

DRAFT COMMUNITY WASTE RESOURCE RECOVERY PLAN

Report Author: Executive Officer - Waste Management
Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Infrastructure
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council Meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

In preparation for future waste service changes, the Waste Management team have developed a Draft Community Waste Resource Recovery Plan (Plan) which outlines the future service direction and priorities for waste management services for the Yarra Ranges Community.

The plan was developed to align with the requirements of the State Government Circular Economy Policy – Recycling Victoria and aims to assist Council meet the objectives and targets within the Policy and deliver responsible waste and recycling service changes and initiatives through services and programs for the community.

The draft Yarra Ranges Community Waste Resource Recovery Plan contains 22 actions that are pivotal for success in enabling the achievement of the strategic objectives and targets of this plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Approve the draft Yarra Ranges Council Community Waste Resource Recovery Plan to be released for public consultation, commencing 14 September 2022.***
- 2. Following consultation, the draft Yarra Ranges Council Community Waste Resource Recovery Plan be referred to Council Forum for consideration of submissions, prior to formal endorsement at a subsequent Council meeting.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council endorsed the development of the Draft Community Waste Resource Recovery Plan to establish service requirements to meet the State Governments Circular Economy Policy – Recycle Victoria.

Council also endorsed the community consultation process through a community waste survey in 2021.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

The draft Community Waste and Resource Recovery Plan (Attachment 1) has been developed to be a guiding document for the community on the changes that need to be planned and implemented over the next eight years, which will assist Council in reducing waste and maximising recovery.

The Plan will assist Council meet the objectives and targets of the Recycle Victoria Circular Economy Policy and deliver responsible waste and recycling service changes and initiatives through services and programs for the community.

The draft plan outlines a strong direction and position in relation to Council and the community working together towards zero waste sent to landfill/disposal in Yarra Ranges.

This plan envisions a future where the community is committed to produce less waste and to maximise the life of the materials used and the recovery of recyclable materials.

Council operations, local business and industry, residents and visitors will work together to protect the environment, amenity and liveability of Yarra Ranges townships, and create a strong, resilient and financially sound circular economy.

Actions identified in the plan provide a clear direction of Council's commitment to introducing programs and services to meet state policy requirements to reduce waste, maximise recovery and reduce waste going to landfill.

Options considered

A range of options were considered in developing the Plan including waste service models, generally in relation to frequency of collection, with the recommendations of the Community Waste Plan being considered the most effective service offering.

Recommended option and justification

Recommendations of the Community Waste Plan being considered the most effective service offering

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Substantial service changes are required for the provision of new services associated with the Recycling Victoria policy which results in substantial cost impacts. The financial impact will form part of the waste service charge.

The State Government provided details to each council on the level of funding support that will be provided to assist with the costs associated with the transitioning of services.

The funding is not a guaranteed amount, it will be calculated on actual costs associated with purchasing bin infrastructure and will be finalised within six months prior to transitioning to the new service. Current calculations indicate that less than 20% of the estimated bin infrastructure costs required to implement the services to the community will be provided by the state government.

The full cost impacts of the service changes will be realised and identified after the tender process for the services have been undertaken.

All waste service costs will form the Waste Service Charge on the rates notice, which is based on full cost recovery for services provided.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan: Protected & Enhanced Natural Environment - A healthier environment for future generations.

- Develop a Municipal Waste Plan, education programs and pursue innovative waste processing technologies to maximise waste resource recovery for a more sustainable future.

RELEVANT LAW

The works and outcomes associated with this report relate directly to the requirements outlined in the State Governments Recycle Victoria – Circular Economy Policy

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Economic impacts were considered as part of the development of the Plan such as impacts on businesses (referenced in the risk assessment section of this report).

Social Implications

Social impacts include social connection and community gatherings with options for groups to be involved in repair style cafes, recycling workshops and webinars; this is identified in the draft Community Waste and Resource Recovery Plan.

Environmental Implications

The introduction of services that comply with the State Government Circular Economy Policy – Recycling Victoria will lead to reduced environmental impacts by introducing services to minimise waste, maximise recovery and reduce waste to landfill.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Extensive engagement with the community was undertaken last year through the distribution of a community waste survey which was distributed and made available to all households which resulted in approximately 7,000 responses, which is over 11% of properties within the municipality.

The information received from that survey was used to assist in the development of the Plan.

A Community Consultation Plan (Attachment 2) has been developed to outline the extensive process to be undertaken to engage the community in consultation of the plan.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Plan outlines future services required to meet state requirements and objectives which includes maximising recovery and seeking alternative methods for managing and disposing of waste to landfill.

Council officers participated in regional workshops to share and leverage learnings across the sector.

RISK ASSESSMENT

State Government policy dictates and directs Council's action in the introduction of services to minimise waste, maximise recovery and reduce waste to landfill.

The kerbside collection services provided to the Yarra Ranges community are extended to both residential, non-residential and commercial properties. The changes in the residential services including collection frequencies will apply to all properties that utilise council collection services.

As the service will be standardised to the residential service schedule, this may not suit some of the commercial properties that utilise council's collection service.

For council to continue to provide a specialised collection service to commercial properties it would come at significant cost which is not considered justifiable when there are private commercial collection options available across the municipality which can provide these services.

Commercial properties will still be able to utilise council's service, however it will be based on the residential collection schedule and frequency, and they will be limited to the number of bins provided. This will ensure that the amenity of the area is not impacted by an overrun by bins left out for long periods of time in townships and streetscapes.

The waste management team in conjunction with the economic development team will provide information to all commercial properties utilising councils service approximately 12 months in advance of any change occurring to ensure they have plenty of time to review and consider alternatives.

It is possible that this may not satisfy some commercial businesses, which could impact Council's reputational risk.

There will be further discussion with Multi unit development properties in relation to the management of the number of bins associated with storage & collection locations. The waste management team are fully aware of these concerns and will be working with these developments/body corporates to come up with a solution for these sites.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Draft Community Waste and Resource Recovery Plan; and
2. Community Engagement Plan