

Submission on the *Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging (No Time to Waste) Bill 2026*

June 2026

About WALGA

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is an independent, member-based, not for profit organisation representing and supporting the WA Local Government sector. Our membership includes all 139 Local Governments in the State.

WALGA uses its influence, support and expertise to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

We advocate to all levels of Government on behalf of our Members, and provide expert advice, services and support to Local Governments.

WALGA's vision is for agile and inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and enabling economic prosperity.

Acknowledgement of Country

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Nyoongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

Introduction

WALGA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Australian Parliament's Inquiry into the [*Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for Packaging \(No Time to Waste\) Bill 2026*](#).

The Bill covers establishment of an Act to provide for the Government of the Commonwealth to establish a uniform national extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging (the Scheme). The Scheme would place a direct and legally binding obligation on producers, importers or distributors of packaging for the end-of-life management of the packaging they place onto the Australian market.

Local Government considers that industry should take responsibility (physical and/or financial) for the waste that it generates through the entire life cycle of the products it produces through the implementation of effective product stewardship. Without effective product stewardship, there will be increasing costs for the community, resource recovery targets will be difficult to reach and a transition to a circular economy is unlikely.

WALGA has a clear [advocacy position on Product Stewardship](#) and [Statement](#). WALGA has identified in various submissions the limitations of the current co-regulatory approach for packaging; including the [Review of the Co-Regulatory Arrangements under the National Environmental Protection \(Used Packaging Materials\) Measure](#) and [Reform of Packaging Regulations Consultation Paper](#).

Comments on objectives of the Scheme

WALGA supports the objectives of the Bill, as they align with ongoing advocacy on packaging reform. Table 1 identifies the objectives of the Scheme and outlines WALGA's comments to enhance the effectiveness of the Scheme.

Table 1: Objectives of the Bill with comments

Objectives	Comments
a) to ensure responsible persons of packaging have responsibility for the management of their packaging over the entire life cycle of their packaging	Support.
b) to ensure reductions in the use of packaging and virgin plastic	Support.
c) to ensure materials and additives that impede recycling are, where appropriate, prohibited in, or phased out of, the manufacture of packaging	Support. There may also be additives which inhibit composting process, for example PFAS. Recommendation: Amend to include mention of any materials or additives that impede composting.
d) to ensure packaging is manufactured in accordance with best-practice standards relating to the eco-design of the packaging	Support.
e) to increase resource recovery and recycling rates and support the growth of the domestic Australian recycling industry, including by ensuring the following minimum targets in relation to packaging made, used or sold in Australia are met by 2030: a. all packaging (whether or not plastic) must be reusable, recyclable or compostable b. 70% of all plastic packaging must be recycled or composted c. all packaging (whether or not plastic) must include at least 50% recycled content, including at least 30% Australian recycled content d. all problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging must be phased out	Support. Noting that these targets will require investment to implement as they represent a significant shift in process.
f) to ensure the labelling of packaged products include clear and accurate information about the environmental impacts and correct disposal of the packaging of the products	Support. Mandatory disposal labelling is essential.
g) to provide financial incentives for responsible persons of packaging to reduce packaging, and improve the eco-design, of their packaging, such as by requiring the responsible persons to pay eco-modulated fees calculated on the basis of the recyclability or manufactured quantity of their packaging	Support.
h) to support ongoing consumer education and awareness of matters related to the scheme.	Support.