



3 April 2018

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Mr Mike Rowe
Director General
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Email: daip@dwer.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Rowe

Submission on Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 - 2023

On behalf of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) I am writing to provide feedback on the Departments Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018 – 2023. Due to meeting Schedules MWAC has yet to consider this Submission but will at its next meeting (18 April) and the Department will be informed of any changes to the Submission.

I would like to congratulate the Department on the product of the Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan which clearly articulates how within many elements of the Departments operations these considerations will be included.

MWAC would like to recommend adding in an additional outcome and associated strategies to the plan which leverages the Department sphere of influence in relation to public programs. The outcome is:
People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to access and be included in public programs developed, funded or delivered by the Department.

The associated strategy would require an initial assessment of Programs occurs to determine whether there is a public facility element of the Program which would require access or inclusion to be assessed and potentially established.

This is particularly relevant for the waste management context. For example, in the development of the Container Deposit Scheme for Western Australia it is important that disability access is included as a consideration in the development of refund points. WALGA has discussed this issue with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority who identified that some of refund sites in NSW may need to be retrofitted as disability access was not considered in their design and construction. Another example of this is the Household Hazardous Waste Program, administered by WALGA on behalf of the Waste Authority. The Household Hazardous Waste Program provides funding to Local Government drop off facilities so that any member of the public can dispose of unwanted HHW. WALGA could establish the disability access options for each site and these could be promoted.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Brown, Manager, Waste and Recycling on 9213 2063 or at rbrown@walga.asn.au

Yours sincerely

Cr Doug Thompson
Chair
Municipal Waste Advisory Council