BN

BUSINESSNEWS

Environment

SPECIAL REPORT

WA builds capacity to recycle onshore

With several projects under way, the state also needs to develop markets for its recycled products in pursuit of a circular economy.

Madeleine Stephens
madeleine.stephens@businessnews.com.au

“ We think there is a real opportunity here for local producers to have a bit of trial and error with RHDPE (plastic made from recycled high-density polythene)

- Daniel Taylor

MORE than 11 recycling infrastructure projects are in the works to increase Western Australia's capacity to deal with its waste onshore and establish a re-use economy.

According to the Waste Authority, 781,684 tonnes of recovered waste materials was exported internationally in 2019-20.

But over the next three years, the federal government is gradually banning the export of waste, plastics, tyres and paper.

A ban on the export of glass was implemented on January 1 this year and a ban on mixed plastics came into effect on July 1.

A ban to regulate waste tyres starts on December 1.

The export of single resin plastics will be discontinued from July 2022 and paper and cardboard exports will be banned from July 2024.

A spokesperson for the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation said materials already affected by the bans, glass and mixed plastics, were being processed interstate.

To increase WA's processing power, the state and federal governments contributed $70 million to nine recycling projects in February.

Five of the funded projects were tyre recycling facilities, three were for plastics reprocessing and one was for a pulp mill to process paper and cardboard.

The nine projects will process a combined 240,000 tonnes of waste a year when they become operational over the next few years.

The largest commitment was $30 million to Suez and Auswaste's $86 million pulp mill, which is expected to be operational before the ban on exporting mixed paper comes into effect on July 1, 2024. No date has been set and a location is yet to be confirmed.

Cleanaway and Pact Group Holdings were awarded $9.5 million for a recycling plant to process four types of plastics, HDPE, PET, LDPE and PP, into polymers to be used in plastic packaging.

According to Cleanaway, the plant will see more than 17,000 tonnes of kerbside waste plastic processed into almost 14,000 tonnes of resin and polymer flake.

A location is yet to be chosen for the plant, but Cleanaway said it would be in an industrial area in Perth and would be operational in the first half of 2023.

Chairay Sustainable Plastic Company was awarded $5.6 million for a plastics reprocessing plant, which it will open in stages over the next two years.

By December, its sorting and flaking functions will be operational.

In December 2022, it will have the capacity to flake PET and HPDE and in December 2023 it will create PET and HDPE pellets.

The company is part of the Taiwan-based Ming Fu Group, which has been involved in the waste industry for 40 years.

According to Chairay Sustainable Plastic Company purchase manager, Ruben Geisler, the company has established plastics markets, after exporting plastic scrap from several WA material recovery facilities and the container deposit scheme to its existing plastics reprocessing facility in Taiwan.

The group has agreements with the Taiwanese textile industry for PET and supplied the Japanese automobile industry with HDPE.

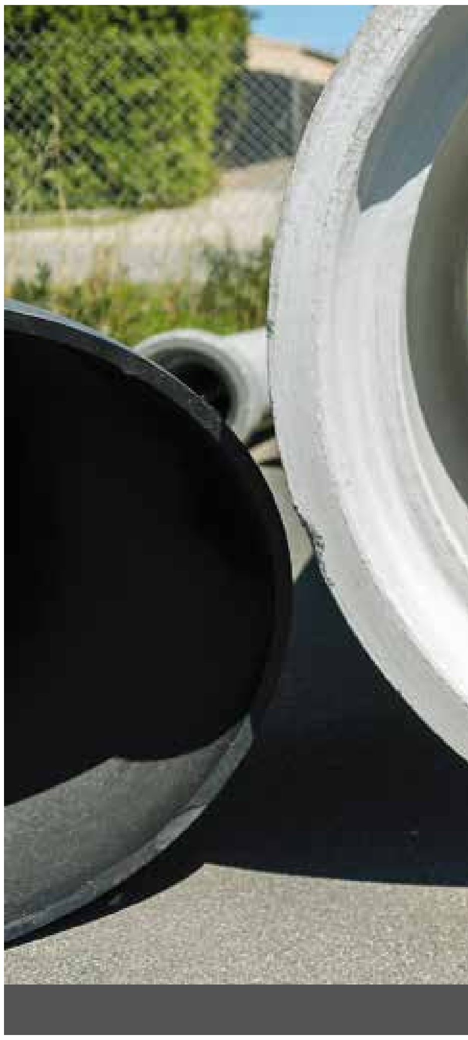
The third plastic processing facility will be operated by D&M Waste Management, which received $800,000 to get its plant running.

The Kwinana Beach facility will be operating by March 2022 and has the capacity to process between 1,500 and 2,500 tonnes of waste plastic a year.

D&M Waste Management has proposed a unique circular economy model, where waste pipes will be made into pellets and given to its sister company Hydra Storm to manufacture new corrugated HDPE drainage pipes.

"The waste pipe will go into our pipe shredder, through the granulation, cleaning and repelletisation process and will feed our HDPE pellets into their pipe production plant," D&M Waste Management general manager Daniel Taylor said.

Mr Taylor said the company was applying for additional funding for a 3D printer to encourage the use of recycled materials in the community.



He said the state's access to recycled HDPE was unreliable and was often 'off spec', deterring people from using it.

"We think there is a real opportunity here for local producers to have a bit of trial and error with RHDPE (plastic made from recycled high-density polythene) and see what they can come up with and create some more circular products," Mr Taylor said.

Several new tyre processing projects are also under way but will not be completed when the export ban comes into play on December 1.

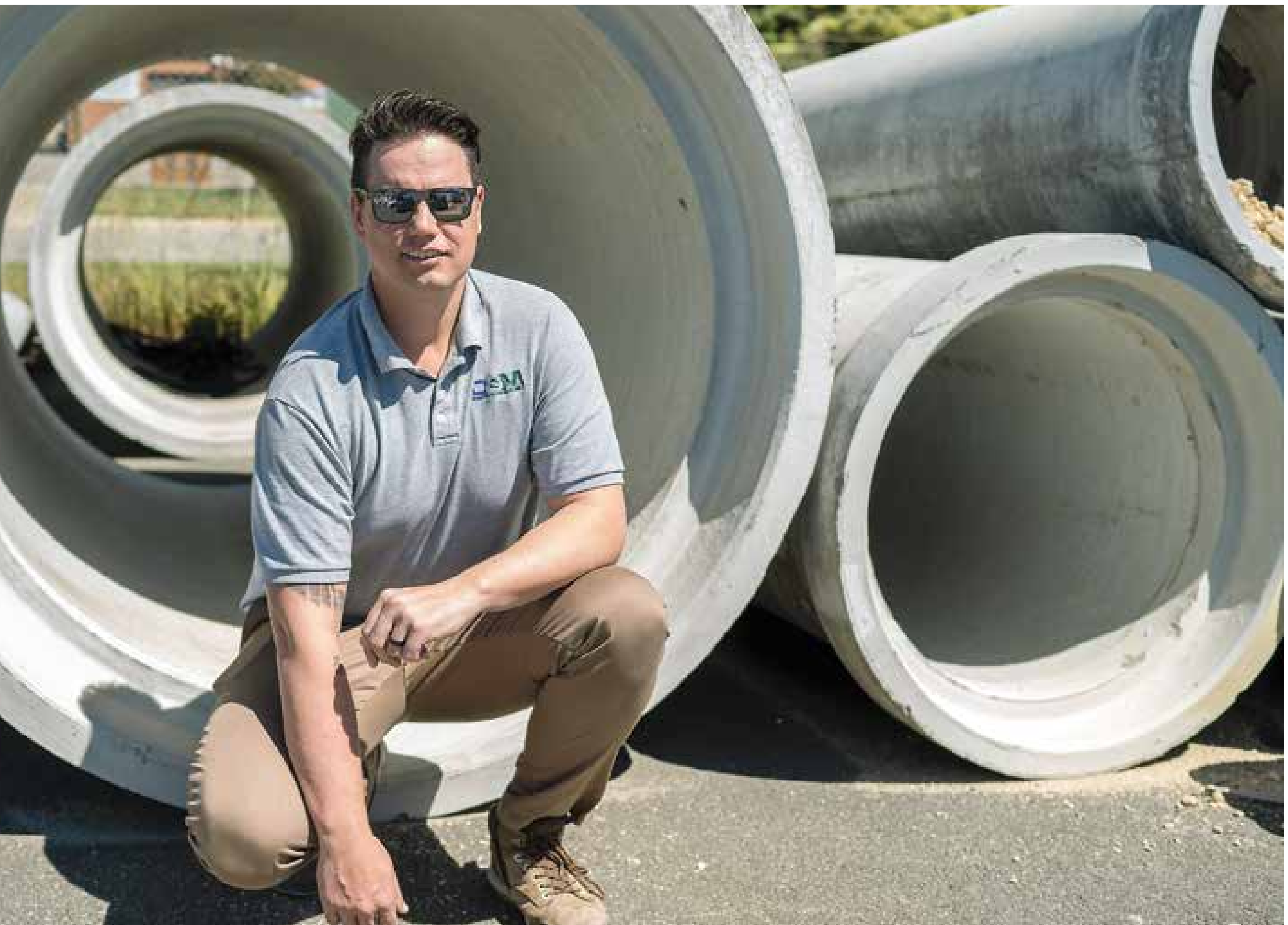
Tyrecycle, one of Australia's biggest recyclers, is opening two new facilities in WA: one in Port Hedland as a joint venture with Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation to process mining tyres and one in Perth.

Tyrecycle chief executive Jim Fairweather said the company was close to securing land for its Perth site to replace its existing facility in O'Connor.

The site will have capacity to process between 35,000 and 40,000 tonnes and be operational by Christmas in 2022.

He said the Port Hedland site would be able to process tyres in some capacity in a few months but the plant would not be fully operational for some time.

When it is running at full capacity, it will be able to process about 30,000 to 35,000 tyres per annum.



Daniel Taylor is working on a unique circular economy model. Photo: David Henry

Waste export bans

Material	Ban implemented
Unprocessed glass	Jan-21
Mixed plastics	Jul-21
Whole, used tyres	Dec-21
Single resin/polymer plastics	Jul-22
Paper and cardboard	Jul-24

The Perth plant will use Eldan Recycling equipment imported from Denmark to shred and crumb tyres to produce tyre-derived fuel.

With eight plants in operation in Australia, Tyrecycle has established partners to sell its product, mainly overseas.

Mr Fairweather said export markets would be important for some years to come while the domestic market grew.

"Domestic opportunities in steel manufacturing, domestic opportunities in cement kilns, domestic opportunities in any high-energy manufacturing environment that requires thermal energy is a potential outlet for tyre-derived fuel," Mr Fairweather told *Business News*.

Complete Tyre Solutions has bought the same equipment from Denmark to establish its facility in Jandakot.

The company, led by managing director Leigh Cometti, already offers tyre services, including fitting and repairing.

Mr Cometti said as the company was already a custodian of waste tyres, it made sense to get involved in recycling them.

Its facility is about to be built and will start to receive waste in mid-next year and start processing in July or August 2022.

Malaga-based 4M Waste received a grant to scale up its operation processing from about 600 tonnes of tyres per annum to more than 7,000 tyres a year.

4M Waste co-founder and director Mark Waller said the project would be at full capacity within a year.

Mr Waller said the company had been able to produce a rubber crumb that met Main Roads Western Australia requirements and was supplying this to asphalt plants to use in the state's road network.

"We have also been working with local universities on research and development processes to expand the use of rubber crumb into concrete products," Mr Waller said.

Existing tyre recycler Elan Energy Matrix received a $357,867 grant to establish a new tyre processing plant in Welshpool, due to be operational within the next six months.

The company is using a potentially controversial technique called tyre pyrolysis to break tyres down into milled steel, crude oil and carbon matrix.

A Tyre Stewardship Australia guide from 2020 said there was yet to be a long-term commercially successful tyre pyrolysis enterprise, processing large volumes of tyres on an ongoing basis in any jurisdictions that have regulatory and environmental requirements comparable to those in Australia.

Projects in process

There are several other waste and recycling projects in the works to deal with the state's waste.

Two waste-to-energy plants are being built in Perth's south.

Avertas Energy, backed by Macquarie Capital, is building a waste-to-energy facility in Kwinana, which will process about 400,000 tonnes of waste annually. It will be completed in the second half of 2022.

East Rockingham Waste to Energy is building a similar facility.

The $511 million project will process 300,000 tonnes of waste per year and will be fully operational by the end of 2022.

Western Power has completed the substation and transmission line works to export 224,000 megawatts to the South West Interconnected System, an electricity grid in the South West of WA.

The East Rockingham project is backed by a consortium that includes investor John Laing and technology provider Hitachi Zosen Inova, which has developed more than 500 similar projects.

It won a public tender to process residual waste from the Western Metropolitan Regional Council in September 2021.

In its 2020 annual report, the Waste Authority said while it supported waste-to-energy projects, it only recommended they processed residual or post-recycling waste to ensure as many materials could be recovered as possible.

Markets

National Waste and Recycling Industry Council chief executive Rose Read said the WA government had been on the front foot in preparing for the bans and awarding grants.

However, Ms Read said now the infrastructure was being built, markets needed to be established for the products.

"Giving grants is really good in terms of building a processing plant but if the governments aren't preferentially purchasing recycled materials as part of their infrastructure build, then it doesn't happen," Ms Read told *Business News*.

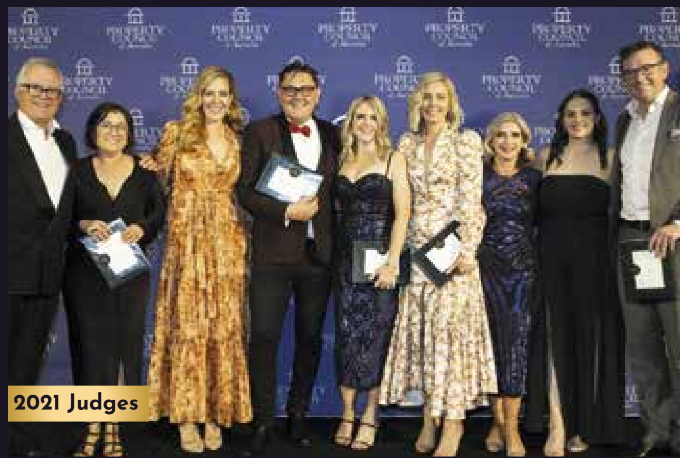
Ms Read used Roads for Reuse, a program to use construction and

Continued on page 31

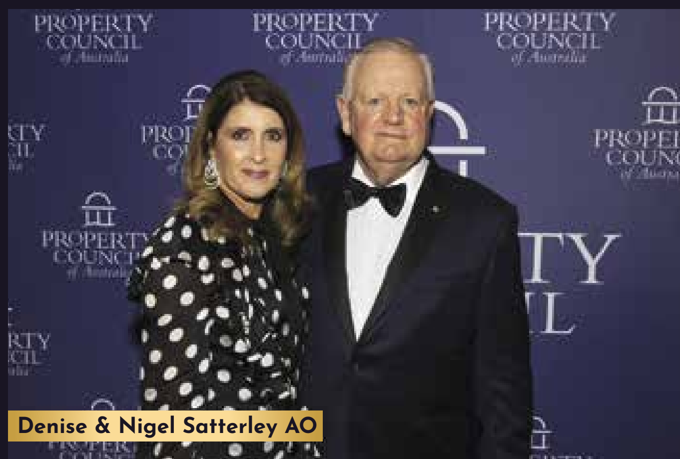
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE WINNERS OF THE

WA PROPERTY AWARDS 2021

Glenn Coffey, Susannah Packer & Chris Matthews


2021 Judges


Graeme Gammie, Minister Rita Saffioti & David Caddy



Denise & Nigel Satterley AO


Grant Shepherd & Col Dutton

Sandra Brewer, Imran Mohiuddin & Paige Walker

Our revamped awards program showcased the best of the property industry.

The bar has been set high for next year's competition.

To see the full list of winners please visit **www.wapropertyawards.com.au**

PROPERTY COUNCIL of Australia

CBRE · Colliers International · Hames Sharley · hawaiian · HESPERIA · JLL · lendlease · encon. · mirvac · B/STRATA MANAGEMENT · SCENTRE GROUP · finbar developing better lifestyles

Leigh Cometti is the managing director of Complete Tyre Solutions.
Photo: David Henry

Recycling projects funded by the state and federal governments in February 2021

Project	Company	State and federal government contribution ($m)	When will it start operating?	Where will it be?
Pulp mill	Suez, AusWaste	**$30.0**	No date set	Yet to be decided
Plastics reprocessing facility	Pact Group Holdings, Cleanaway	**$9.5**	First half of 2023	Yet to be decided
Equipment to shred and crumb tyres	Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation, Tyrecycle	**$6.9**	Collecting tyres early 2022	Yet to be decided
Plastics reprocessing plant	Chairay Sustainable Plastic Company	**$5.6**	December 2021- sorting and PP flaking December 2022- PET/HPDE flaking December 2023- PET/HDPE pelletising	Yet to be decided
Tyre shredding equipment	Tyrecycle	**$5.2**	Christmas 2022	Yet to be decided
Tyre recycling plant	Complete Tyre Solutions	**$3.5**	July/August 2022	Jandakot
Tyre recycling plant (expansion)	4M Waste	**$3.5**	December 2021- half capacity October 2022- full capacity	Malaga
HDPE, PET recovery	D&M Waste Management	**$800,000**	March 2022	Kwinana Beach
High capacity tyre shredder	Elan Energy Matrix	**$360,000**	March 2022	Welshpool

From page 29

demolition waste, as an example of taking recycled product and using it in government projects (see page 34).

A spokesperson for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation said the purchasing of products made locally from recycled plastics and tyres was being promoted in government procurement processes.

Ms Read said some types of plastics were quite easy to resell.

"If you have a clean, sorted bale of PET or HDPE there are markets overseas, definitely, there are strong markets for those," she said.

"People are looking for it, the demand for recycled plastics is high as there is more expectation to put recycled plastic into bottles and other packaging."

WA's 2022 ban on single-use plastics will also reduce the number of unrecyclable plastics in circulation.

Organics

Organic waste was not covered by the export bans or targeted with grant funding in February, but Encycle Consulting principal waste consultant Jenny Campbell said more infrastructure was needed to process the material.

Ms Campbell said councils were delaying the rollout of the FOGO (food organics garden organics) scheme because there wasn't enough capacity in the state to process the material.

She said processing FOGO presented business challenges because it needed to be uncontaminated to fetch high market prices.

"The challenge with FOGO is it can be quite contaminated because people don't separate properly and so that then creates problems down the supply chain because people don't want a contaminated product going on their land," Ms Campbell said.

Existing organics projects include C-Wise, Go Organics and Pure Earth.

In 2016, ASX-listed Delorean Corporation built and designed a project which converts organic waste into energy and compost.

The facility, now run by Richgro Garden, can process up to 50,000 tonnes of waste and is licensed to process 30,000 tonnes.

Circular economy

Ms Campbell said the state still had a long way to go in ensuring it was dealing with its waste in the most environmentally friendly way.

"There will be solutions for materials but whether it's the best solution is going to be the issue," Ms Campbell told *Business News*.

For example, she said, glass bottles could not be reprocessed in WA and while some go to South Australia, some are also recycled into road base, which was a lower-value material.

"It's downcycling rather than trying to keep those materials to their highest and best value," she said.

Ms Campbell said a circular economy model was needed, where materials are kept in good condition and could be used multiple times.

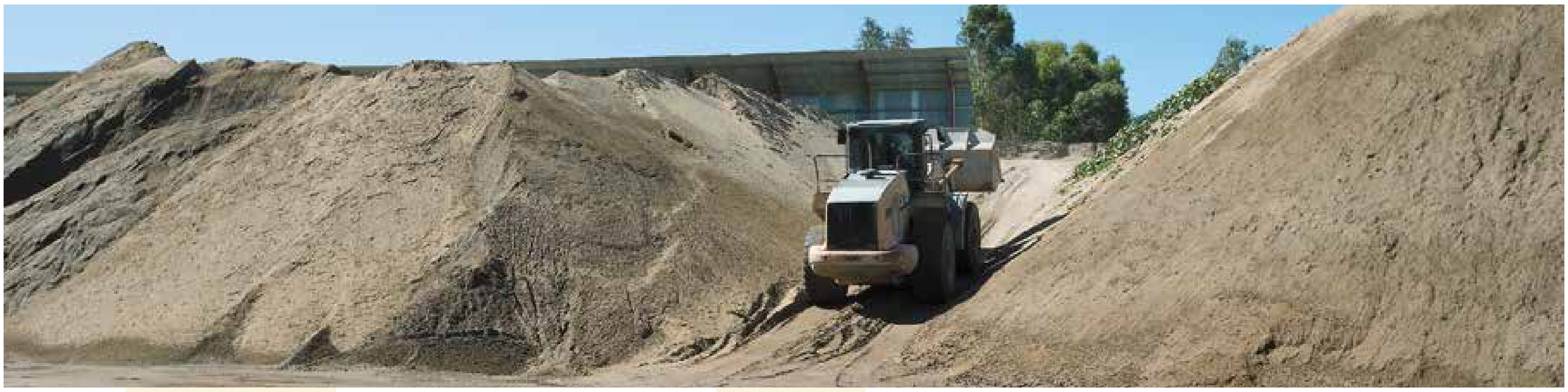
"It's all about trying to keep materials circulating in the economy and keeping them at their best use," Ms Campbell said.

"That's really where the whole globe needs to work towards, minimising the number of raw materials we extract and keeping what we have got currently circulating in the economy around and around again."

Data & Insights

WA'S LARGEST ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMPANIES

Ranked by number of environmental staff in WA, then by total staff in WA



Rank	Change from previous year	Company name	Senior executive and title	Year est. in WA	Total staff in WA	Professional Environmental Staff in WA	Offices a) WA b) interstate	Services offered	No. of branches/ depots interstate
1	↑	**Golder Associates**	Ms Marisa Barbaro Principal, business unit leader - Western Australia	1977	200	180	a) 1 b) 8	Provide specialist ground and environmental engineering services to the world's major industries and drivers of development: oil and gas, mining, waste, manufacturing, energy, transport and infrastructure.	
2	↓	**Advisian**	Mr Brad Fuge Environment and water hub lead, Advisian ANZ	1985	330	NFP	a) 1 b) 6	Advisian's Environment and Water team in ANZ has expertise in environment and society, geoscience, water infrastructure, water resources, safety and risk, closure and geomatics and data management.	130
3	—	**GHD**	Mr Sheldon Krahe General manager, Western Australia	1975	842	107	a) 5 b) 39	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), environmental approvals and permitting, contaminated site assessment, remediation and rehabilitation, compliance and audit, air and noise, mine closure, drainage, hydrology...	10
4	↑	**360 Environmental**	Ms Tamara Smith Chief executive	2004	75	71	a) 1	Environmental management consultants in the infrastructure, land development and resources sectors. Manage the environmental approval process, undertake biological surveys, contaminated sites assessments including hazardous materials and asbestos management.	11
5	↓	**Tetra Tech Coffey**	Mr Wayne McFerran General manager, WA & NT	2006	160	70	a) 1	Provides, geotechnical civil engineering, contaminated sites, environmental, tailings engineering, workplace health and safety and environmental engineering services to clients in the defence, mining, oil and gas, transport infrastructure and property industries.	6
6	↓	**RPS**	Mr David Sim General manager, environment & water, WA	2003	187	65	a) 3 b) 21	Project advocacy, environmental strategy and approvals, government negotiation, due diligence, environmental planning & management, baseline monitoring and modelling studies, EPBC, contamination assessment...	
7	—	**Strategen-JBS&G**	Mr Darren Walsh Executive director	1994	53	51	a) 2 b) 8	Air quality management & assessment, contaminated sites & acid sulfate soils assessment and remediation, contaminated land accredited auditing, engagement and communications, environmental approvals, environmental auditing & compliance...	
8	—	**Stantec**	Mr Elliot Alfirevich Group leader, buildings, WA, director	2005	48	48	a) 1 b) 6	Environmental approvals and impact assessment, compliance, environmental management support, terrestrial and aquatic ecology services, hydrogeological, mine water supply, management and treatment...	
9	↑	**AECOM**	Mr John Macaulay Group director, Western Australia	1947	250	40	a) 1 b) 14	Remediation consulting, engineering and waste management, impact assessment/permitting, sustainability and climate change, ecological studies (flora and fauna), natural resources management...	6
10	↑	**Emerge Associates**	Mr Jason Hick Managing director, principal environmental consultant	1999	70	38	a) 2 b) 2	Environmental approvals/planning/management, ecology, hydrology, contaminated land and acid sulfate soils, bushfire risk, sustainability.	38
11	↑	**ERM**	Ms Sabrina Genter Partner	1988	40	35	a) 1 b) 7	Air quality, climate change, environmental auditing, environmental impact assessment, EMS, social impact assessment, community consultation, statutory planning, urban design management plans, legal/expert testimony...	
12	↓	**Jacobs Engineering**	Mr Richard Hayers ANZ vice president & regional director - people & places Solutions	1990	260	30	a) 1 b) 9	Planning, approvals and environmental management. Contaminated land and acoustics. Ecology and heritage, spatial and survey, geotechnical engineering, natural resource management, groundwater, surface water.	3
13	↓	**BMT**	Mr Phil Haines Managing director	1994	52	29	a) 1 b) 6	Specialist marine and coastal environmental consultants, numerical modelling, marine ecology, marine water and sediment quality, EIA, ecotoxicology.	12
14	—	**Biota Environmental Sciences**	Mr Garth Humphreys Director	2000	29	27	a) 1	Biological survey, flora and fauna surveys, subterranean fauna survey, environmental impact assessment, environmental monitoring and management.	45
15	↑	**MBS Environmental**	Ms Kristy Sell Managing director	2002	29	27	a) 1	Environmental baseline and feasibility studies, monitoring, management, reporting and approvals; project facilitation and development planning; contract documentation and tendering; government liaison and reporting...	
16	↓	**Aurora Environmental**	Mr Mark Shepherd Managing director	2011	30	25	a) 2	Environmental and occupational hygiene consulting services	
17	—	**ecoscape**	Mr David Kaesehagen Managing director	1989	31	20	a) 1 b) 0	Environmental management, biological surveys, environmental impact assessments, environmental planning, visual impact assessment, spatial planning and natural resource management.	12
18	—	**Ektimo**	Mr Eric Tujek Director	2010	25	20	a) 1 b) 3	Stack emission monitoring, ambient emission monitoring, odour survey & monitoring, workplace monitoring OH&S, CEMs (Continuous Emission Monitoring), PEMs (Predictive Emission Monitoring), ambient monitoring station.	26
19	↑	**Aurecon**	Mr Mark Kenny Energy & industrial leader, Western Australia	1950	330	NFP	a) 1 b) 20	Aurecon provides engineering, management and specialist technical services for public and private sector clients globally. With an office network extending across 26 countries, Aurecon has been involved in projects in over 80 countries across Africa, Asia Pacific, the Middle East and...	
20	—	**Emission Assessments**	Mr Giacomo Collica Managing director	2008	16	15	a) 1	Independent NATA accredited laboratory group, specialising in environment and hazardous materials consultancy. Provides technical consulting, testing services, auditing, inspections and technology solutions to monitor, reduce and remove pollutants from air, water and soil.	6

21 – 59 GET THE FULL LIST ONLINE businessnews.com.au/bniq/environmental

All information compiled using surveys, publicly available data and contact with industry sources. Other companies may be eligible for inclusion. If you believe your company is eligible, please email: claire.byl@businessnews.com.au

WND: Would Not Disclose, NFP: Not For Publication, N/A: Not Applicable or Not Available.

COMMERCIAL CONTENT

Solving the decarbonisation dilemma for WA businesses

Australian businesses are under increasing pressure to show they are on a path to net zero. And rightly so.

Climate change is here. We see it in once-in-a-century weather events occurring more frequently. More unpredictable weather patterns, changing landscapes, irreversible environmental damage are all, according to the experts, symptoms of a changing climate.

As we pivot and put our emissions under the spotlight – it can be overwhelming for businesses to understand where to start.

Where businesses cannot eliminate their carbon emissions through operations entirely and immediately, offsetting through carbon farming and sequestration may be a viable option to reach net-zero.

With more and more companies shifting to improve green credentials, there's eventually going to be a drain on supply - of expert advice, of material and products required for greening programs, of project management capacity – all impacting the ability to achieve positive outcomes.

There are also many service providers to choose from, depending on what companies are looking for.

Businesses need assurance their chosen provider can plan, supply, implement, monitor and maintain greening projects, ultimately delivering real results and net carbon offsets.

It's not just about regulation – customers want to see big businesses and brands taking carbon reduction seriously and working with trusted providers to deliver results.

Nativ Carbon does not provide consultancy on carbon projects. We focus on project management, supply and install, monitoring and maintenance.

We are the go-to company to get the job done. We have the skills and resources to make this happen.

With access to WA's largest native plants volumes and species, Nativ Carbon is able to deliver high quality, biodiverse environments that offset and reduce carbon.

In doing so, we regenerate land with suitable, native plant species that improve flora diversity and eventually provide habitats for native fauna.

By choosing to nurture endemic species on land designated for carbon farming, leaseholders and landowners can return biodiversity to the region and create resilient landscapes.

This is imperative to the future of life in Australia.

Working with the land and climate systems to reduce the severity of fire and other climate events should be top of mind for all custodians of the land in this incredible country.

We see three major positive outcomes from creating resilient landscapes through native vegetation:

- Beyond the reduction in atmospheric CO2, deep-rooted native plant vegetation at scale has the potential to mediate rising water tables and the effects of soil salinity.
- It assists rebalancing the wider ecosystems of Australia to protect endangered and vulnerable species.
- Incorporating native species into land management is an ethical and sustainable approach to tackling historic environmental degradation and bolstering soil stability.

So how do we work?

We leverage our extensive expertise in biodiverse native vegetation, project management and access to millions of seedlings to deliver practical offset planting, at scale.

We work in stages. First comes the planning – including assessment of soil type and developing an environmental profile, right through to project cost estimates and approvals processes.

Then we supply the product, implement the project, provide regular monitoring and reporting back to the client, and ongoing maintenance of the project, including pest and weed control.

We believe that if industry is going to make true positive impact to the environment, then we need rich bio-diverse landscapes that thrive and survive with long-term sustainable benefits.

Nativ Carbon recently entered into an agreement with Woodside to collect seed and grow one million seedlings as part of a Wheatbelt-based revegetation project. Planting is set to begin in 2022.

Our clients are not just big resources companies – we work with all types of big business looking to offset emissions.

Landholders and owners can also realise economic benefits from transitioning away from a purely agricultural or resource extraction business model and diversifying their land use.

In times of economic uncertainty and income loss due to the effects of climate change, carbon farming may represent the kind of hedge needed for a long-term sustainable enterprise.

That is exactly the opportunity Nativ Carbon provides - a specialised skillset, strong understanding of WA landscapes and localised approach all within close reach of West Australian businesses.

If you're interested in finding out more information about our services, visit our website www.nativcarbon.com.au.

NATIV CARBON

Tech solution tackles construction waste

A cloud-based logistics platform aims to improve recycling rates of building waste as regulatory and cost issues persist in the sector.

Madeleine Stephens
madeleine.stephens@businessnews.com.au

> “It will [enable] the platform to make a significant shift in how people understand what happens to the waste
>
> \- Tom Rudas

A JOINT venture between M8 Sustainable and iHub Solutions is bringing an Uber-style job-sharing platform to Perth’s construction and demolition waste recycling industry.

ASX-listed construction and demolition company M8 Sustainable and software business iHub Solutions have combined their expertise to craft a cloud-based logistics platform called Access Waste Management.

The platform aims to provide M8 Sustainable with more product to recycle and improve transparency and compliance in the sector by tracking the movements of C&D waste.

The waste, which includes bricks, timber and tiles, represented 47 per cent of waste generated in the state in 2019-20, according to a report by Western Australia’s Waste Authority.

It can be processed and used as road base, infill and construction material.

The platform comes as the state and operators grapple with compliance in the C&D recycling sector, with businesses stockpiling product to avoid paying the waste levy, and the costs of recycling properly.

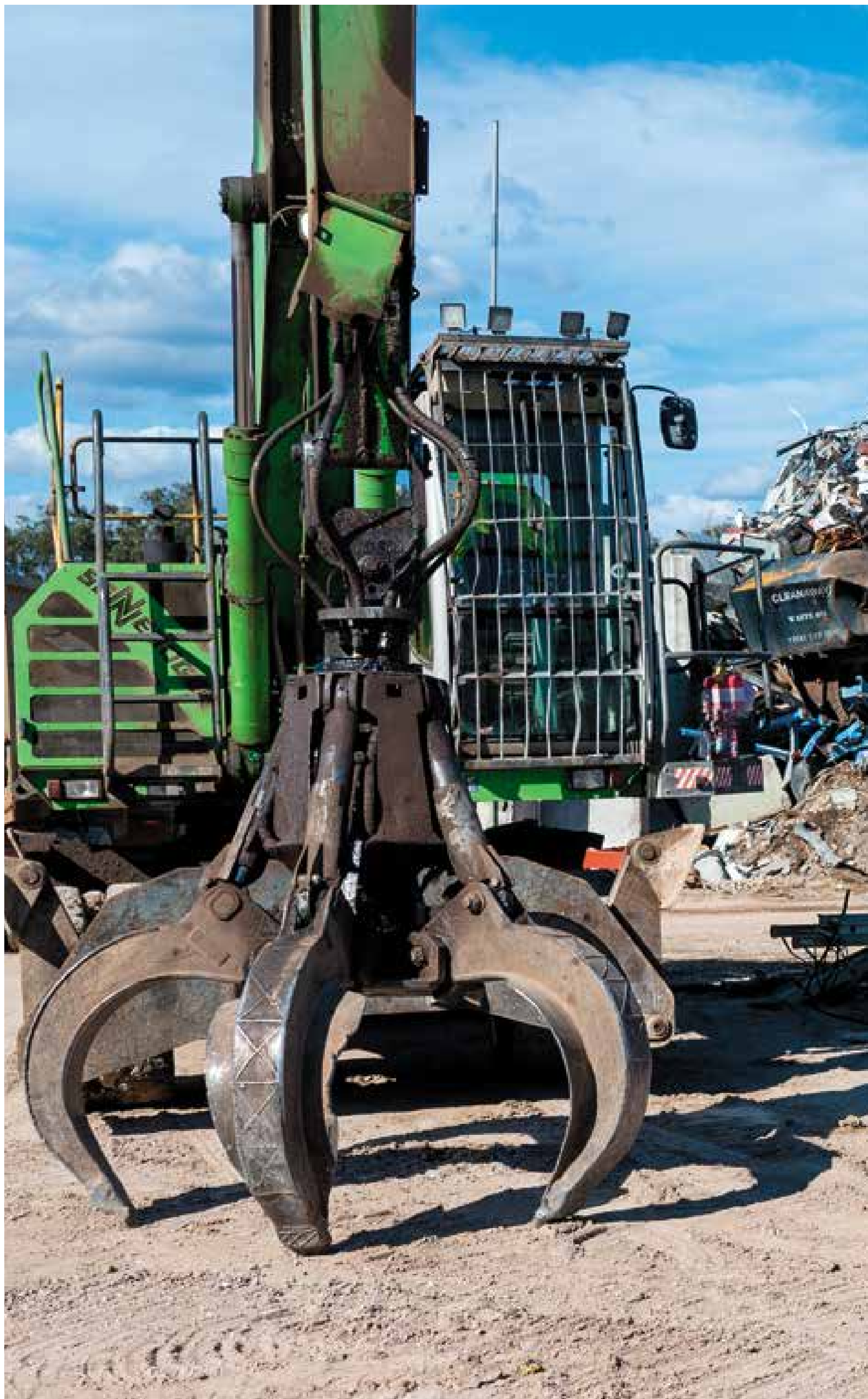
Access Waste Management offers two key functions.

It enables companies that collect skip bins from building sites to find additional jobs and it offers logistical and administrative support to businesses.

Customers can use the platform to order skip bins and third-party vendors can log on to find bins which need to be picked up, with a percentage of the fee returned to M8 Sustainable.

The logistics side of the software provides accounting, booking, ordering, tracking and scheduling services to businesses using a subscription model.

“It effectively takes an all-encompassing administrative role, which is pretty important for small operators who have limited resources and are quite often driving their own trucks,” M8 Sustainable managing director Tom Rudas told *Business News*.



Tom Rudas says a lack of regulation is hurting recyclers.

Eventually, M8 Sustainable is planning to set up transfer points for third-party trucks to drop-off waste that it can process in its C&D waste recycling facilities.

“We looked at that software as not just something that would streamline our own operations but also could be better utilised to secure more volume for our sites,” Mr Rudas said.

He said the software enabled builders to see where their waste was going after it was picked up.

“At the moment, once your bin is picked up, there is really no traceability as to where that waste has gone,” he said.

“With this system they will know it’s coming to a licensed recycling centre.

“They can visit, they can see where their waste [goes].”

Businesses will also be able to log on and see the volume of waste they are producing and use it as a tool to cut it down.

“It will provide the platform to make a significant shift in how people understand what happens to the waste, where it goes [and] how much are they producing,” Mr Rudas said.

Government projects were required to provide reports on the waste received and percentage recycled and expected businesses to be asked to compile something similar in the future, he said.

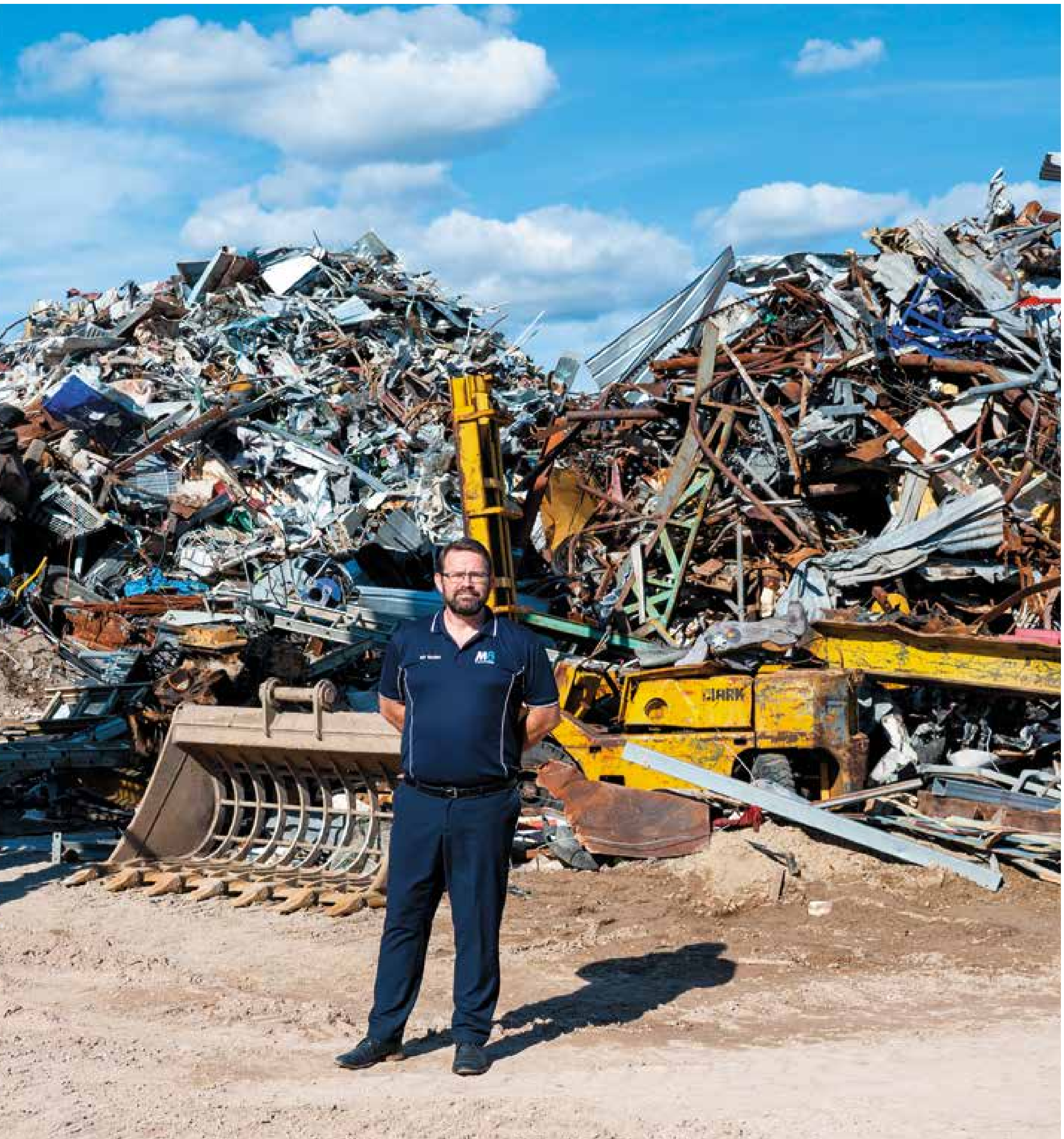


Photo: David Henry

1.9

MILLION TONNES C&D WASTE CREATED IN 2020

The product is being beta tested for the next six to 12 months by M8 Sustainable, which has purchased trucks and skip bins and select third-party vendors.

M8 Sustainable told the ASX commercial rollout of Access Waste Management would take place over the coming months, with increased volume generation to coincide with the opening of the company's Gingin facility in early 2022.

Sector issues

The software launch comes as the sector tackles a lack of regulation and underdeveloped markets for selling recycled materials, causing companies to stockpile waste.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's 2020 Review of the Waste Levy consultation paper said since the waste levy increased in 2015, there had been a significant decline in waste from the Perth metropolitan area being disposed to landfill, particularly C&D waste.

According to the department's annual report, 81 per cent of C&D waste avoided landfill in the 2021 financial year, above its target of 75 per cent.

The report said this was likely because of stockpiling of C&D waste, rather than disposal in landfill, due to the increased landfill levy.

Despite this research and awareness of the problem, Mr Rudas said structural issues caused by a lack of regulation in the sector still existed.

"We are still finding that the construction and demolition waste sector's structural problems caused by under-regulation, or a lack of regulation, still exist and there hasn't been much impetus from the state government in terms of addressing those issues," he said.

"The potential lost revenue and potential environmental impacts from the waste going to various places it probably shouldn't certainly continue and we haven't really seen much movement from the Department of Environment or the environment minister in addressing this."

The lack of regulation in the industry caused M8 Sustainable to pause its recycling of C&D waste in January 2021 and focus on processing and reselling more high-value, low-quantity materials instead, like metal.

At the time, M8 Sustainable told the ASX the margins on recycling C&D waste were not sufficient.

"The frustrating thing for us, as a business, is our recycling facility, designed for mixed builder's waste, sits idle because the rates being charged in the market don't justify a recycling plant for that type of waste," Mr Rudas said.

However, changes in markets in other states have given Mr Rudas reasons to be optimistic.

"There is good legislation in NSW that if mirrored here, would see significant investment in recycling infrastructure because it would make it impossible to bypass the landfill levy system," he said.

Mr Rudas said change would also require Main Roads to use more C&D waste in its infrastructure projects to grow a market for the recycled products.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's annual report said 30,000 tonnes of recycled C&D waste was used in its Roads to Reuse program in 2021.

While 2021 figures have not been released, 1.9 million tonnes of C&D waste was created in 2020.

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment and Water Regulation said the Waste Authority was developing a C&D rollout plan to confirm priority actions, roles and responsibilities to support the C&D sector.

It said stakeholder consultation on the plan and further support for the sector was expected to begin shortly.

Last month, Opposition environment spokesperson Tjorn Sibma labeled the avoidance of the waste levy as a "public policy scandal hiding in plain sight".

Mr Sibma called on Treasury and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to quantify the amount of revenue lost annually due to waste levy avoidance and improve the regulatory framework for waste management.

He said industry had calculated it cost the state government up to $100 million a year.

BUSINESSNEWS

Environment

SPECIAL REPORT

Data & Insights

Showing 6 of 5,909

Huon shareholders, Forrest endorse takeover

the same animal welfare and environmental sustainability standards ...

Battery-grade manganese production boost for Element 25

innovation could in turn lower the environmental impact of the HPMSM conversion ... important improvement in terms of environmental outcomes." Element 25 believes ...

Albemarle adds gas to lithium plans

proposal submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority, as ... standalone station is a more "environmentally friendly" option than sourcing ... operator Western Power. The Environmental Protection Authority has ...

Good design opens streets to high rise

Rocks. But the economic and environmental issues associated with the ... championing excellence in environmental design, outcome being driven ...

Sustainable leadership in STEM

female leaders in ethical and environmental priorities - this is the ... sustainability. Its social, environmental and architectural design ... outside learning spaces and environmental initiatives, with cutting-edge ...

Bryah backed Star Minerals lands on ASX

focused on completing drilling, environmental and engineering work in order ...