**18/618: National Waste Policy 2018**

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| **Summary of Impacts** |
| This Cabinet Submission seeks in-principle agreement to endorse the National Waste Policy 2018 (the Policy) at the next meeting of the Environment Ministers. If the Policy is endorsed and implemented nationally, it will have the following positive impact within the ACT:   * supports the achievement of ACT Waste Management Strategy’s targets and consistent Waste Feasibility Study Roadmap; * higher rates of recovery, recycling and reuse of waste materials and reduction in waste going to landfill; * increased investment in new and improved recycling facilities/infrastructure; and * increased community and industry participation in waste management and resource recovery initiatives (e.g. through recycled product market development, and a food waste reduction campaign and source separation of food organics). |

*Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue- neutral and Green - positive.*

**Social**

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| **Community awareness and participation** | * Having a national policy on waste management with ambitious targets is likely to have a positive impact on community awareness and behaviour in relation to waste. * Increased community participation in waste management and resource recovery initiatives (e.g. through a food waste reduction campaign and source separation of food organics). |

**Economic**

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| **ACT Government Budget** | * Implementation plan for the Policy has not been developed yet. A number of the proposed actions, when developed fully, may require initial funding. * The benefits of implementing some of the key actions will outweigh the cost to Government. |
| **Investment and job creation** | * The Policy aims to stimulate and support new investment in resource recovery and local recycling market development. This will, in turn, create additional job opportunities in the operation of new and improved recycling facilities and product markets. |
| **Economic growth and productivity** | * The Policy is underpinned by circular economy principles and encourages developing products from waste materials currently being sent to landfill. This approach will enable new market creation for new products. * New market development and availability of additional products will contribute to expanding existing waste industry and enhance productivity of the sector. This will, in turn, enable economic growth within the ACT. |

**Environmental**

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| **Environmental quality** | * The Policy is underpinned by the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles, which will have a positive impact on the environment through increased recovery, recycling and reuse of resources. * Recovery and diversion of organic waste is one of the key avoidance strategies in the Policy. This, in turn, should reduce greenhouse emissions from ACT sources, in line with the ACT Waste Management Strategy 2011-2015 and 2018 Waste Feasibility Study Roadmap. |