver the critical business drivers, specific outcomes, actions and direction the industry seeks and expects of Government. It is WRINT's observation that this is as a result the charter confines to the NT EPA delivering this work within Government, who's primary role is to provide advice on the environmental impacts of development proposals and advice and regulatory services to encourage effective waste management, pollution control and sustainable practices.

The missing link in the development of the strategy, and resultant flaw to its design, is that the real owners within Government, who's core remit is to deliver a business and industry policy agenda that drives economic development, have not been properly engaged in the production of this work.

It is WRINT's view that the central stakeholders and policy designers of Government who are responsible for delivering the Territories economic agenda must have carriage of the Waste Strategy Their work is directly aligned with the same

outcomes our industry aspires to achieve which is 'strong economic and jobs growth. The current focus does not have a waste industry agenda to drive innovation, with a specific focus to re-manufacturing, productivity and employment. The loss in terms of the Northern Territory maximising the real economic values from the industry are therefore significant.

It is timely that a newly elected administration separates the industry's policy interests from environmental regulation, into to a portfolio of Government that is capable of reshaping waste policy focussed at and capable of, achieving real and economic business outcomes.

The actions aspired to are focussed upon environmental outcomes and underestimate the business and economic drivers that ultimately create the jobs and investments that in turn deliver the environmental reforms.

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Agreements to separate the responsibility of waste policy from The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority the industry's current Regulator, and reassign it to an appropriate Government Industry, Small Business or Manufacturing portfolio.

WRINT Policy Position Statement 2

Commit to formally reforming the Waste and Recycling Industry's Legislative Framework

Its objectives are principally pollution prevention measures but it also has responsibility for providing the legislative intent to ensure, avoidance and reducing the generation of waste; increasing the re-use and re-cycling of waste; and effectively managing waste disposal.

Northern Territory's Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1999 (and its subordinate regulatory framework) (WMPC Act) prescribe the necessary legislative requirements of how the industry is to be managed. Its objectives are principally pollution prevention measures but it also has responsibility for providing the legislative intent to ensure, avoidance and reducing the generation of waste; increasing the re-use and re-cycling of waste; and effectively managing waste disposal.

In September 2014 The NT EPA issued advice to industry that Government was undertaking a formal review of the WMPC Act. It acknowledged at the time that: By its own initiative, in February 2013, the NT EPA determined to conduct a review of the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act and to provide advice to the Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment.

The Waste Management and Pollution Control Act was introduced in 1999 to manage the impacts of waste and pollution on the Northern Territory environment. A number of concerns with the Act have been identified since its introduction. Some of these concerns are minor and have had little impact on the overall operation of the Act. Other matters represent an unacceptable risk to the environment as they prevent the NT EPA from taking action to enforce the Act.

The Litter Act was originally introduced as the Litter Ordinance in 1972 and has not been substantially reviewed or amended since 1990. An internal review, commenced in the mid-2000s, was never completed.

The review was terminated by the NT EPA in late 2014. Meetings with Government following this advice confirmed to industry no future timetable was likely to be committed to given the administrations other legislative priorities and the review was suspended.

Acknowledged by all stakeholders the current legislation is increasingly under pressure and has become grossly outdated and largely ineffective in its ability to properly manage the complexities of the industry, in particular address effectively the changes that are occurring result industrial and mining expansion, in addition to the region's population increases and therefore reform is critical.

It is essential in parallel to any process of reshaping and reforming the territories waste management policy agenda, Government must also commit to undertaking a formal and structural review of the WMPC Act and its subordinate regulation. The review should be commenced within the first twelve months of a new Government being formed as it is critical to industry's ongoing business and investment confidence, job creation and of advancing and improving the territories waste management and secondary resource recovery performance.

WRINT advocates

A newly elected Government commit within the first twelve months of being elected to commission a formal review of the Northern Territory's Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1999 and its subordinate regulatory framework.

3

WRINT Policy Position Statement 3

Commission a panel of key stakeholders and industry experts to revise the existing Northern Territory's Disaster Waste Management Plans.



WRINT advocates that the collection, transport and disposal of all solid, liquid and hazardous waste materials must be recognized as an essential community service. The industry understands the impacts that extreme weather events have on their operations, and it is for this reason all have emergency operational management plans, to ensure that when major weather events do occur, the collection and removal of waste in the community, can be undertaken in the most practical manner.

Local councils have traditionally had the responsibility for cleaning up and removing wastes following major weather events. Typically, an impacted local authority engages private sector contractors to assist or undertake the work. Usually this work is contracted out to its landfill or preferred council contractors but no structural or system boundary is observed across jurisdictions for engaging of this work.

It is industry's observations, based on historical events that have occurred (both manmade and natural weather events), that typically clean-up logistics, contractors and appropriate asset needs including disposal options, are only considered as an afterthought rather than known by all involved leading up to the event.

All local government authorities have existing local disaster clean up management plans in place, but their focus historically is on its ratepayers ie households, street debris, parks, green waste or local creek debris.

WRINT advocates that a broader NT Emergency Waste Management Plan provide focus at the management macro level, including a detailed, critical approach or analysis for the handling, removing, managing or disposal of the very significant quantities of commercial and industrial wastes, including contaminated muds and liquids (which often include problem wastes) that are generated when these events occur and the plans include addressing, manmade disasters, (oil spills), natural events (earth quakes, cyclones and fire) as well as bio security incidents (foot and mouth outbreaks)

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The elected Government initiate within the first six months' commission a panel of key stakeholders and industry experts to review the existing NT Disaster Waste Management Plans. The review must include revising all plans to address, manmade disasters, (oil spills), natural events (earth quakes, cyclones and fire) as well as bio security incidents (foot and mouth outbreaks) respect to managing all wastes, their final disposal and contractual clarity.

WRINT Policy Position Statement 4

Revision of Financial Assurance models for all Private and Public Waste Management Assets

Demonstrating industry leadership WRINT, with input from all companies with assets and investments in the Northern Territory in 2016, completed a comprehensive review and published its five-stage Industry Action Plan. The plan outlines concepts, ideas and structure to create a new and more dynamic waste management and secondary resources industry in the Northern Territory.

WRINT's Plan internationally peer reviewed for its structure and content, articulates the required outcomes, including a reshaped legislative framework for achieving a future 'PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE' for the sector and in the interests of all stakeholders – It Advocates thought leadership, innovation, economic development and job growth for the industry

WRINT's Plan details actions to be addressed by government and initiatives that will result in waste reduction and at the same time increasing recycling across the Territory. It will deliver a substantive contribution to the economic and jobs growth targets set by Government.

The Action plan has been presented to the NT EPA, Local Government, the elected Government and Opposition. Industry has not as yet received any formal written advice from Government to this leading industry work.

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