

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question Without Notice**

**Wednesday, 13 September 2017**

**C620. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the concept of waste to energy, and to recent statistics that show Western Australia has the lowest recycling rates of any state in Australia and that in fact our rates of recycling have gone backwards over the last 8 years of government, and ask:

1. How are the East Metropolitan Regional Council and the Mindarie Regional Council managing waste in line with the Government's policy of waste hierarchy before investing in waste to energy in East Rockingham?
2. Does the Government support the previous Liberal Government's Waste to Energy position statement released in 2013, which approved three waste to energy plants in Western Australia to operate in Kwinana, East Rockingham and Port Hedland?
3. What measures will this Government put in place, and what existing measures are in place, to ensure that the waste hierarchy is adhered to prior to waste materials being processed by these facilities?

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**Answer**

**The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has provided the following:**

1. The government is not aware that the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council and the Mindarie Regional Council have made a final decision to invest in a waste to energy facility.
2. As Minister I consider the acceptability of any proposal on its merits. I support the waste hierarchy and note that waste avoidance, reuse and recycling have priority over energy recovery.
3. The Government is reviewing the waste strategy, in order to improve the State's waste performance and increase the rates of waste avoidance, reuse and recycling. With regard to existing measures, the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* requires the consideration of resource management options against the waste hierarchy, and the Government continues to promote the recovery of waste consistently with the hierarchy. An example of this is the \$20 million Better Bins program which to date has led to more than a quarter of households in the Perth metropolitan region introducing best practice bin collections such as colour-coded three bin systems.



Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; DISABILITY SERVICES**