



MEDIA RELEASE

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Southern Waste Memorandum of Understanding: Councils team up on local waste issues

As part of a joint effort to take action on local waste management issues, Tasmania's 12 southern councils, including the Huon Valley Council, have taken the first step towards forming a new regional authority on waste management through the introduction of the Southern Waste Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), managed by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT).

The Huon Valley Council agreed to join the Southern Waste MoU at its Ordinary Meeting on 27 November 2019, making the commitment to work together with other southern Tasmanian councils on a number of goals, including:

- Managing regional waste streams (including landfill, recycling and green waste)
- Promoting a circular economy for waste streams
- Co-ordinating regional waste collection efficiently and effectively
- Supporting efficient, sustainable and suitably scaled end-of-collection facilities for processing waste
- Working towards reaching consistent service standards for ratepayers and customers
- Advocating or partnering with other regions, governments and industry to promote resource recovery futures
- Co-operate on marketing and education activities to support waste reduction and the effective use of services

Huon Valley Council Mayor Bec Enders said that the councils' decision to enter into the Southern Waste MoU is a good move for southern Tasmania. "It gives our region a united voice in the state-wide conversation about successfully managing waste in the short and long term," said Cr Enders.

"With recent disruptions and developments in the way waste is managed in Tasmania and Australia, including the insolvency of our major recycling provider in southern Tasmania, now is the time to look at the challenges and opportunities we are facing in the waste sector and get prepared to take action to ensure the best outcomes for our communities.

"As a signatory of the MoU, the Huon Valley Council will now have a collective voice and be in a stronger position to negotiate with the State Government to make sure our community benefits from waste management plans and projects, such as the waste levy which the State Government announced it will introduce by 2021 in its draft Waste Action Plan," said Cr

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Enders. “It will also make sure Council is kept well-informed of developments in the waste sector and opportunities to achieve the goals set out in the MoU.”

A copy of the Southern Waste MoU is available on the Huon Valley Council website at www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au, along with the report and minutes from the Council meeting.

For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300