

Submission on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement: Nitrous Oxide Supply

October 2022

Status of this Submission

This Submission This Submission has been prepared through the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) for the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA). MWAC is a standing committee of WALGA, with delegated authority to represent the Association in all matters relating to solid waste management. MWAC's membership includes the major Regional Councils (waste management) as well as a number of Local Government representatives. This makes MWAC a unique forum through which all the major Local Government waste management organisations cooperate.

This Submission therefore represents the consolidated view of Western Australian Local Government. However, individual Local Governments and Regional Councils may have views that differ from the positions taken here.

This Submission was endorsed at the MWAC meeting on Wednesday, 26 October 2022.

Comments

WALGA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement: Nitrous Oxide Supply*. Nitrous oxide gas cannisters have been raised as an issue by Local Government, as they are frequently littered in large quantities in car parks, public gardens and other public spaces maintained by Local Government, posing a risk to environmental health and community amenity. This places additional pressures on Local Government resourcing, given the added expectation to clean up discarded cannisters in public places.

Local Government has welcomed the recent restrictions on supply of nitrous oxide bulbs announced by the State Government, that will reclassify the substance as a Schedule 6 poison and restrict sale to people aged 16 years and over.

The Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement proposes a suite of additional supply controls on nitrous oxide bulbs, which would limit when such items can be sold and the quantity sold, with the aim of restricting their availability and associated adverse impacts. As per Section 14 of the proposal, Local Government can contribute to the monitoring of the proposed supply control impacts through reporting on changes in the quantity of discarded cannisters in public spaces.

Further restrictions on the supply of nitrous oxide cannisters will assist with a reduction in both their use and subsequent inappropriate disposal. Given the scale of this issue, Local Government supports the proposed supply controls, as this will greatly assist in mitigating their negative impacts on both human health and the environment.