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AORA has been appointed to the National Food Waste Strategy Advisory Group (NFWS).

The Federal Government has established this body to identify policies and strategies to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030. The strategy will follow the waste hierarchy model but clearly sees recycling for beneficial reuse as a critical element in achieving the goal. The Department of the Environment and Energy will host the National Food Waste Summit on 20 November 2017 as first key activity of the process. We will keep you advised of developments.

AORA National's Executive Director, Martn Tower, discusses why AORA has joined the NFWS.

- **What will AORA be doing as part of the NFWS advisory group?**

The role of the Strategic Advisory Group is to:

- Review the strategies recommended by Supply Chain Advisory Groups (primary production, manufacturing & distribution, retail & food service) and provide advice on any cross-cutting opportunities
- Propose a governance arrangement for the implementation of the Strategy, and determine how the food waste baseline should be determined and an ongoing monitoring and evaluation framework for the Strategy.

The group is chaired by the Australian Government and include the chairs of the Supply Chain Advisory Groups and individuals selected for their relevant expertise. The members of this group have been invited to participate.

- **How will the NFWS benefit AORA members?**

AORA members will inevitably be impacted by the outcomes of the food waste strategy process. Having input to the development of this strategy facilitates industry perspectives being communicated. There are many stakeholders in this process which is using the waste hierarchy as a guide. Organics recyclers are a crucial element of that hierarchy.

- **Are there benefits for processors, sellers and users when it comes to increasing food waste into the organics recycling stream?**

There are potential benefits for all in the value chain if the appropriate policies and economic mechanisms can be established. Harmonising regulation across jurisdictions may also be given impetus through this process.

- **What are some of the top priorities AORA would like to see NFWS tackle?**

We have been advocating for a broader approach to include all surplus organic material. Isolating food waste increases the potential beneficial outcomes for all. The need for a comprehensive information and education strategy for waste producers, processors and end users has also been raised as a key issue especially in the challenge of contamination and source separation.