



Australian Government



The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Minister for the Environment



Joint media release: Morrison Government sets food waste firmly in its sights

26 December 2020

The Morrison Government has unveiled a new \$4 million body with the sole focus of reducing the nation's food waste - a crucial step in its mission to halve the millions of tonnes of food that ends up in landfill every year - by 2030.

Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley said the newly formed Stop Food Waste Australia, will bring together the brightest minds in supply chain management, food waste NGOs and all tiers of government to tackle the problem.

“Australians have focused on recycling for years, but very few of us think about the amount of food that we waste every week,” Minister Ley said.

“To put it in perspective, every year, we throw away more than 7.3 million tonnes of food at a cost to the economy of more than \$20 billion and on average, households are throwing

away up to \$3800 of food a year.

“Stop Food Waste Australia will work with industry to create real, practical changes that help everyday Australians reduce their food waste like adding clearer instructions on packaging for storage or creating consistent package design with easier to find use by or packed by dates.”

Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management Trevor Evans said food waste has a knock-on effect that even hurts our farmers.

“When we waste food, we also waste the precious resources that are used to make it: land, water and the work of our farmers plus the energy used to process, package and transport the food from farm to fork,” Assistant Minister Evans said.

“Stop Food Waste Australia will support change in all parts of the food supply chain, from farmers and food manufacturers through to retailers and households.

“By reducing food waste, we can improve business bottom lines, put money back into household budgets and make better use of our natural resources.”

CEO of Stop Food Waste Australia, Dr Steven Lapidge said the partnership has the experience to drive real change.

“We’ve got a passionate and committed group of Australian food industry leaders around the table,” he said.

“Between all our Stop Food Waste Australia partners, we work across the entire food supply chain and that is exactly what is needed to tackle the system-wide problem of food waste here in Australia.”

Stop Food Waste Australia will comprise of the following members:

- ACT NoWaste
- Australian Food & Grocery Council
- Australian Food Cold Chain Council
- Australian Institute of Packaging

- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre
- Foodbank
- Green Industries South Australia
- National Farmers Federation
- National Retail Association
- New South Wales Environment Protection Authority
- OzHarvest
- Queensland Department of Environment and Science
- SecondBite
- Sustainability Victoria
- Waste and Resource Action Programme (United Kingdom)
- Western Australia Department of Water and Environmental Regulation