



Yarra Ranges Council

Draft Community Waste and Resource
Recovery Plan 2023–2030

Community Consultation Summary

About the consultation

The draft Community Waste and Resource Recovery Plan for Yarra Ranges Council was released to the community for comments between 14 September and 9 November 2023.

The consultation invited comments via the Shaping Yarra Ranges website, and comments were also submitted via direct email/mail to Council and in face-to-face conversations at stalls at different locations.

The consultation period was advertised by an email update to Shaping Yarra Ranges subscribers, via social media, newspaper advertising and notices in Council and community newsletters.

Community participation in consultation

A total of 435 respondents participated in the consultation, including:



78 responses to online survey on the Shaping Yarra Ranges website



170 responses received during face-to-face discussions at six local pop-up stalls and displays



12 responses via letter or email



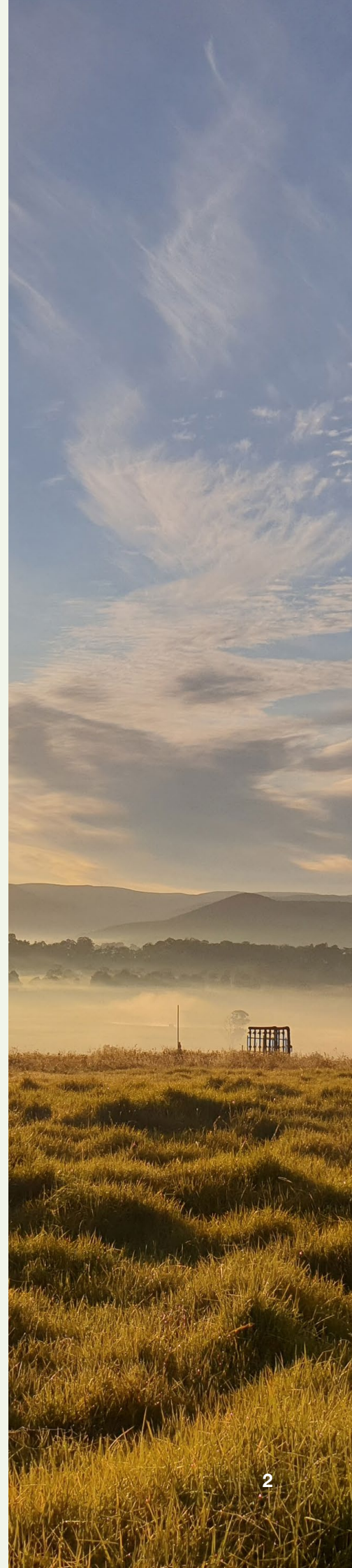
175 people viewing community webinars

- 56% of respondents were female; 44% were male
- 70% of respondents were aged between 35-65 years

Types of feedback received

Much of the feedback received through the consultation related to the upcoming changes to waste collection services, rather than providing suggestions for improvement of the content of the plan.

Feedback on how changes to waste collections will impact on the community and how these impacts could be minimised has been noted. This information will be considered when planning the changes to Council's waste services.



Key Points of Feedback

We proposed a vision for ‘a Yarra Ranges community working together towards zero waste sent to landfill’.



You told us:

- The focus for plan should be on circular economy rather than zero waste, as there is waste in every system.



In our final plan, we will:

- Amend our vision to include the concept of circular economy:
Our vision is for a Yarra Ranges community working together towards a circular economy, minimising waste sent to landfill and maximising resources.
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We asked what you thought of our proposed waste targets of:

- **20% reduction in total waste generation per capita by 2030.**
 - **Divert 90% of waste from landfill by 2030, with an interim target of 75% by 2025.**
 - **Cut the volume of organic material going to landfill by 60% by 2030, with an interim target of 25% by 2025.**
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You told us:

- Our targets for waste reduction were admirable, however difficult for the community to implement where the systems that create waste (consumption of highly packaged items) is out of the community’s control.
- You generally agreed that Council should play a role in advocating for more sustainable and recyclable packaging.



In our final plan, we will:

- Maintain our current targets, which aim to exceed the targets set by the Victorian Government. These have been set considering the impact that Alternative Waste Processing and organics collections are likely to have on waste levels.
- Strengthen Council’s role in advocating to government and industry for sustainable management of packaging waste and include this as a specific action.

We asked what you thought about the actions listed in our Action plan under the themes of ‘Avoid and Reduce’; ‘Recover and Recycle’; ‘Engage and Empower’; and ‘Lead by Example’.

About the actions under the theme of ‘Avoid and Reduce’:



You told us:

- Education should extend to schools, sports and community groups to multiply the positive effects.
- Programs to support activities such as the adoption of reusable nappies and soft plastics recycling should be given high priority.
- More priority should be given to assisting with the reuse/rehoming/upcycling of waste that would otherwise end up on hard rubbish. This would include increasing access to tip shops.



In our final plan, we will:

- Address each of these aspects within existing actions in our action plan.
- Consider options for increasing the profile and awareness of reusing items rather than putting items out for hard rubbish.

About the actions under the theme of ‘Recover and Recycle’



You told us:

- Several respondents expressed interest in the proposed action to investigate larger bin options for residentially rated, multi-unit developments. It was suggested to consider providing the same option for larger households, and that any decisions on these kinds of matters be informed by the input of affected residents.
- Several residents expressed that they have insufficient glass for a separate glass recycling bin.



In our final plan, we will:

- Address these aspects within existing actions in our action plan.
- Ensure that residents of multi-unit developments are included in decision making through body corporates and representative groups.

About the Actions under the theme of ‘Engage and Empower’



You told us:

- Many comments were received on the need for extensive education that is simple, available by multiple communication avenues (online, printed, face-to-face) and encourages correct use of the services.
- Use of enforcement was suggested by some respondents.
- As previously stated, providing education through schools, early years centres and sporting/ community groups will help to extend the reach of our educational messages.



In our final plan, we will:

- Address each of these aspects under existing actions in our Action Plan.
- Include varied audiences and target groups in the development of waste education plans.

About the actions under the theme of ‘Leading by Example’



You told us:

- Several respondents expressed interest in improving access and visibility of tip shops to improve reuse.
- The action plan item relating to minimising waste at events could be strengthened, working toward all Council-led and supported events being zero-waste to landfill by 2030.



In our final plan, we will:

- Address the prominence of tip shops in the municipality through existing actions in our Action Plan.
- Consider strengthening the wording for these actions, with agreement of relevant teams within Council.

Other general feedback

During the feedback, a variety of comments were received outlining community concerns about changes to Council's waste collection services. While not directly relevant to the themes and targets of the plan, these items will be considered in the delivery of actions outlined in the plan, rollout of changes to waste collection services, and developments beyond the life of the plan.

- Council needs to ensure the delivery of actions is inclusive of people of all ages and abilities, helping them to manage their waste – elderly, less educated, less wealthy, people with limited mobility (physical and logistical).
- Respondents are interested in being able to recycle more items – soft plastics, polystyrene, agricultural waste (plant pots, large plastic containers, plastic wrap), pet waste.
- There is interest in how Council can support households who are making efforts to live a low-waste lifestyle, and to encourage others to take up low-waste and sustainable options.
- Many respondents requested that all bin sizes are available to all residents, allowing them to choose sizes that reflect their needs and waste levels. Currently, smaller recycling bins are limited to aged residents and those in retirement villages. It was expressed by many, particularly in face-to-face conversations, that this should be extended to low-waste and single-person households.
- Hard waste collections need to treat waste with reuse in mind – at present items go into a compactor and are destroyed.
- Waste collections should work towards adopting a 'user-pays' model for all streams.





Feedback relating to changes toward a four-stream collection service

Much of the feedback received was more relevant to the transition of waste services, as opposed to directly responding to the content of the plan.

The online survey on the Shaping Yarra Ranges website asked the 78 respondents to select the main issues that will most affect them from a list of issues identified through the Community Waste Survey and more recent community interactions. Key concerns included increased costs, space for bins and within bins, lack of need for a FOGO bin for some residents, hygiene, nappies overfilling rubbish bins, lack of need for a glass bin, soft plastics and the implementation of changes in rental and short stay accommodation.

These concerns will all be considered in the roll out of new bins and collection services over the coming year.

Conclusion

A range of feedback from the community has been presented during the extensive consultation for the Draft Community Waste and Resource Recovery Plan.

Each item outlined in this summary, as well as other general feedback received, will be considered in the development of the final plan, and in the design and delivery of Council's new waste collection services.

The final copy of the Community Waste and Resource Recovery Plan will be available for public viewing from mid-2023.