



**QUEENSLAND MURRAY-DARLING COMMITTEE INC. (QMDC) SUBMISSION  
ON Queensland’s Waste Strategy 2010–2020 Waste Avoidance and Recycling  
Consultation Draft**

**TO: Project Manager – Queensland’s Waste Strategy consultation  
Natural Resources and Environment  
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QMDC supports DERM’s efforts to produce a Queensland Waste Strategy 2010 - 2020 (the Strategy) that integrates strategic, legislative and economic reform. QMDC appreciates the Strategy in light of the opportunities and challenges it encapsulates for the Queensland Government, industry and community in Queensland.

QMDC is keen to see coordination across South West Queensland and the Queensland Murray Darling Basin. In its capacity as a Natural Resource Management Group (NRM) seeks an active role in promoting and implementing key components of the Strategy within its NRM region.

QMDC submits that:

### **1.0 Guiding Principles**

- The guiding principles (resource efficiency, sustainability, engagement and capacity building) illustrate how investments in this Strategy will take into account social, economic and environmental factors. Additionally the Strategy needs to promote changes that facilitate culturally relevant principles to further local solutions and facilitate wider community engagement.
- The range of actions identified to enable the Strategy, are obvious ones to take, and require for their success, capable leadership from within the government, industry and community sectors, as well as appropriate support, to implement changes.
- In addition to aiding the capacity building of businesses and industry, significant support should also be provided to building skills and knowledge within local government, especially in regional, rural and remote areas where the challenges are significantly different to more metropolitan areas.

### **2.0 Strategic Tools: The Need to Analyze Opportunities in Conjunction with Regional NRM Plans**

- QMDC recognizes the need to analyze waste management opportunities against nationally and internationally accepted priorities. QMDC promotes the need for such analysis to be conducted in conjunction with regional NRM plans as well as other relevant regional planning instruments.



Waste recovery and recycling technologies, for example, must not only consider the resources and assets available to a region but also the impact of using that resource in a region.

- The regional NRM Plan covering the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin and Bulloo Catchment areas has a number of principles underpinning the Plan's development that mirror the guiding principles identified as relevant to the Strategy. The synergy between the Strategy and the Regional NRM Plan therefore potentially exists.
- The alignment of regional, national and international planning processes is essential. It allows appropriate targets to be set and developed against recognized waste priorities and provides regional flexibility based on local conditions. Reducing greenhouse emissions, for example, from the generation of waste and landfills is recognized as a key climate change mitigation strategy for QMDC and the Queensland Murray Darling Basin.
- The other strategic tools identified (product stewardship, user pays, local solutions, partnerships, engagement, communication and knowledge management, and legislation) provide further opportunities for finding the most relevant solutions to waste management problems. It is important that not only innovation is encouraged but also local and regional responsibility for the reduction in waste generation is supported. Opportunities for collaboration between neighbouring local governments, and with industries, businesses and the community should also be actively encouraged.
- QMDC supports the vision of the Strategy, but would add that in addition to all businesses, all tiers of government operating within Queensland should be '...aware of and participate in resource efficiency'.

### **3.0 Targets**

- The introduction of targets must provide greater incentive for Queensland's industry, business and community sectors to position themselves to capture a significant share of investment in implementation of the waste and resource management hierarchy. The Queensland Government should look to its regions and base its incentive to invest on the aspirations of its rural and urban communities.
- Ownership of investments is also a key issue for QMDC and any targets or plans set by the Federal or State governments need to articulate whether the investments are privately or government owned. The Queensland Government needs to ensure the implementation of the Strategy is successful by advancing regional input to and ownership of this Strategy.
- A single State output target is useful if regional targets are also set. QMDC also supports the setting of industry targets. QMDC suggest that by setting higher targets and within a shorter timeframe may provide better impetus for the renewable industry.



- QMDC believes that in order to ascertain what the target should be and in what form, consultation at a regional level needs to take place.

#### **4.0 Expansion of the Waste Recovery & Recycling Industry**

QMDC submits that expansion of the waste recovery and recycling industry in this region, must like any new industry also consider social, cultural, economic and environmental issues which include matters such as but are not limited to:

- the adoption of regional targets
- private and public ownership of investment
- interrelationship of wider NRM issues
- waste disposal levies
- life cycle waste analysis support for key regional industry supply chains

#### **5.0 The Decisions and Policies of State Governments Will Be Critical To the Shape, Timing, Implementation and Viability of Key Recycling Projects**

- The decisions and policies of the Queensland Government need to seriously reflect regional capabilities and roles with regard to the implementation and viability of key recycling projects.
- Strategies to support and expand the waste management industry must clearly identify opportunities and barriers obstructing those opportunities. Initiatives require a social, cultural, economic and environmental analysis to provide real cost accounting.
- It will be important for the Queensland Government to work across local government boundaries and foster collaborative ventures between businesses, industries, and government, to create effective and equitable waste and resource management opportunities across the State.

#### **6.0 Barriers to the implementation of the Strategy**

- Some of these barriers include access to capital - for maintenance, establishment costs and infrastructure.
- The introduction of new legislation should not allow privileges to industry at the cost of overriding community interests and concerns.
- Levies and enforcement are critical to the integrity of the proposed Strategy therefore it is also critical that DERM and or local government are appropriately resourced to enforce the new legislation. QMDC would recommend that levies also be introduced to the Shires of Balonne, Paroo, Murweh and the Maranoa Regional Shire.



- Barriers which may centre around financial, community engagement and support, conflicts over current and future land use may be overcome with an extensive education programme based at different levels eg industry, business, community. Certainly creating substantial employment in the waste management industry that provides essential work in education as well as the provision of waste management services will assist these barriers to be overcome.
- The Strategy must address barriers related to the availability and access to most appropriate technology and skilled workforce to implement and sustain ongoing waste management at the regional scale.

## **7.0 Priority Issues the Queensland Government Should Address To Encourage Investment**

- QMDC identifies financial incentives including rebates, subsidies, reducing establishment costs, state assistance to local businesses for improved waste management practices as priority issues the Queensland government should address to encourage investment. These incentives may also be appropriately provided by local government, and where this is possible, local government should be supported to amend planning and other regulatory instruments to actively encourage industry, business and the community to implement the waste and resource management hierarchy.
- QMDC also suggests coordinating the Strategy in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin region may include:
  1. The establishment of a regional liaison/steering committee to consult regarding core elements and strategic project importance for the region. Local partners may include (but not be limited to) Local Governments, relevant State Departments, NGOs, industry and the private sector.
  2. The development and delivery of an introductory waste management programme to build consumer, business, industry knowledge and understanding of waste management practices and impacts relevant to the region.
  3. Facilitation of the development, through the steering committee, of an adaptation plan, incorporating preliminary regional targets and adaptation strategies, which can reflect and inform any number of local and regional plans.
  4. A regional programme will see the region's urban and rural current and future waste generation assessed with research and government organisations so as to achieve significant waste reduction to allow for target environmental, social and economic outcomes benefits.



5. The overall goal of such a programme is to support the region's communities to adapt to a new waste management ethos. By influencing people's consumption habits through rewards in the market place, significant waste reduction will be made.
6. A balance between incentives and regulation to enable realistic targets in waste management to be achieved.

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