



### **ASBG's Framework Approach to a Revamped/Reengineered Recycling System**

ASBG has developed this long term framework, based on member input, in response to the increasingly difficult economic environment of recycling across Australia. To provide confidence that businesses are concerned about recycling ASBG is looking to maintain existing recycling levels in this time frame. ASBG's key actions include:

**Scale of the issue and response:** Identification of the scale of the economic problems affecting recycling. Its purpose is to identify the extent of support and investment required in the sector. Minimising cost to revamp recycling is essential.

**Physical Approaches:** The two bin recycling system is no longer effective and new systems are required in collection, transport, MRFs and recycling facilities aiming for lower contamination levels and higher quality recycled products attracting higher prices. A key element in this approach is to develop a national *Agreed standardised set of source separated categories* for collections, which is likely to increase the number of categories for collection. Standardised inputs with should provide increased certainty in reengineering MRF and other recycling facilities. Improved education of the public and other recyclate generators will be simplified and revamped following this standardisation.

**Markets – New and expanding existing:** Improved lower contamination levels via use of *source separated systems* will deliver higher classes of recyclate for domestic and international markets. However, there is a need to develop new end uses for recycled materials, such as those based on engineered fill, down cycling and other markets. Adoption of recycled content procurement policies by Government is also required. For example, require the use of glass fines for engineered materials by government agencies in infrastructure, provided standards are met. *Industry innovation* → Supporting concept to market ready innovative new recycled materials, processes, products and end markets, including regulatory and grant supports and removal of green tape.

**Regulatory / Policy Framework:** Working with industry and the waste sector to deal with recycling in a cooperative manner to develop efficient governance and remove over regulation [green tape] on recycling, such as:

- *Outcome* based [environmental] measures preferred with *process and activity* based measures avoided.
- Avoid regulation of B2B by-product recycling where a common raw material used in another *bond fide* process.
- Promote the use of EfW, including use of existing industrial thermal processes.
- Establish the national waste database, increased waste tracking and economic modelling of waste and recycling.
- Review waste levies to: better support recycling via hypothecation and levy discounts on their waste streams, lowered to levels to reduce illegal dumping and disposal and to disincentivise long haulage of waste.
- Government to lead in progressing regulatory approvals for new and reengineered recycling facilities.
- Review of planning rules to increase community responsibilities for their wastes on a regional basis as in the UK.
- Remove planning approval road blocks to waste infrastructure, recognising waste is also a local health issue.

**Financial Support and Approaches:** including new grant schemes for new kerbside bins, MRF upgrades, and market support. Revised contracts to better share the risks in recycling markets between Councils and contractors. Development of low cost finance such as Australia's CEFC to support the revamped recycling system funding required.

#### **Main Actions for Governments based on the above:**

Progress an efficient; low-cost revamped reengineered recycling system with actions to:

1. Develop *Agreed standardised set of source separated categories* for collection.
2. Develop *recycled product standards* that are cost effective and environmentally responsible.
3. Review waste legislation, levies and polices to enable recycling to become efficient and profitable again.
4. Establish National, State and Territory Taskforces to enable the above actions, which include all major stakeholders to facilitate a new revamped and reengineered recycling system for Australia.
5. Establish improved financial funding for improved recycling.
6. Identify the scale of the recycling issue, the economic impact and support required and to establish the balance between onshore and off shore processing.