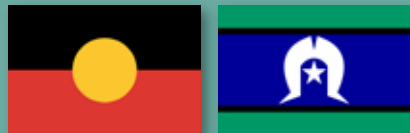




Murrindindi
Shire Council

DRAFT WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY STRATEGY 2030





Murrindindi Shire Council acknowledges the Taungurung people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we live and work and pay respect to their Elders past and present.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Transition to a circular economy.

A circular economy seeks to eliminate waste and the continual consumption of resources by directing waste back into the economy to be reused or recycled into new materials and products.

Reducing waste and creating a strong effective recycling system is a shared responsibility. We look forward to partnering with community, local business and other government agencies to move our Shire towards a circular economy that is built on thoughtful and progressive action that embraces innovation.

We imagine a future where community and business avoid waste generation as much as possible, and appreciate waste as a valuable resource. Where products are designed to be durable and repairable, use recycled materials and are easy to recycle. Any waste that is produced is reused or recycled easily, efficiently and effectively. And residential waste is processed to recover useful materials and energy where this is economically feasible. Where landfill is only used for materials that can't be recovered.

This strategy will ensure that our waste services continue to be maintained at a high standard as a minimum and that we can keep costs down through service efficiencies and partnerships. It is also a call for action to work together to extract maximum value from our waste.



Sandice McAulay

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this strategy is to set a vision for the future of waste and resource recovery services for the Murrindindi Shire community over the next 10 years. The strategy provides a roadmap of goals, actions and targets that will help Council and the community to live more sustainably by reducing the amount of waste we generate and increasing the amount we reuse and recycle.

We can better support our economy, protect the health of our communities and reduce environmental impacts if we harness the value of materials we dispose of and return them to productive use. For every Australian, 2.7 tonnes of waste is generated every year. Unless we make changes to our behaviour and systems, by 2046 Victoria is expected to produce 40% more waste than it did in 2017–18.

Waste is a shared responsibility

We can avoid creating waste, recover as much value from our waste and protect our health and environment from the effects of waste but we must work together.

We all must take responsibility for the decisions we make that generate waste in the first place and how we dispose of our waste.

While the challenge is multifaceted and complex; ranging from recycling, generation of waste, separation, behaviour change, collection, transport, treatment, reuse and disposal, it is understood that the solution must involve everyone.

Sharing the responsibility for the management of our waste is a tremendous opportunity to create a more sustainable future the Shire of Murrindindi. Every individual has a role to play to make Murrindindi a better place. Our community, including Council, industry and individuals have to work together to deliver the actions outlined in our Strategic Action Plan.

Vision

Our Shire will become a sustainable, low waste municipality that promotes the principals of a circular economy and protects our community and environment from the impacts of waste.

In developing this strategy, we've taken into account the following

Global and local issues and opportunities that shape how we generate and handle waste.

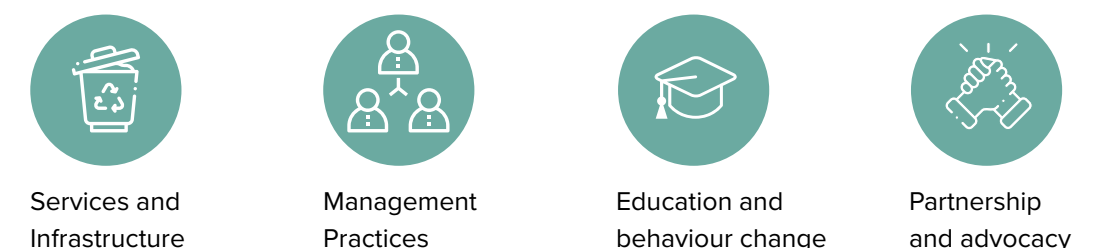
The legislation and policies that govern many aspects of waste and resource recovery.

Guiding principles and trends in waste management.

Goals



For each goal we have included actions and timeframes so we can make meaningful plans and budgets, as well as targets to help us evaluate our progress. Actions are grouped in themes to help us to see where we need to direct resources.



Key actions include

Support, promote and deliver actions outlined in *Recycling Victoria* (Victoria's circular economy policy and action plan – see page 16) including, food and organics recycling, glass recycling and the Container Deposit Scheme.

Investigate service enhancements for kerbside collection contracts, including optional bin sizes, special needs clients, expand kerbside collection zones, real time collection information and database.

Provide education and behaviour change programs that reduce bin contamination and increase resource recovery.

Rehabilitation of closed landfills and investigate potential for expanding the activities undertaken on the sites.

INTRODUCTION

The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 will guide the way we collect and process waste, while encouraging a decrease in waste production. Our goal is for a cost-effective and environmentally responsible waste and resource recovery system.

In March 2020 the Victorian Government released *Recycling Victoria*, a 10-year policy and action plan for waste and recycling. Our strategy reflects the concept of a circular economy described in Recycling Victoria that highlights the need for more resource efficient waste systems and services that avoid waste, conserve resources and maximise the value of all materials used.

The purpose of this strategy is to set a vision that can help the Murrindindi Shire community manage waste and recovery resources in a way that minimises impacts on the environment. It also sets the goals, actions and targets we need to help us get there.

There is an increasing focus on waste and resource recovery right now, both locally and globally.

The recycling industry has changed. The world-wide recycling market is responding to the end market challenges.

Circular economy focus. Government policy is moving away from the existing linear model of take-make-use-dispose. The circular economy model aims to keep resources in the system for as long as possible.

Waste management is high profile. Our community wants to know what happens to our waste, where it is goes and what they can do to help. We will always generate waste as we live, work and play. To protect our precious resources and to meet the expectations of our community we need to change the way that we as a community understand, create and handle our waste.

We will always generate waste as we live, work and play. To protect our precious resources and to meet the expectations of our community we need to change the way that we understand, create and handle our waste.



Murrindindi Shire Council Area



Did you know?

2020
Land area – 3879 sq./km
Population - 14,478
Bins services – 10,000 bin lifts per week

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Circular Economy of Waste

A circular economy continually seeks to reduce the environmental impacts of production and consumption, while enabling economic growth through more productive use of natural resources. It allows us to avoid waste with good design and effective recovery of materials that can be reused. It promotes more efficient business models that encourage intense and efficient product use, such as sharing products between multiple users, or supplying a product as a service that includes maintenance, repair and disposal.

The value we obtain from the resources used to create goods and services increases in a circular economy. It transforms our linear economy mind set—take, use and throw away—and fosters innovation and productivity that invigorates existing businesses and creates new ones—delivering more jobs and more growth for local, regional, state and global economies.

To achieve a circular economy for waste and resource recovery we require a whole of system approach. This involves the makers, users, sellers consumers, collectors, reprocessors, manufacturers and distributors all working together with government to ensure we extract full value from our resources. We need to work together to ensure that

- all products and packaging can be recycled
- all recyclable materials are appropriately diverted to be recycled
- recycled materials are used back into new products
- when we recycle we ensure we don't contaminate our bins

Our Shire is looking for opportunities as part of our circular economy approach to ensure we can recover and reuse as much of our waste as possible, and get the most value out of our waste. The Victorian Government's circular economy policy, Recycling Victoria, provides actions to help transition to a circular economy and our strategy will do the same.

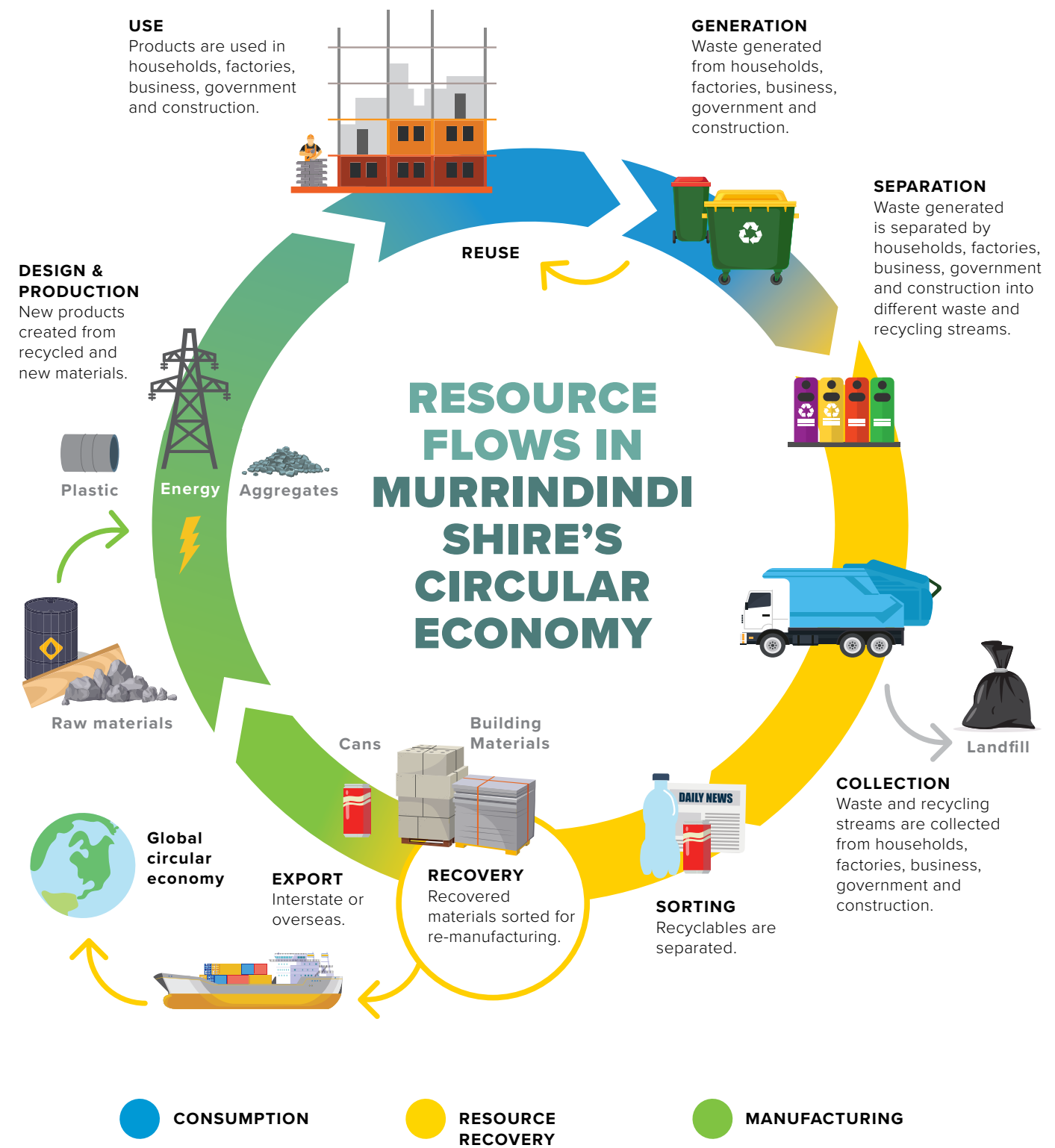
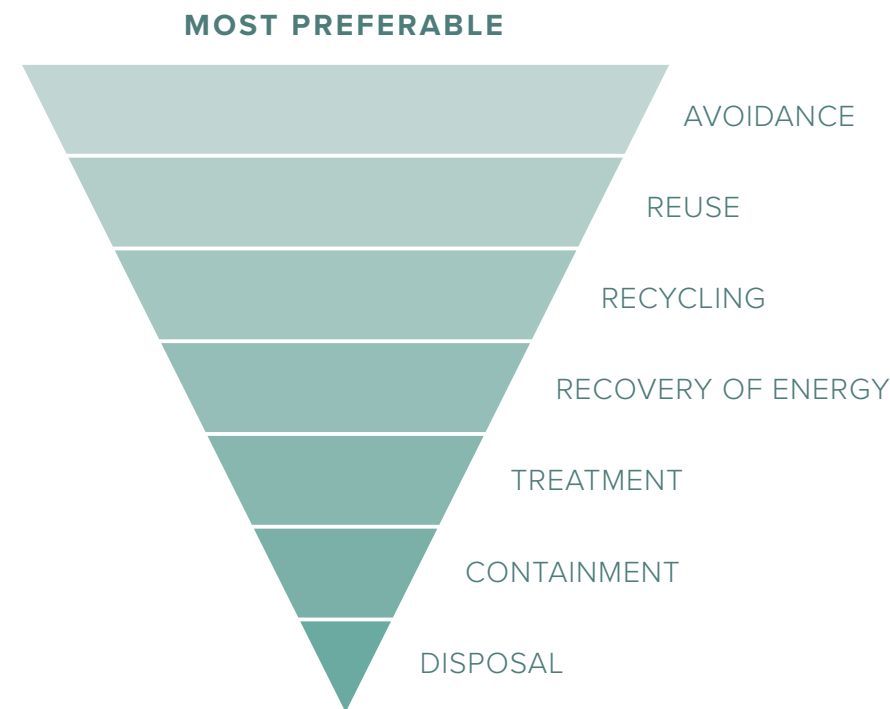


Figure 1 – Adapted from the Circular Economy approach, Recycling Victoria

Waste Management Hierarchy

Waste Management Hierarchy is adopted as a guiding principle of this Strategy. It is embedded in the *Environment Protection Act 2017* which is the primary legislation in Victoria that deals with waste management and resource recovery. It encourages the management of waste in accordance with a waste management hierarchy which sets out an order of preference for how waste should be managed to help achieve the best possible environmental outcomes.



LEGISLATION AND POLICY

For our strategy to be effective, consideration must be given to the broader regulatory and policy framework. Waste and Resource Recovery in Murrindindi Shire is shaped by both Federal and State government as well as local and international issues and opportunities. This context informs our decision making and compliance obligations.

Development of this Strategy is influenced by national, state and local government acts, regulations and policies, as well as regional initiatives of the Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Group (GVWRRG).

This Strategy aligns with Council’s 2030 Vision and other relevant corporate policies and strategies. It has also been influenced by waste sector issues and opportunities, and our understanding of community expectations and the waste industry.

Figure 1 below illustrates the legislation, policy and planning framework relevant to the management of waste at a local government level. It shows how this strategy fits within the framework.

The targets and actions in this strategy complement the *National Waste Policy Action Plan* and state targets agreed in *Recycling Victoria: A new economy*.

The Victorian Government announced in March 2020 that a new Waste and Recycling Act would be established to govern all aspects associated with waste and recycling services. Through the new Act, the Victorian Government will establish a new waste authority in 2021.

Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030

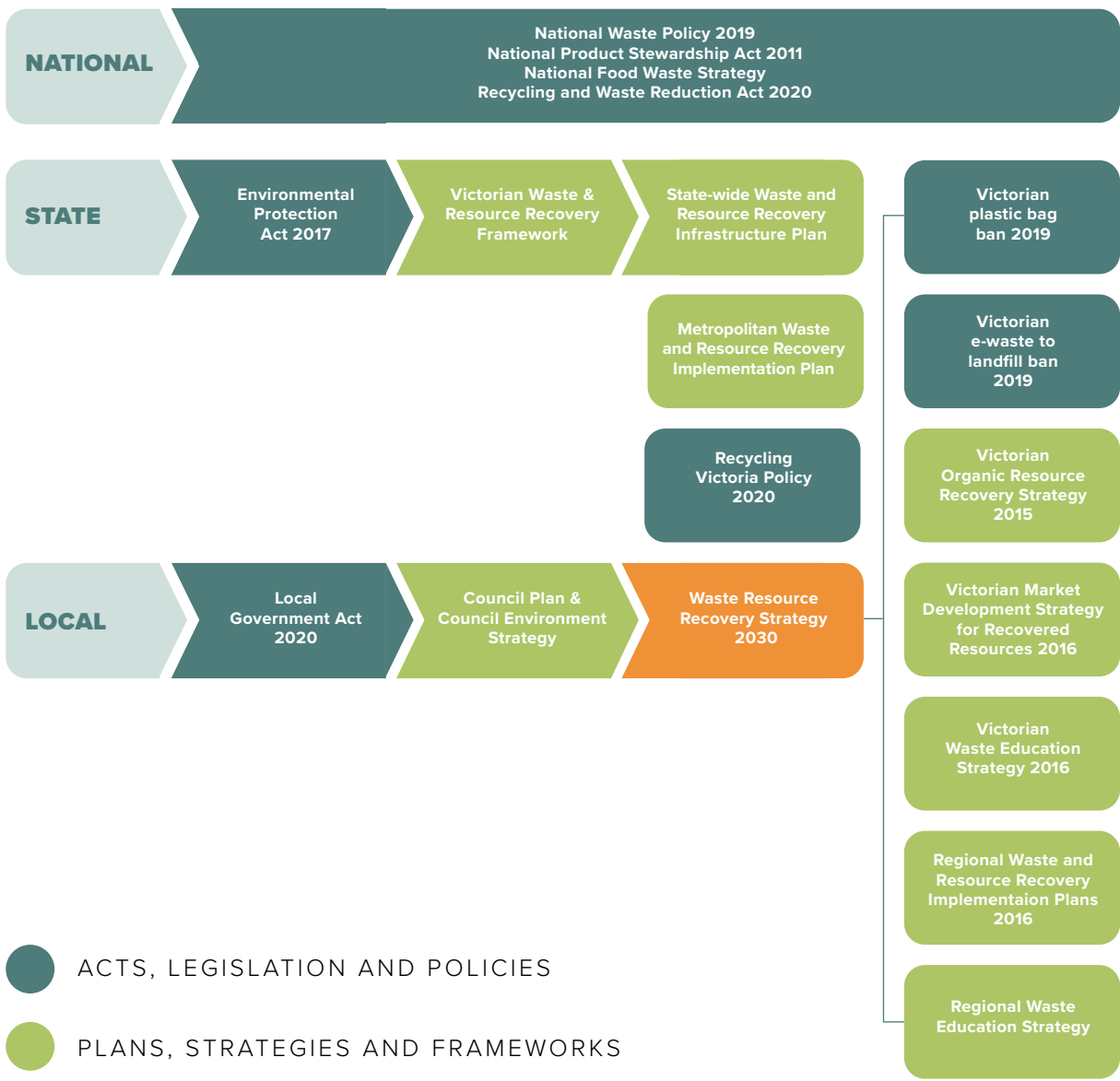


Figure 2 – Strategic waste management framework

Recycling Victoria

Recycling Victoria— Victoria's circular economy policy and action plan aims to set clear policy direction and presents a long-term plan to improve the recycling system. The plan aims to satisfy the community needs for a circular economy that prioritises more sustainable and innovative use of materials, minimises the impacts of climate change and creates less waste and pollution.

Key outcomes

- Reform the kerbside recycling system to include four waste streams (general waste, recycling, glass and organics) as well as standardising the services.
- An annual increase in landfill levy to promote resource recovery over landfill.
- By 2022–23 a container deposit scheme will be introduced so you can swap empty cans and bottles for cash.
- \$100 million will be invested to strengthen Victoria's waste and recycling industry – grow the local industry, create local jobs and drive innovation and new technologies.
- The waste and recycling sector will be regulated by establishing a new Waste Authority and Waste Act – putting an end to illegal and unsafe storage and stockpiling of waste.

Targets

- Cut total waste generation per person by 15 per cent per capita by 2030.
- Divert 80% of waste from landfill by 2030.
- Halve the volume of organic material going to landfill between 2020 and 2030.
- Every Victorian Household has access to food and garden organic waste recycling services or local composting by 2030.

Environmental Protection Act 2017

This update to Victoria's environment protection laws comes into effect from July 2021. The updated laws give more powers to the Environmental Protection Authority and tools to prevent risks to the environment and human health. It allows for stronger sanctions to hold polluters to account. The general environmental duty is central to the new laws and it requires all Victorians to manage risks to human health and the environment that their activities create. Under the Act, everyone has a responsibility to make sure their waste goes to the right place.

National Waste Policy: Less Waste More Resources

The 2018 National Waste Policy provides a framework for collective action by businesses, governments, communities and individuals until 2030. The policy sets the stage for the introduction of circular economy concepts into the policies of other levels of government through applying five key principles:

- Avoid Waste
- Improve Resource Recovery
- Increase the use of recycled materials and increase demand for recycled products
- Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
- Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020

The *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* aims to prevent untreated and unprocessed waste from being sent offshore and to increase the capacity of our local waste industry to collect, recycle, reuse and convert waste into new products.

The Act seeks to do this by firstly, banning the export of certain waste materials and secondly, by replacing and the *Product Stewardship Act 2011*. The schedule of National export bans are as follows:

- waste glass from 1 January 2020
- mixed plastics from 1 July 2021
- whole used tyres from 1 December 2021
- single resin or polymer plastics from 1 July 2022
- mixed and unsorted paper and cardboard from 1 July 2024



WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY SERVICES

We manage a range of waste services and infrastructure to ensure that our shire remains clean and a great place to live. Council services include kerbside waste and recycling collection, a network of Resource Recovery Centres, an operating landfill, public litter bins and street sweeping.

WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Kerbside collection services

- We currently provide kerbside garbage and recycling collection services for residential and commercial properties.
- We pick up over 10,000 bins each week.
- The service is mandatory for properties in township areas with buildings, and opt in for most other areas of the shire.
- Users of the kerbside service pay the Garbage and Recycling Rates to cover the cost of the service and fund other waste services throughout the shire.

Service	Standard bin size	Collection frequency
Garbage	120 litres	Weekly
Recycling	240 litres	Fortnightly

Figure 3 – Residential bins collected by the Shire



Resource Recovery Centres

- Council operates five Resource Recovery centres in Alexandra, Kinglake, Eildon, Marysville and Yea.
- Drop-off of waste and recyclables by Murrindindi Shire ratepayers is either free or attracts a small charge (with the fee subject to the type of material).
- A review of our Resource Recovery facilities is currently underway to ensure this service is maintained into the future.

Accepted materials outlined below:

	Material	Alexandra	Kinglake	Eildon	Marysville	Yea
	Building rubble	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Car batteries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Comingled recyclables	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	drumMUSTER and plastic chemical containers	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	Electronic waste ⁽¹⁾	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	Fluorescent lights	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
	Gas bottles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	General waste ⁽²⁾	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Garden waste	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Matresses/couches	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Motor oil	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Steel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Tyres	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	Whitegoods	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Public place waste services

- Public place litter bins for disposal of garbage and recyclables are placed in all town centres, shopping strips and some reserves.
- In peak holiday periods, skips are placed in strategic locations to manage visitor waste.
- Street sweeping occurs in townships and major intersections to keep streets clean and safe.

Waste education and community awareness

- Waste education programs aim to inform and educate our community about how our waste system works, and how they can reduce their own resource consumption and waste generation.
- Information is provided through various media including Council's website, social media, print media and radio.
- Direct engagement through events, shows and workshops both on-line and in person.

Alexandra Landfill

- The Alexandra Landfill is located approximately 1.5 km south of the Alexandra township and is Council owned and operated, with activities on the site strictly prescribed by the EPA licence to operate. The site is open to the general public (by appointment only), Council contractors and commercial account holders. It is licensed to accept putrescible waste, inert waste, shredded tyres and packaged asbestos (domestic sources only).
- A review of the Alexandra landfill is currently underway to determine its future.

Closed landfills

Council is responsible for the rehabilitation and environmental compliance of six closed landfills across the Shire. Council implement a Closed Landfill Rehabilitation Program aimed at reducing impacts these old sites could have on the environment and community.

Litter and Dumped rubbish

In 2020, around 500 cubic meters of dumped rubbish was cleaned up by Council and 214 individual incidents of dumped rubbish were investigated. We are working hard to keep rubbish off our streets and out of our waterways but we need help from the community to catch offenders and to improve awareness of the problems that litter and illegal dumping present.

Key stats '19-20'



2737 tonnes
of waste generated
at kerbside



1385 tonnes
of recyclables



34% diversion
from landfill



7.7% contamination
for comingled recyclables



Kerbside garbage
charge - \$381.20



Kerbside recycling
charge - \$116.50



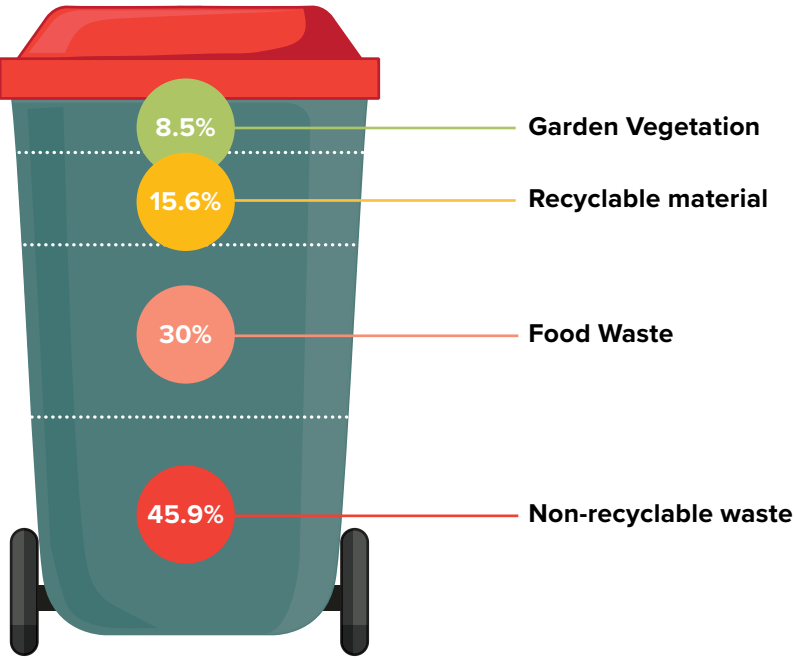
\$33 - \$55 per tonne
Landfill levy collected by
Victorian Government
between \$33 and \$55
depending on waste type



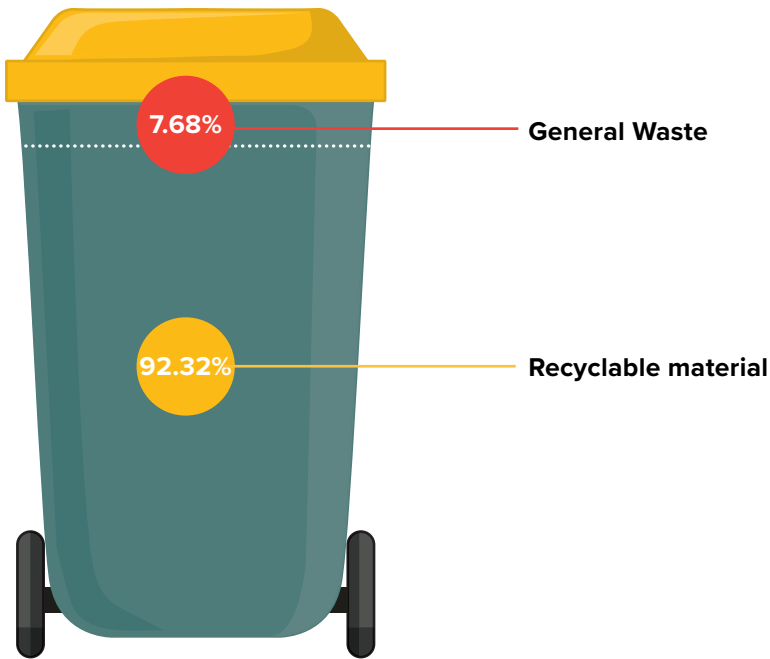
\$196 per tonne
per tonne for waste
disposal cost at
Alexandra Landfill
(including landfill levy)

Composition of our waste

Garbage bin



Recycling bin



OUR CHALLENGES

The waste management sector both in our region and throughout Australia is rapidly changing, bringing both challenges and opportunities. This section aims to give you an overview of these key issues, challenges and opportunities and feedback will be used to make informed decisions. Through our community consultation phase we will be seeking your feedback and suggestions on the following issues and ways to address them.



KEY ISSUES



Regulatory and Industry changes

There has been a large-scale upheaval of Victoria’s recycling industry since China introduced new import restrictions on recyclable materials in early 2018. As a result, Victoria has been faced with increased costs and the need to rapidly increase local capacity to manage our recycling. In response, the Victorian Government has released a Recycling Victoria policy and action plan which emphasises the need for a ‘Circular Economy’. In addition, new legislation effective 2020 requires risks of harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste to be minimised. In 2019 bans were put in place on sending e-waste to landfill and selling single-use plastic bags.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- Review operating procedures for Landfill and Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) to ensure they comply with legislative requirements; make changes and provide resources as required.
- Take advantage of increased funding availability from the State Government to implement positive changes.
- Address new challenges through the Waste Management Strategy and revisit actions every year to reflect any further regulatory changes.
- Introduce a four bin system (glass, other recyclables, landfill and organics) to increase diversion from landfill and reduce strain on sorting facilities.



Increasing diversion rates

Many valuable materials currently end up in landfill that could be recovered and recycled, including plastics, concrete, timber, and organic matter. This increases the volume and environmental impact of landfills. To divert waste from landfill, there needs to be a change in the way we separate waste at home, in the workplace and in public. It is essential that the community has confidence in the recycling system and understands what can and cannot be recycled.

A significant proportion of what we throw away is organic matter from households and the commercial sector. When composted, organic waste becomes a valuable fertilizer, but when put into landfill it converts into methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas. Diverting organic waste from landfill is therefore an urgent priority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- Improve transparency and the consistency of messaging around our waste management practices.
- Introduce a kerbside food organics and garden organics service, or issue compost bins to residents.
- Run education campaigns on recycling, reducing food waste and composting organic matter.



Illegal dumping

Illegal dumping of waste materials is common and difficult to control. It occurs on both private and public land, and is extremely damaging for the environment. Where it occurs on Council owned land there are significant costs on Council to clean up sites. In 2020, around 500 cubic meters of dumped rubbish was clean up by Council and 214 individual incidents of dumped rubbish were investigated.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- Advocate for a state-wide taskforce to address dumped rubbish issue across the state not just in our Shire.
- Run a campaign encouraging the community to report cases of illegal dumping.
- Install signs at common dumping sites warning of penalties and environmental damage caused.



Managing our Landfill

Council is currently faced with the decision of whether to close or expand the Alexandra Landfill. The facility is almost at capacity but is licenced by EPA to be doubled in size, which requires capital investment and has ongoing operational risks. There are other landfills we can send our waste to, which would incur higher transport costs and levies.

There are closed landfills around the shire in various states of rehabilitation. Council is taking a risk based approach to prioritise the rehabilitation of these legacy sites. Most old landfill sites have Resource Recovery Centres on top of them.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- Either close or extend the life of Alexandra landfill.
- Optimise landfill operations to maximise value landfill airspace.
- Explore alternatives to landfilling including waste to energy.
- Remediate old landfill sites to reduce risks to the environment and community.



Development encroachment on landfill sites

As our towns grow, new developments occur with increasing proximity to active and inactive landfill sites and resource recovery centres. This presents the risk of land use conflict through amenity impacts on housing, risking people's health and the viability of operating sites. This issue needs to be addressed to ensure the wellbeing of our community and avoid potential liability issues.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- Identify opportunities and funding to upgrade or relocate sites with the support of the Regional Waste Group.
- Put in place more stringent planning protections for waste sites.
- Establish buffer zones in the planning scheme. Developments within the buffer zone would be subject to special requirements to ensure the potential impacts of the landfill are minimised for our community.



Environmental Impact

Our traditional economic model assumes that the environment has an almost infinite capacity to provide us with raw materials and absorb our waste products.

When our waste is landfilled we need to extract more resources to create new products. Old landfills can pollute surface and ground water and can be hazardous to humans and wildlife, and even best practice landfilling of waste can result in greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere unnecessarily. There is a need to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill, to manage facilities in Council's control to minimise environmental impacts, and to educate our community about how to best manage our waste.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- As much as possible, prevent waste from entering landfill and unnecessary resource extraction through proper sorting and promotion of the circular economy principles.
- Explore available and emerging technologies to increase waste diversion from landfill, and recover recyclables and energy from waste materials.





Financing waste management

Council is committed to keeping our waste services economically viable and low cost. However, our systems are under pressure from external influences such as industry changes, increases in the State Landfill Levy, and more stringent legislative requirements. There is also a need to allocate funds to address potential long-term liabilities due to the large scale of the operations such as responding to state policy to introduce food, organics and glass recycling services.

Waste services are self supported through income from the Garbage and Recycling Charges levied on those with a kerbside service as well as income received at operating sites. Not all properties pay the Garbage and Recycling Charges and so there is an inequity in the way that waste services are subsidised.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- Review and adjust fee structures to ensure the cost of managing waste within the shire is equitably distributed.
- Explore introduction of a broad based 'waste management charge' and set the garbage and recycling charges for kerbside service users to cost recovery.
- Pair the resourcing of waste management to match the level of identified risk.
- Seek out and secure additional funding sources for implementation of new services and upgrades to facilities and operations.



Murrindindi Shire's context

In Murrindindi Shire our waste management services are challenged by our widely dispersed population, and relative isolated from major industry and waste service providers. As a result our waste services are different in many ways to those in metropolitan Melbourne. Like most rural councils, not all properties have access to the kerbside collection service, we operate our own network of Resource Recovery Centres, and kerbside hardwaste collection services are not offered. All our recyclable material has to be sent to Melbourne for processing. We experience substantial seasonal fluctuation in waste volume as a result of regional tourist attractions such as Lake Eildon, Lake Mountain and the Cathedral Ranges.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- Develop proportionate mechanisms to respond to seasonal increases in waste generation from increasing visitor numbers.
- Our current waste collection contract expires in 2025, when we will have the opportunity to negotiate changes to the services we deliver to include, for example, separate glass collection, organic waste collection, or a wheel in wheel out service for special needs clients.
- Provide a range of optional bins sizes to allow ratepayers to customise a service to suit their needs.



Business, industrial and commercial waste management

More work is needed to improve waste management in our commercial sector, particularly in the construction and farming industries. Council currently offers businesses the option of having additional collections that are charged per pickup.

Some of the opportunities might be...

- Engagement and education to encourage reuse, recycling and minimising waste.
- Develop waste management guidelines tailored to the needs of the construction and agricultural industries.
- Find 'business champions' who demonstrate best practice and share the lessons they have learned with other businesses.
- Encourage the development of business-led sustainability networks which address resource efficiency and waste avoidance.



STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

From what we have heard and learnt so far, we have put together the following Strategic Action Plan that will guide our waste and resource recovery efforts over the next ten years.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Goals

1

AVOID
creating waste through education and decision making

2

RECOVER
maximum value from all waste materials


3

PROTECT
our environment and community from the impact of waste


For each goal there are actions with timeframes so that we can make meaningful plans and budgets to deliver on our commitments, as well as targets to help us evaluate our progress.

Themes


Actions are grouped into themes to help us to see where we need to direct resources




Services and Infrastructure



Management Practices



Education and behaviour change



Partnership and advocacy

Timeframes and Resources

Each action is accompanied by a timeframe for delivery, which could be either a single year (financial), a group of years, or could be indicated to be ‘ongoing’ meaning it is something we work on constantly throughout the strategy timeframe.

The resources needed to deliver each action are indicated as well, with funding coming from either existing allocations (operating or capital) or new resources are required. Where actions require additional resources these are indicated in general terms only and will be refined through the annual review and budget cycle. New costs are indicated as follows:

KEY

\$

< \$50,000

\$\$

\$50-100,000

\$\$\$

\$100-150,000

\$\$\$\$

> \$150,000

C

Council Responsibility

S

Shared Responsibility

RESPONSIBILITY

To address the concept of shared responsibility for managing waste, actions tabled within the Strategic Action Plan include a determination of responsibility and are categorised as ‘Council’ only or ‘Shared’ between Council and community.



GOAL 1

AVOID CREATING WASTE THROUGH EDUCATION AND DECISION MAKING

In accordance with the waste management hierarchy, AVOIDANCE is the most preferred approach to waste management and so our primary goal is to avoid generating waste in the first place.

By reducing waste, the environmental impacts of landfills are reduced and pressure on recycling facilities is lessened. Since waste disposal and recycling is expensive, avoiding waste generation will directly reduce costs to ratepayers and prevent unnecessary rate rises.

Our aim

To reduce waste by actively avoiding generating it, or actively diverting recyclable material to be reused or reprocessed.

- Our targets**
- Divert 80% of waste from landfill by 2030, and an interim target of 72% by 2026 (includes kerbside and RRCs).
 - Cut waste generation per capita between 2020 and 2030 by 15% (includes kerbside and RRCs).
 - 20 per cent reduction of waste produced from Council's depot and main office between 2022 and 2027.
 - Single use plastics phased out of municipal buildings by 2023.

KEY	
\$	< \$50,000
\$\$	\$50-100,000
\$\$\$	\$100-150,000
\$\$\$\$	> \$150,000
C	Council Responsibility
S	Shared Responsibility



ACTION PLAN TO AVOID CREATING WASTE

Services and infrastructure		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
1.1	Support and incentivise opportunities that promote waste avoidance in community and across Council service areas.	ongoing	Existing operational	S

Management practices		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
1.2	Develop an auditing program to help establish a baseline data for waste generation in Municipal buildings and operations.	2021 - 2022	Existing operational	C
1.3	Review Council policies and procedures to identify opportunities that avoid creating waste in the workplace (including increasing green purchasing, establishing a plastic-free policy, enhanced staff education on waste avoidance and embed waste minimisation into procurement practice).	2022-2024	Existing operational	C
1.4	Explore options for increasing recycling and eliminating single-use products at Council events and in Council operations.	2022-2023	Existing operational	S

Education and behavior change		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
1.5	Implement annual waste education and behaviour change program campaigns that targets community, local businesses and Council operations.	ongoing	\$\$	S
1.6	Implement waste education activities focussed on food production, composting, and reducing green waste at home.	ongoing	\$\$	S
1.7	Support and participate in regional and state waste avoidance and minimisation programs such as Love Food Hate Waste, Plastics Free July, Clean Up Australia day,etc.	ongoing	\$	S
1.8	Support and promote community-led initiatives on waste avoidance and minimisation.	ongoing	\$	S
1.9	Support the regional waste education officer and participate in regional and state waste education programs.	ongoing	\$	C
1.10	Promote programs and businesses that focus on avoiding waste and increasing resource recovery.	ongoing	\$\$	S
1.11	Encourage and assist businesses to promote practices to their customers that help avoid waste and improve resource recovery.	ongoing	\$	S

Partnerships and advocacy		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
1.12	Partner with and support government agencies to implement Recycling Victoria initiatives within our Shire.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
1.13	Partner with stakeholders and community groups to develop programs and initiatives that focus on avoiding waste and increasing resource recovery.	ongoing	\$	S
1.14	Support schools to minimise their waste, including participation in Resource Smart school program.	ongoing	\$	S
1.15	Encourage the development of business-led sustainability networks which address resource efficiency and waste avoidance.	ongoing	\$\$	S
1.16	Work with community groups and local 'op shops' to understand the standard for acceptance and resale of second hand goods.	2023 / 2024	\$	S
1.17	Participate in advocacy opportunities at state and federal level to influence policy development on issues related to waste avoidance and minimisation.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
1.18	Support the advocacy obligations of the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
1.19	Support the state government to communicate circular economy and waste hierarchy principles to our community.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
1.20	Work with the state government to implement initiatives under the Recycling Victoria policy.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
1.21	Participate in regional and state activities to improve waste and recycling data capture.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
1.22	Advocate for state support to reduce the use of plastic packaging.	ongoing	Existing operational	C

GOAL 2

RECOVER MAXIMUM VALUE FROM ALL WASTE MATERIALS

In the waste management hierarchy, having generated the product or material, reuse is the preferred management method, followed by recycling.

To ‘reuse’ something is to use it again. At its simplest this can be reusing a more durable item over and over as opposed to single use. If you no longer have a use for it then someone else might be able to use it again. We all love to seek out a bargain that saves the environment and money at the same time. This is a two way street – the waste you generate can be reused by others, and when you need an item / material you can seek out something that is second hand, repurposed or preloved. These conscious decisions that we make about what we purchase have real impacts on resource consumption and waste generation.

Waste is valuable and should be treated as a commodity. Most waste items can be reused, recycled and reprocessed. When we separate out the material to facilitate the reuse or recycling we are actually adding value. One of Council’s key roles in waste management is to facilitate this through the infrastructure and services that we provide.

Our aim

To educate and empower our community to extract the maximum value from their waste through modernisation of our waste services and resource recovery facilities.

Our targets

- Introduce recovery programs for glass and garden organics and food organics by 2025. These related actions are mandated within the State Government Recycling Victoria Policy.
- Halve the volume of organic materials going to landfill from residential waste bins between 2020 and 2030.
- Reduce contamination rates in residential recycling bins to less than 7 per cent by 2030.
- Increase the recycling rate in all offices by 10 per cent between 2021 and 2025.
- Introduce re-use programs at all resource recovery facilities by 2023.

KEY

- \$ < \$50,000
- \$\$ \$50-100,000
- \$\$\$ \$100-150,000
- \$\$\$\$ > \$150,000
- C Council Responsibility
- S Shared Responsibility

ACTION PLAN TO MAXIMISE VALUE FROM WASTE

Services and infrastructure		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
2.1	Identify options and incentives that increase resource recovery through kerbside waste collection, resource recovery centres and landfill.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
2.2	Investigate the viability of options to assist ratepayers with hard waste disposal – e.g. hard-waste collection service or voucher disposal.	2022 / 2023	\$ – \$\$\$\$	S
2.3	Investigate options for the implementation of a glass recycling service and a food organics and garden organics recycling service.	2022 / 2023	\$	S
2.4	Implement a glass recycling service and a food organics and garden organics recycling service.	2023 / 2024	\$\$\$\$	S
2.5	Investigate potential service enhancements for implementation in the next kerbside collection contract, including new technologies to improve our waste services.	2023 / 2024	\$	S
2.6	Procure updated kerbside waste and recycling collection services with consideration given to cross-council and cross-regional collaborative procurement.	2024/2025	\$\$	C
2.7	Implement the new kerbside collection contracts, including managing the transition to new or improved services, and community education to support new services.	2024/2025	\$\$\$\$	S
2.8	Review the impact of the introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme on the existing public place bin network and make recommendations to ensure the litter bin service enhances recycling objectives.	ongoing	\$	S
2.9	Investigate mechanisms to respond to seasonal increases in waste and recycling generation from increasing visitor numbers in public places.	2021 / 2022	\$ – \$\$\$	S
2.10	Investigate options to pilot recycle stations for small electrical items at library’s and/or community centres.	2023 / 2024	\$\$	S
2.11	Investigate alternative waste technology options for the management of residual waste.	2022 / 2024	\$\$	C
2.12	Improve and expand the operation of Scrap Shacks at Council’s Resource Recovery Centres to increase diversion and uptake of directly reusable materials.	2024 / 2025	\$\$	S
2.13	Engage with community not currently serviced to ascertain the potential to expand kerbside collection zones.	2023 / 2024	\$	S

Services and infrastructure continued...		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
2.14	Finalise the due diligence and business case for a contemporary waste and resource recovery facility at Yea that fosters a circular economy with regional partners and local governments.	2022 / 2023	\$\$\$	C
2.15	Explore options to determine the future of Alexandra landfill and investigate alternative waste technology options for residual waste.	2021	\$\$	S
2.16	Develop a waste knowledge bank that identifies all relevant waste procedures and policies for community and Council associated with the kerbside collection services.	2021 - 2030	Existing operational	S

Management practices		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
2.15	By 2022, establish a regular kerbside waste and recycling bin audit program for regular analysis of our waste streams, and report on it.	2022, ongoing	\$	S
2.16	Establish a kerbside waste and recycling contamination management and bin inspection program.	2025	\$	S
2.17	Report trends, analysis of our waste streams, kerbside collection performance, waste data reporting and analysis to Council and community yearly as part of the Waste Strategy Delivery review.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
2.18	Promote community and Council waste and recycling performance via Council communications.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
2.10	Facilitate the use of recycled materials in Council projects, including partnering with local business.	ongoing	Existing operational	S
2.20	Implement food waste recycling from kitchens in Council facilities.	2025	Existing operational	C
2.21	Review Council procurement Policy to require “green purchasing” and review suppliers and contractor arrangements that encourage recycling and minimise waste as a selection criteria, purchase of materials with recycled content, quarterly reporting, training of staff and community.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
2.22	Monitor the development of alternative waste technologies and recycling markets and report trends and potential impacts to Council yearly as part of the Waste Strategy Delivery review.	ongoing	Existing operational	C



Education and behaviour change		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
2.23	Promote and celebrate success in resource recovery through community education campaigns.	ongoing	Existing operational	S
2.24	Engage construction and demolition businesses operating within the shire to provide information on waste management and recycling options for construction and demolition businesses.	2024	\$	S
2.25	Provide community education to promote and support actions outlined in Recycle Victoria including, food and organics recycling, glass recycling and the Container Deposit Scheme.	ongoing	\$	S
2.26	Establish Resource Recovery Centres as education hubs for our community, including school visits and community tours.	2023	\$	S
2.27	Participate in and support the GVVRRG's Education Steering Committee.	ongoing	\$	C
2.28	Investigate a mobile phone app that can provide information about Council's waste services as well as education about waste minimisation and correct recycling.	2024	\$	C
2.29	Investigate the development of a subsidy program for the purchase of compost bins and worm farms.	2023 / 2024	\$	S

Partnerships and advocacy		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
2.30	Work with Goulburn Valley WRRG and other councils to explore collaborative procurement of best practice waste and resource recovery services.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
2.31	Support advocacy through membership and direct engagement campaigns by Goulburn Valley WRRG, Municipal Association of Victoria and other Council groups for policy and funding to support waste minimisation and recycling.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
2.32	Consult with local construction, industries and business organisations to identify and determine appropriate Business recycling services and providers.	ongoing	Existing operational	S
2.33	Work with government agencies, local governments and organisations to increase the use of recycled materials in road, building and other infrastructure constructions.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
2.34	Advocate for state support for the development of plastics reprocessing industry and end markets for the recycled product, for example for silage wrap and hard plastics.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
2.35	Advocate for an online portal/database for the community to access standardised information and training about recycling and waste minimisation.	2025/2026	Existing operational	S
2.36	Advocate for consistent messaging and labelling on containers and packaging at State and National level.	ongoing	Existing operational	C

GOAL 3 PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY FROM THE IMPACT OF WASTE

We all know that if we continue on our current trajectory we will continue to consume resources at a rate that is destroying our environment. The way we manage the end products also has a significant impact on the environment. The knowledge of what we need to do is there, and there are laws and legislation to guide us in minimising the impact of the way we collect, handle and dispose of our waste.

As a key player in the waste management process, Council has a responsibility to deliver our services and operate our facilities to minimise environmental impact and demonstrate regulatory compliance. Waste management is a process that is inherently risky to the environment, but with careful and considered management we can minimise the impacts of our operations.

We will work with our community to enable the options they need to make decision that protect the environment. Where management of waste away from the home is needed we will provide appropriate infrastructure and clean up services that are targeted to our needs.

Our aim

To reduce the impact waste has on the environment and our community.

Our targets

- 100% compliance with all licence conditions for the Alexandra Landfill.
- Rehabilitate all closed landfills on Council land by 2027.

KEY

\$	< \$50,000
\$\$	\$50-100,000
\$\$\$	\$100-150,000
\$\$\$\$	> \$150,000
C	Council Responsibility
S	Shared Responsibility



ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT OUR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Services and infrastructure		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
3.1	Investigate and apply a suitable planning overlay to protect the buffers around waste and resource recovery facilities to reduce land use conflict, starting with the Alexandra waste facilities precinct.	2022	Existing operational	C
3.2	Investigate options for the development of local reprocessing of food and garden organics, concrete and glass.	2021	Existing operational	C
3.3	Prioritise and implement the rehabilitation of closed landfills based on the level of risk identified in the regional closed landfill risk assessment, and undertake a process of site specific investigation and design to develop capital plans to reduce the level of risk at all sites.	2021 - 2025	Existing capital	C
3.4	Develop Site Safety and Compliance Management Plans for all Resource Recovery Centres.	2021	\$\$\$	C
3.5	Review the public litter bin infrastructure network to ensure appropriate coverage and servicing, and add to the infrastructure database.	2024	\$	C

Management practices		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
3.6	Improve Councils sustainable procurement practices, including the increased use of sustainable and recycled materials in operations and capital projects.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
3.7	Continue to implement environmental monitoring and operational plans for closed and operating landfills.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
3.8	Engage with the new permissions system under the Environment Protection Act 2017 to register all resource recovery centres as appropriate and comply with EPA requirements and guidelines at the sites.	ongoing	\$\$\$	C
3.9	Assess financial reporting requirements for landfills and RRCs and upgrade current systems to electronic systems that helps with data collection and reporting to meet State Government reporting requirements.	2022	\$\$	C
3.10	Implement accurate recording of illegal dumping incidences to enable better and more targeted approach to this issues and report this information to Council and community.	2022	\$\$\$	S

Education and behaviour change		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
3.11	Raise awareness of littering and illegal dumping and highlight the impacts of waste on the community and environment.	ongoing	\$	S
3.12	Promote and celebrate success in protecting the environment through community education campaigns.	ongoing	\$	S
3.13	Promote programs and businesses that take actions to reduce the impacts of waste on the environment.	ongoing	\$	S

Partnerships and advocacy		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
3.14	Advocate for a State based litter prevention taskforce that includes increased enforcement, technical advice and support to address illegal dumping.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
3.15	Collaborate with government agencies and stakeholders to develop programs and initiatives that focus on reducing the impacts of waste on the environment.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
3.16	Partner with government agencies and stakeholders to secure funding for environmental protection works.	ongoing	Existing operational	C
3.17	Work with local waste and resource recovery businesses to help them understand the requirements of the update Environment Protection Act 2017.	2021	Existing operational	S



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Your opinion matters to us, so we are ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to share any thoughts and ideas on how we could improve waste management in the Shire.

The draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy will be released for public comment in mid 2021. The Strategy will then be revised, taking into consideration any comments received. Council will consider the revised Strategy for adoption at a public Council meeting.

There will be further opportunities for the community to participate as the Strategy is reviewed in future years.



DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

An implementation plan will be compiled annually to guide the delivery of the strategic actions. Yearly actions will be reflected in each annual update of the Council Plan.

This is to reflect the constantly changing nature of waste and resource recovery management, allowing us to respond to changes in

- the industry and regulatory environment
- community priorities
- council priorities and programs
- budget allocations and funding opportunities

Funding the Strategy

The funding we will need to implement the action plan will be factored into our 10 year waste operating and capital plan and will be considered in our annual budget cycles. We will also advocate and apply for external funding to improve the standard and breadth of our service offerings and infrastructure.

Reporting our Progress

Reporting on the implementation of strategic actions will occur annually. The Action Plan will be reviewed each year as part of the Council reporting process.



FURTHER READING

Recycling Victoria: A new economy, Victoria State Government, 2020

Environment Protection Act 1970, Victoria Department of the Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Recycling and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Evidence base Report, Infrastructure Victoria, 2019

Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management Final Report, Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee, Victoria, 2019

National Waste Policy: less waste more resources 2018

National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019

State-wide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan, Sustainability Victoria, 2018

HAVE YOUR SAY

Visit our online survey at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/wastestrategy and tell us:

What ideas do you have to reduce the amount of waste we produce that have not been addressed in the Draft Strategy?

How willing would you be to reduce the size of your garbage bin to 80lt instead of the current 120lt?

How could Council make it easier for you to recycle your waste?

Are there any services we should consider introducing that are not mentioned in the Draft Strategy?

Do you have any other ideas that would help keep waste out of landfill?

Would you be willing to ‘Dob in a Dumper’ if you saw someone dumping rubbish or littering in our Shire?

Have we missed anything in the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 that you would like to see included?





HAVE YOUR SAY

We want your feedback and suggestions

Email: customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Web: theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/wastestrategy

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Murrindindi

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