

# Ensuring recycling won't go to waste

*EXCLUSIVE KATE PURNELL*

WA's recycling industry will receive a \$20 million boost from the State Government, which businesses say could launch WA as a global leader in the sector and create hundreds of jobs.

The pledge follows the Federal Government's \$190m commitment yesterday to the nationwide Recycling Modernisation Fund.

The fund is key to the government's plan to build a local recycling industry following a phased ban on waste exports from January 1, 2021.

Founder of Claremontbased reprocessing plant Darren Lomman said the significant expenses associated with constructing recycling facilities meant the funding was crucial.

He said WA was almost starting from scratch as the State had always sent its waste offshore for processing.

Mr Lomman's company Greenbatch is currently building WA's first plastic reprocessing line, which has a 500kg per hour capacity. Completion is expected by October.

"It's exciting to have the new reprocessing line under way, but to manage all of WA's plastic waste we would need a facility 10-times larger," he said. Mr Lomman said the funding could help spark better investment and enhance the value of recycling projects.

Acting WA Environment Minister Francis Logan said better recycling in WA would create three times more jobs.

"In WA, about 12,500 tonnes of plastics and 7000 tonnes of tyres would be captured as a result of the export ban on certain wastes. This represents a huge opportunity for industry in WA," Mr Logan said.

Applications are now open for the grants which will help develop processing infrastructure in WA, particularly for plastics and tyres.

# WEST BUSINESS

Darren Lomma  
inside WA's first  
waste plastic  
reprocessing  
facility. Picture  
Ross Swanborough

