



## **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

*Chair: Dr Tony Buti, MLA*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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# Committee Report: *No (More) Time to Waste*

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A report tabled in Parliament today has found that the Waste Authority and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation are still working to address issues that have plagued the State's Waste Strategy since its implementation in 2012.

The report, *No (More) Time to Waste*, follows-up the recommendations contained in the Auditor General's October 2016 report *Western Australian Waste Strategy: Re-thinking Waste*.

The 2016 audit report found that while the management of waste had improved since the introduction of the Waste Strategy, none of the Strategy's four targets for diverting waste to landfill were being met, and data to inform the progress of waste management was 'incomplete and unreliable.'

In following-up the audit report, the Public Accounts Committee spoke with both agencies in June and July 2018. The Committee found that the Waste Authority and DWER have only completed five of the 16 actions recommended by the Auditor General to a satisfactory level.

This failure to address these recommendations in a timely manner arguably stems from a significant legacy issue: the inability of the Waste Authority and DWER's predecessor, the former Department of Environmental Regulation, to confirm their roles and responsibilities through an agreed governance structure. It appears that working relations between the two key entities have improved since 2017, and steps are still being taken to address this legacy issue.

Committee Chair Dr Tony Buti said that while 'both agencies are undertaking a series of remedial actions to address the issues identified,' this process had taken too long. 'It is critical that the Department and the Waste Authority complete these tasks promptly, given landfill levy payments exceeding \$140 million have already been directed towards the Waste Strategy.'

Dr Buti added that the committee has made seven recommendations for action. 'We believe that these recommendations, if enacted, will go a long way towards ensuring that the Waste Strategy is better placed to deliver on its objectives.'

The report is available at the [Committee's website](#).