

Media Release from MP David Koch, Parliament House

COALITION PROVIDES MORE FUNDING TO GEELONG TO REDUCE WASTE - 13
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Member for Western Victoria David Koch has announced that the Geelong Manufacturing Council will receive \$402,700 in funding from the Victorian Coalition Governments Beyond Waste Fund.

The Beyond Waste Fund is another important milestone in the Governments Conserve Invest and Save strategy to reinvest the landfill levy into projects that support local government and business to reduce waste, Mr Koch said.

Geelong Manufacturing Council together with the City of Greater Geelong, **ECO2Sys** Australia Ltd and the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group will conduct an 18 month materials and resource efficiency program to assist up to 50 Geelong-based manufacturers to adopt best practice waste avoidance and reduction activities.

Their aim is to collect information on waste streams and conduct energy, water and materials audit to assess the amount of waste produced and identify opportunities to reduce waste.

The participants will benefit greatly from the study as a way to boost waste management capabilities, save costs and increase their knowledge of efficient waste avoidance and reduction strategies.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith said the recipients would receive a total of \$1.35 million dollars to invest in programs that focused on waste avoidance and re-use of waste products.

Businesses are becoming increasingly aware of the need to adopt more sustainable business practices when dealing with waste, Mr Smith said.

However, many of our small to medium enterprises do not have the skills or expertise to successfully implement strategies in this area or to integrate such approaches into their core business function.

The Beyond Waste Fund helps businesses tackle waste before it is created, greatly reducing the amount of the waste generated from daily operations, Mr Smith said.

Mr Koch said, *There is little doubt this will encourage businesses to adopt more efficient practices that ultimately will increase their competitiveness in their respective market environments.*