



Policy and Business Branch
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
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By email to: WAP.Enquiries@dpipwe.tas.go.au

RE: Draft Waste Action Plan

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) has reviewed the Tasmanian Government's Draft Waste Action Plan and would like to make the following comments, specifically around the areas of construction and demolition waste, as relating to the practice of architecture and the built environment.

Construction and demolition (C&D) waste is mentioned on page 10 and recognised as having a significantly lower than the overall average material recovery rate for Tasmania. However, C&D is not specifically addressed in the list of waste reduction and resource recovery targets on p.10. We presume C&D is included in the target 'Achieve a 40% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2025 and 80% by 2030'.

Globally, the construction industry plays a huge part in our energy and resource consumption, environmental depletion and waste, accounting for nearly 40% of greenhouse gas (CO₂) emissions. The Australian Institute of Architects has recently endorsed the 'Architects Declare' global movement, declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency. This declaration includes a commitment to taking action for positive change in our industry and community.

We recognise that the move to a Circular Economy is a huge undertaking and acknowledge that change will need to occur across the different industries and sectors. As such, we encourage the Tasmanian Government to create a policy dedicated to addressing the construction and demolition waste stream. We will be happy to provide input on this, drawing from innovative national and international precedents.

Initiatives may include:

- collecting data on the current C&D waste stream;
- setting targets that meet, if not exceed, those of other Australian states so that Tasmania can be seen as a leader;
- encouraging and supporting the adaption of existing buildings instead of demolishing and building new;

- targeting the recovery of up to 95% of existing building materials through a process of 'deconstruction' rather than 'demolition', through services such as the Resource Work Cooperative; materials include metal, bricks, doors, windows, timber, roofing, electrical fittings;
- incentivising private developer's adoption of the above initiatives in both demolition and construction;
- establishing a centralised data bank with mandatory requirement for government projects including buildings marked for demolition or adaptive re-use to audit, report and demolish in the appropriate manner any materials for acquisition and re-use by others where not utilised on the project.

The Institute would like to thank the Tasmanian Government for the opportunity to provide comment on this Draft, and we would be happy to discuss any issues mentioned in further detail if required.

Yours sincerely,



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Tasmanian Executive Director,
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Shamus Mulcahy
Tasmanian President,
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The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for the architectural profession, representing 11,500 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute actively works to improve the quality of our built environment by promoting quality, responsible and sustainable design. Learn more about the Institute, log on to www.architecture.com.au.