



Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030



**MITCHELL
SHIRE COUNCIL**



Acknowledgement of Country

Mitchell Shire Council acknowledges the Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Mitchell Shire.

We pay our respect to their rich cultures and to Elders, past, present, and emerging, as well as other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live, work and play in the area.



Contents

Introduction	2
Mitchell Shire Council Profile	4
Mitchell Shire Community	6
Guiding Principles	7
The Waste Management Hierarchy	7
The Circular Economy	8
Policy Context	9
Current Waste and Recycling Services	10
Kerbside collection services	10
Resource Recovery Centres	11
Reuse Shop	11
Public Place Bin Services	11
Mitchell Landfill	11
Closed Landfills	12
Litter and Dumped Rubbish	12
Waste Education	12
Challenges and Opportunities	13
Regulatory and Industry changes	13
Environmental Impact of waste	14
Waste management priorities	16
Recycling Behaviours and Attitudes	17
Rapid population growth	18
Managing Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure	18
Financial cost of waste management	19
Local business, industrial, and commercial waste management	19
Construction waste management	19
Strategic Action Plan	20
Goal 1 - Avoid creating waste through education and decision making	22
Goal 2 - Recover the maximum value from all waste material to support a local circular economy	25
Goal 3 - Protect our environment and community from impacts of waste	29

Introduction

The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 (The Strategy) provides Mitchell Shire Council with strategic direction for the next eight years to deliver better practice waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure.

The Strategy builds on Council's previous waste strategy and aligns with federal and state government waste policy objectives and targets. The Strategy articulates our vision for the future and sets goals and targets for Mitchell Shire based on our current waste performance (i.e. consumption and recycling behaviours, data, services and infrastructure) and future needs. The action plan sets out the strategic actions required to achieve the vision.

Across Australia and around the world, governments, businesses and communities are grappling with how to reduce waste and recycle more. The Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria policy is the result of challenges faced in Victoria, like many other states and nations, that generate and export large amounts of recycled materials. The policy sets out a new model for managing waste and recycling across the state and aims to reduce waste, increase recycling and create more value from our resources, ultimately establishing a circular recycling system that Victorians can rely on.



Over the next eight years, we'll need to change our household kerbside collection services to align with the Victorian Government's kerbside reforms, support the local implementation of a container deposit scheme and invest in community-based waste and recycling education while continuing to effectively manage waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure for a growing population.

Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to set a vision for the future of waste and resource recovery services for the Mitchell Shire community over the next eight 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 generated and increasing the amount of material that is both reused and recycled.

Scope

The strategy applies to all areas of Council operations. The Environment and Sustainability department are responsible for the implementation and evaluation of this strategy.

Definitions

RRC

Resource Recovery Centre



Mitchell Shire Council Profile

Mitchell Shire is located in the heart of Victoria, 40km north of Melbourne. Townships include Beveridge, Broadford, Kilmore, Puckapunyal, Pyalong, Seymour, Tallarook, Tooborac, Trawool, Wallan, Wandong and Heathcote Junction.

The average age of a person living in Mitchell Shire is 36, which is only slightly younger than the Victorian average of 37. The median total household income in Mitchell Shire is \$1,719 per week \$300 per week more than the Victorian average.

Most dwellings in Mitchell Shire are classified as separate houses (86%). Less than 10% of residential properties in Mitchell Shire could be described as multi-unit dwellings or town houses. The average household size is 2.7 people.

83% of the community cite English as the only language spoken at home. The most popular other languages spoken at home are Punjabi (2.4%), Vietnamese (2%), Italian (0.9%), Mandarin (0.6%) and Hindi (0.6%) (Census 2022).



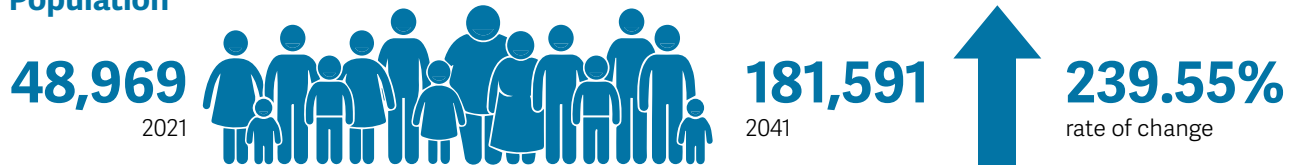
Mitchell Shire



Our Community

An overview of our diverse community

Population



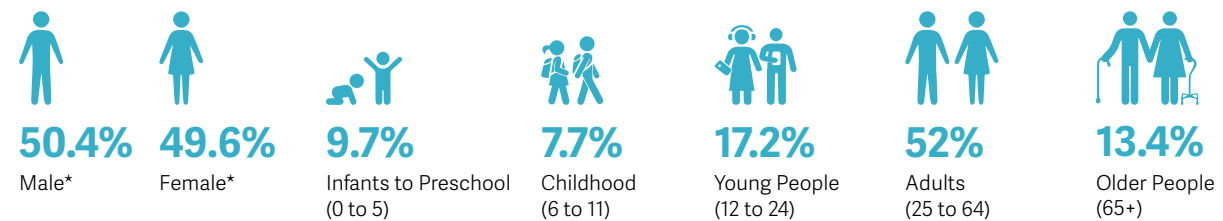
Breakdown by Township / Area



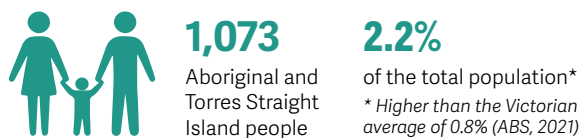
	2021	2041		2021	2041
Beveridge	4,632	78,191	Rural North East	2,889	2,615
Broadford	5,333	10,233	Seymour	6,650	12,277
Kilmore - Kilmore East	9,781	22,277	Wallan	14,473	49,870
Pyalong - Rural North West	2,075	2,429	Wandong - Heathcote Junction	3,135	3,700

Gender split and age

* No data collected for other gender identifications at this stage



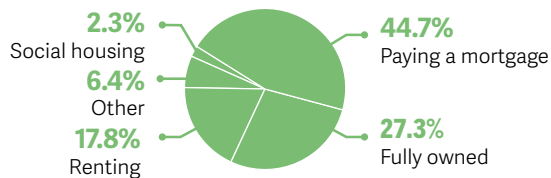
Aboriginality in Mitchell Shire 2021



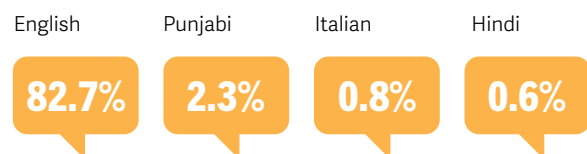
Country of Birth



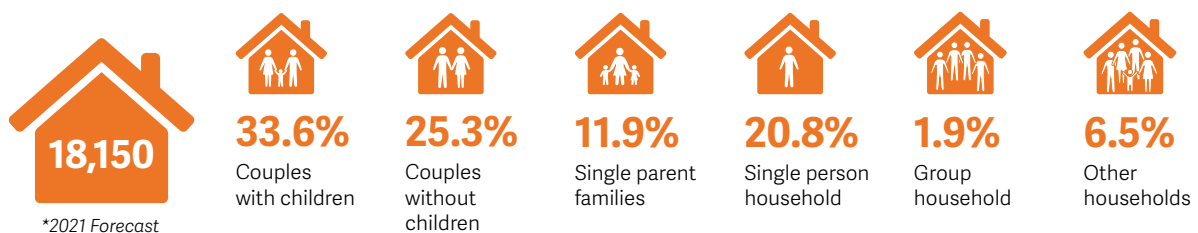
Tenure in Mitchell Shire 2021



Most spoken languages



Households



Guiding Principles

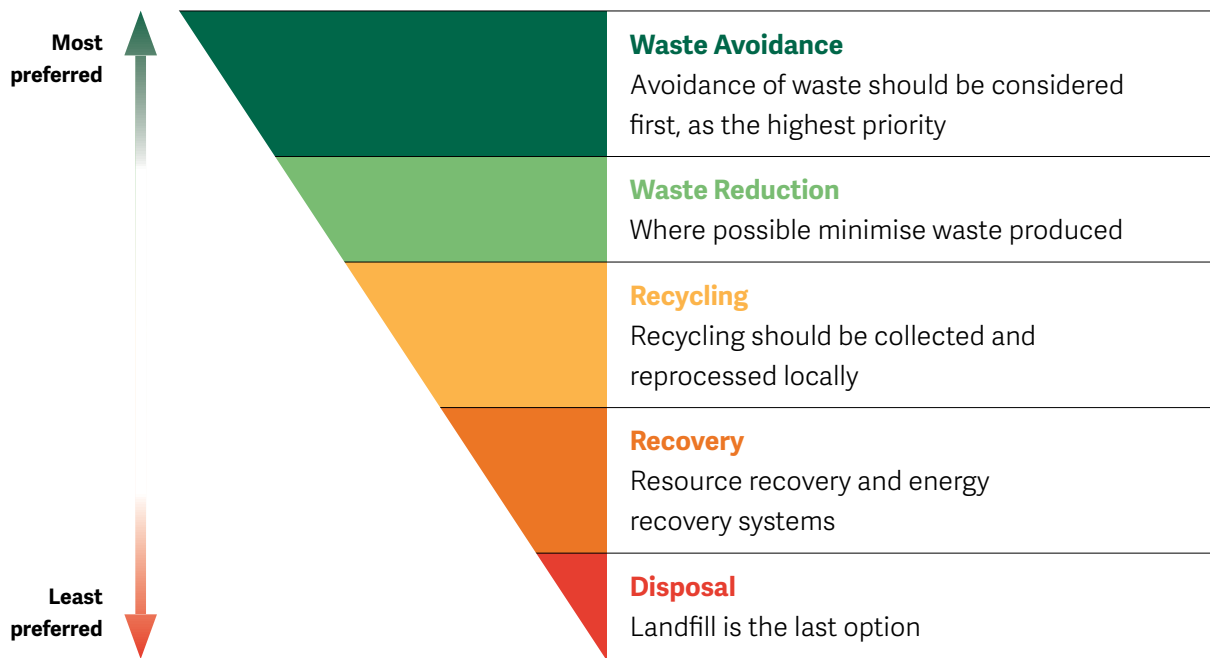
The Waste Management Hierarchy

The waste management hierarchy is the underlying principle of waste management policies in Australia and is included in the *Environment Protection Act 2017*. The hierarchy establishes the order of preference for waste management, where avoidance is the most preferred option and disposal (landfill) the least preferred option.

The waste management hierarchy is a decision-making tool and provides a set of priorities for efficient and sustainable ways to manage our waste. These include:

- Avoidance of waste should be considered first, as the highest priority.
- Resource recovery including re-use, recycling, reprocessing and energy recovery can be considered after waste avoidance options have been investigated and implemented where appropriate.
- Disposal of waste is the least preferred.

Figure 1: The Waste Management Hierarchy



The Circular Economy

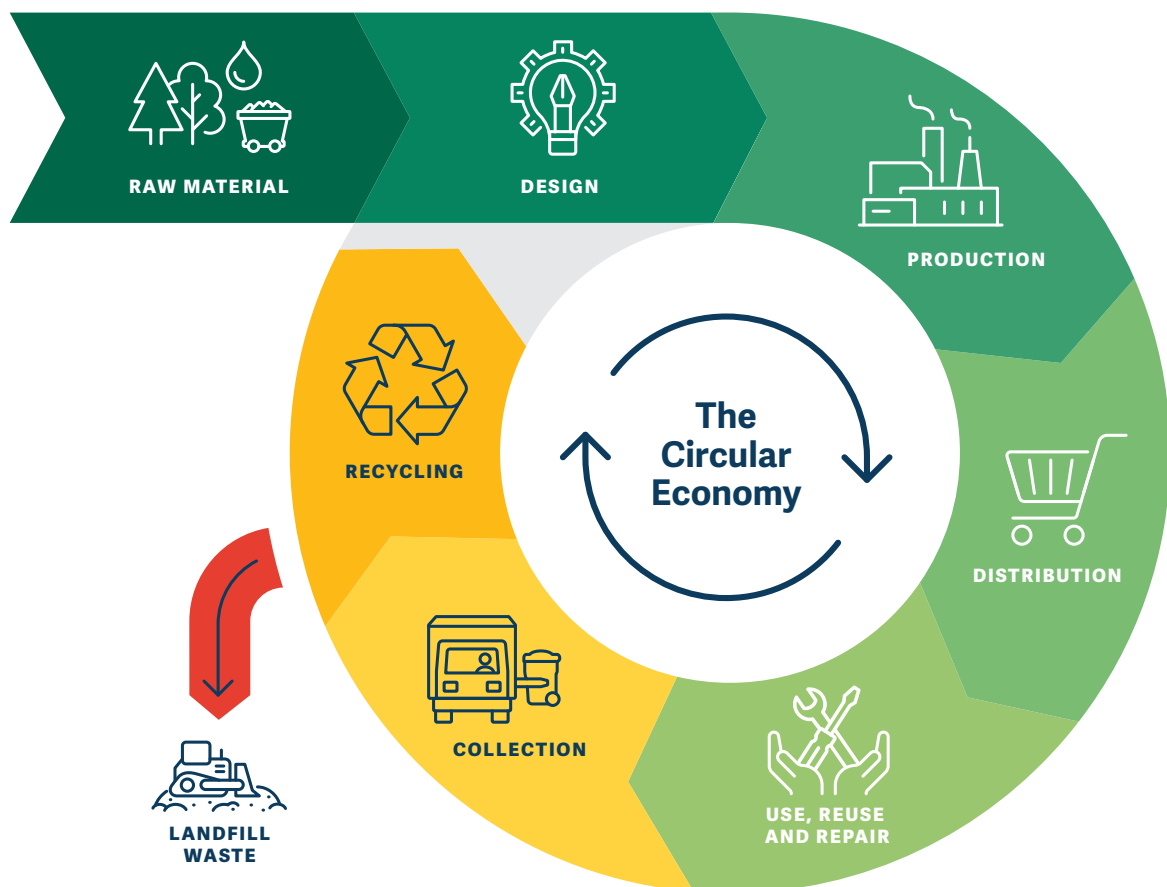
The second guiding principle of the strategy is the circular economy. The current linear economy of waste is no longer working for businesses, people or the environment. The aim of a circular economy is to transform our throwaway economy into one where waste is eliminated, resources are circulated, and nature is regenerated.

Changing the system involves everyone and everything: governments, businesses and individuals; we are just starting to understand our role in the circular economy as a local government and want to help build capacity across our region.

We can use these three principles of the circular economy to investigate, grow and support our region:

1. Design out waste and pollution (Rethink, Avoid)
2. Recover the maximum value from all materials (Reuse, Repair, Recycle)
3. Regenerate natural systems

Figure 2: The Circular Economy

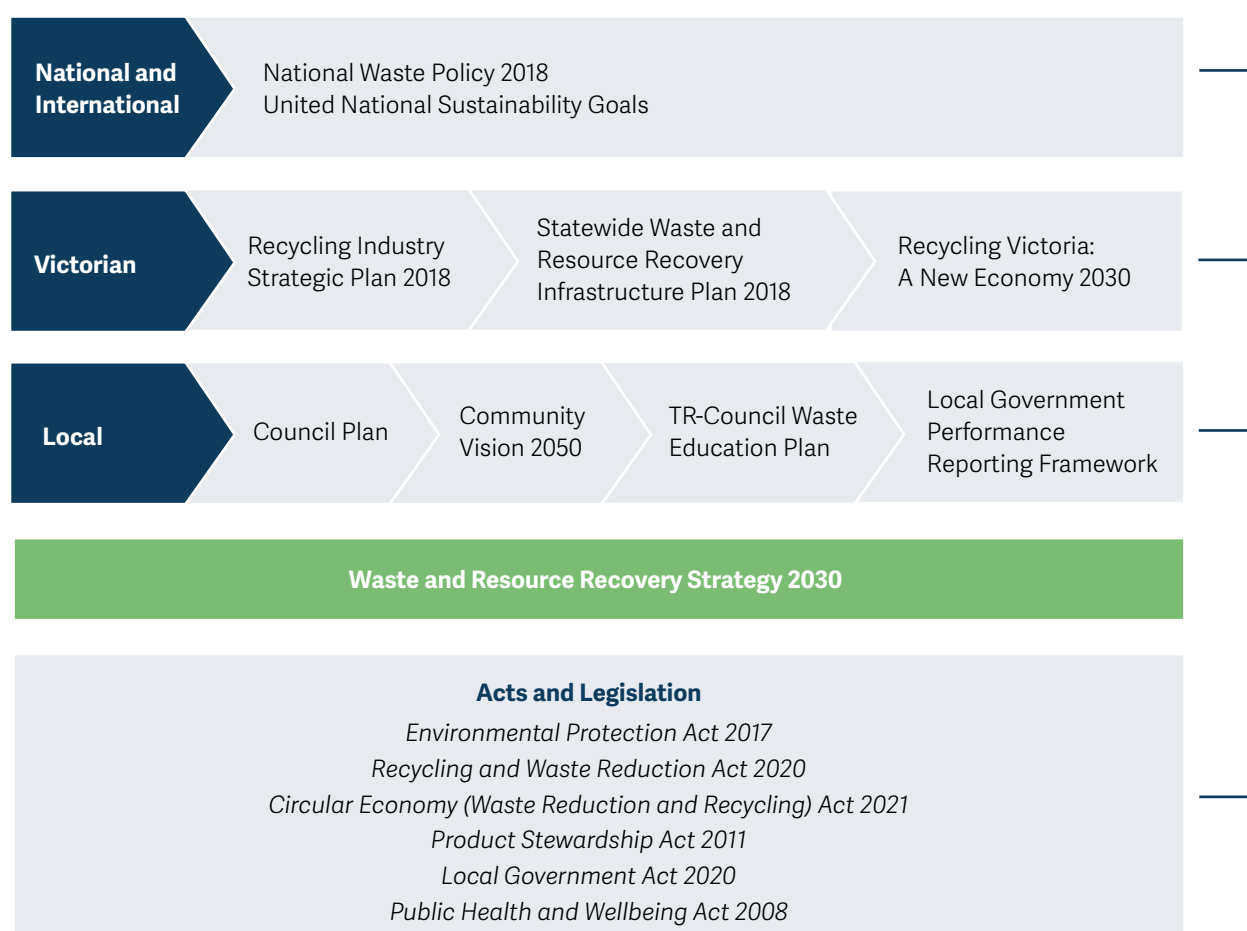


Policy Context

National, state and local government legislation, policies and strategies, influence the current and future direction of resource recovery and waste management at the local level.

An overview of the legislation, strategies and policy which guide and influence Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy is shown below.

Figure 3: Policy Context



Current Waste and Recycling Services

Mitchell Shire Council currently provides a range of waste and recycling services and infrastructure including; kerbside waste and recycling collection, a network of four Resource Recovery Centres, an operating landfill, public litter and recycling bins, management of litter and illegally dumped waste and a variety of waste education programs and activities.

Kerbside collection services

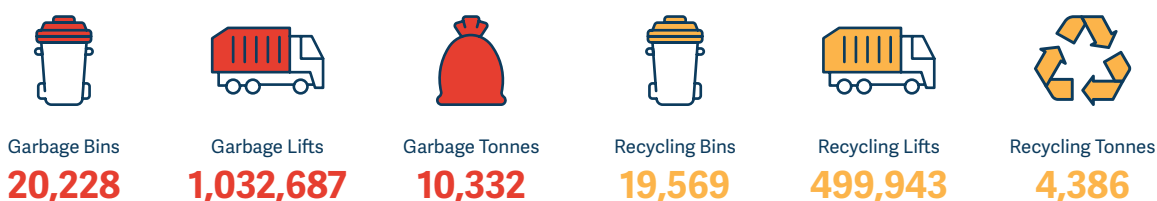
We currently provide kerbside garbage and recycling collection services for approximately 90% of residential properties in the Shire and a number of commercial businesses.

The service is mandatory for properties with dwellings in compulsory collection zones (township areas and along connector roads) and opt in for other areas of the shire depending on route accessibility and local demand. In some instances, a collection point can be set up for residents to take their bins to a designated location along the road that is accessible for the collection truck. New opt in requests and collection points are managed on a case-by-case basis.

Users of the kerbside service pay an annual Waste Service Charge to cover the cost of the service and other waste and recycling infrastructure and services provided by Council.

Currently we service more than 19,000 tenements, with almost 900 new kerbside services added last financial year. The kerbside garbage and recycling collection services cost Council just under \$5 million dollars to deliver in 2021-2022. Some of the key statistics from this service can be seen below.

Figure 4: Key Statistics Kerbside Collection Service 2021-22



Resource Recovery Centres

Council operates four Resource Recovery Centres (RRC) in Broadford, Pyalong, Seymour and Wallan. There is an average of 950 visits per week to our RRCs.

Disposal of waste at RCCs by Mitchell Shire residents attracts a charge. Higher fees are charged for non-residents and businesses.

Disposal of recyclables at RRCs by residents is either free or attracts a small charge (with the fee subject to the type of material).

Council provides RRC vouchers to property owners each year with their annual Rates notice. The notice contains a QR code that can be scanned up to five times at any of the four RRCs. Each scan is valued at the cost to dispose of one cubic metre of green waste.

Almost one quarter of the total value of RRC vouchers distributed in 2021-2022 were redeemed.

Reuse Shop

Council operates a Reuse Shop at the Wallan Resource Recovery Centre. The shop resells many household items that can still be used such as:

- furniture
- toys
- books
- bric a brac
- gardening items
- tools

Public Place Bin Services

Public place bin services include management of public place garbage and recycling bins and general litter management throughout the shire. Council managed public place bins are located in:

- township shopping strips
- public parks
- sporting facilities
- swimming pools and leisure centres
- dog friendly places

All public place bins are emptied by Council's kerbside collection contractor.

An inventory and a comprehensive database of all public place bins within the shire has been compiled. The installation of public place bins is determined in accordance with Council's Guideline for Public Place Bins.

Mitchell Landfill

Mitchell Landfill, located in Hilddene, is owned and operated by Mitchell Shire Council. It is operated under a Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Operating licence to ensure potential risks to human health and the environment are minimised. The site receives all waste collected via our kerbside garbage collection service and the residual waste from our RRCs. It also accepts waste from registered commercial customers.

The site is classified as a low risk rural landfill and can accept up to 20,000 tonnes of waste per year.



Closed Landfills

The environmental risks posed by landfill sites continues for a significant period of time after waste acceptance has ceased. Council uses a risk-based approach to prioritise the management of closed landfill sites.

Litter and Dumped Rubbish

Illegal dumping of waste or littering can cause significant environmental issues including land contamination, pollution of waterways, increased fire risk and harm to local wildlife and their habitats. Cleaning up illegally dumped waste and prosecuting offenders costs the community thousands of dollars each year. Council spends more than \$150,000 each year cleaning up and disposing of illegally dumped waste. Litter and other illegally dumped waste are currently managed in accordance with Council's Local Laws.

Waste Education

Waste education activities and events are delivered via the tri-council partnership of Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shire Council's through a Regional Waste Education Plan and shared Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Education Officer.

Under this partnership numerous waste education activities are delivered across Mitchell including: school visits and community workshops on topics such as waste avoidance and recycling, regular media articles and social media posts and development of education materials and tools.

Challenges and Opportunities

The waste and resource recovery sector is rapidly changing, bringing both challenges and opportunities. This section provides an overview of the key challenges faced and emerging opportunities to move towards a circular economy where we maximise reuse, recycling and recovery, and minimise waste to landfill. This will inform decisions for Council's waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure for the next eight years.

Regulatory and Industry changes

There has been a large-scale upheaval of Victoria's recycling industry since China introduced import restrictions on recyclable materials in early 2018. As a result, there has been a need to rapidly increase capacity to manage our recycling locally. In response, the Victorian Government released their Recycling Victoria policy and action plan in 2020 which highlights the need for a 'Circular Economy'.

To strengthen regulation and oversight of the state's waste and recycling sector the Victorian Government established the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* which includes legislation to underpin the new container deposit scheme and new statewide, four-stream household waste and recycling system. The Act enabled the establishment on 1 July 2022 of Recycling Victoria, a dedicated government business unit with distinct legislative functions to oversee and provide strategic leadership for the waste and recycling sector.



The introduction of the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, in 2021, has resulted in a number of key changes in the waste and resource recovery sector including changes to landfill operating licences and the introduction of a registration/permitting system for resource recovery centres (RRCs) in Victoria.

In 2019, bans were put in place on sending electronic waste (e-waste) to landfill and selling single-use plastic bags. Further policy changes will be implemented in 2022-2023 which include banning the sale of problematic single use plastics and the introduction of a state-wide container deposit scheme for drinking containers.

Some of the opportunities to arise from these changes include:

- Continue to review standard operating procedures for landfill and RRCs to ensure they comply with legislative requirements; make changes and provide resources as required
- Take advantage of increased funding availability from the Victorian Government to implement positive changes
- Address new challenges through the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and revisit actions every year to reflect any further regulatory changes
- Introduce a four bin system (glass recycling, mixed recycling, food and garden organics and general rubbish) to increase diversion from landfill and reduce strain on recycling sorting facilities

Environmental Impact of waste

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. Landfills can pollute surface and ground water and be hazardous to human health, and generate greenhouse gases which enter the atmosphere unnecessarily.

A significant proportion of waste that is sent to landfill is organic material from households and the commercial sector. When composted, organic waste becomes a valuable fertiliser, but when disposed into landfill it converts into methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas.

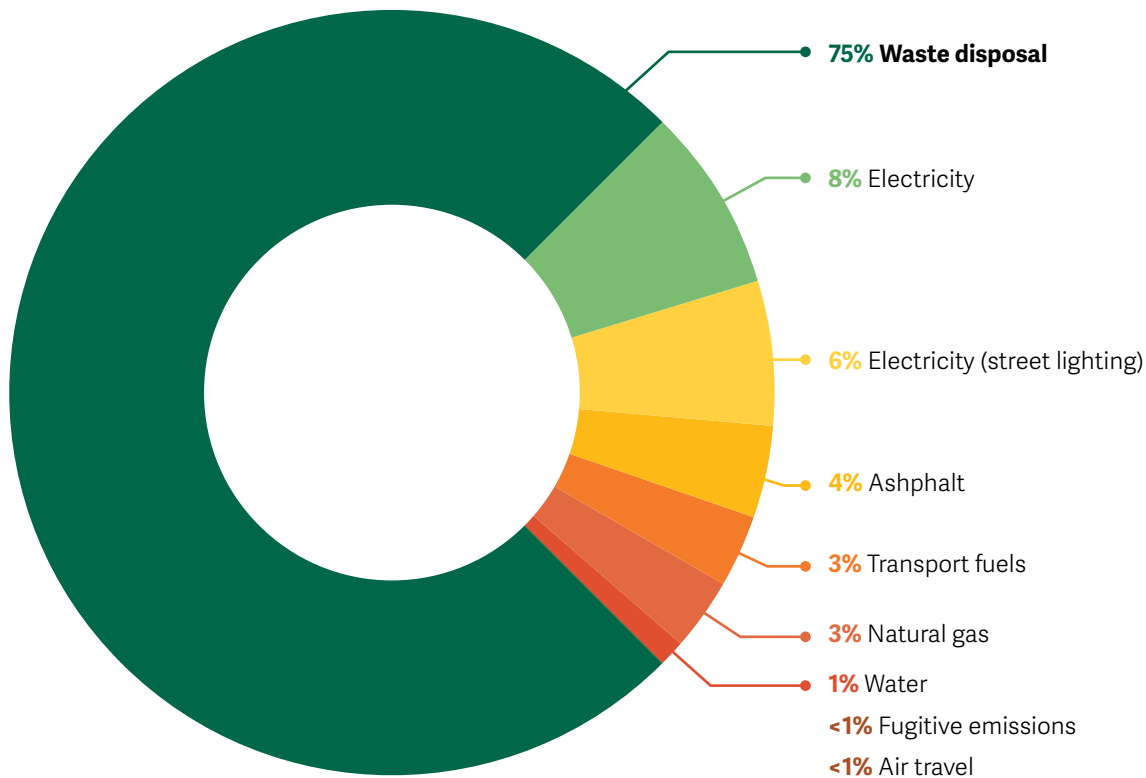
Waste to landfill and the associated greenhouse gas emissions is one of the key challenges facing local government today.

Emissions from waste disposal account for the majority of Council's greenhouse gas emissions at 75% or 16,611 tCO₂-e.to (see figure 5). Diverting organic waste from landfill is therefore a key action to assist in reducing Council's greenhouse gas emissions.

There is a need to reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill, to manage our waste facilities to minimise environmental impacts, and to educate our community about how to best manage waste. Many valuable materials that could be recovered, reused and recycled, including plastics, concrete, timber, and organic matter currently end up in landfill.

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.

Figure 5: Total Emissions (Scope1+2+3) profile by sector for Mitchell Shire FY 2020/21



Some of the opportunities to increase waste to landfill diversion rates include:

- Improve transparency and the consistency of messaging around our waste management and recycling practices
- Introduce a kerbside food and garden organics kerbside collection service, and continue subsidising the cost of compost bins and worm farms to residents
- Deliver education campaigns on avoiding waste and recycling and reducing food waste, and composting organic matter
- Increase the availability of public place recycling and provide consistency in the format of the enclosures and messaging
- Improve waste diversion at RRCs with sort and save education including improved centre layout, signage and face to face education
- As much as possible, prevent waste from being sent to landfill 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



Waste management priorities

The community vision engagement process was undertaken in 2021, with more than 1500 responses to the survey, 822 responses coming from in-person activities.

Waste featured many times throughout the engagement, under the two themes of Nature and Parks and Climate Action and Sustainability. Waste management was commented on 79 times making this an important element shaping the community's vision for Mitchell Shire in the future.

Some of the reoccurring ideas mentioned by the community included:

- Strong demand for a green waste service
- Hard rubbish pick-up service
- Develop a local recycling industry

From this engagement process and other community feedback received via social media, customer service requests and direct enquiries to Council there are several emerging themes identified by the community that have been distilled into the eight priorities (listed in table below). Each of these priorities has been addressed in the Strategy.

The Council Plan incorporates the Community Vision emphasis on Waste and Environment and includes, as one of its four main themes, Nature, with the strategic objective being "Our natural environment is protected, cared for and enhanced." A key priority within the theme of Nature includes "Facilitate waste minimisation, resource reuse and recovery over disposal".

Community Priority	Strategy Reference
1. Provision of a "Green Waste" or "Garden Waste" kerbside bin service	Action Plan item 2.14
2. Provision of a hard waste collection service	Action Plan item 2.12
3. Local soft plastic recycling facilities	Action Plan items 2.06, 2.09, 2.11
4. Increased public place bin signage	Action Plan item 3.12
5. Review waste and recycling fees and charges	Action Plan item 2.04
6. Increased waste education	Goal 1
7. Concern for impacts on climate change	Guiding Principle: the Circular Economy (all goals and multiple actions)
8. Support a local recycling industry/facility	Action Plan items 1.12, 1.05, 2.06

Recycling Behaviours and Attitudes

Overall we know there are positive attitudes towards recycling. Approximately 83% of Victorians agree it is the responsibility of every individual to put the right items in the recycling bin. However about 42% of people believe that it is hard to know what goes in their recycling bin.

Kerbside recycling bin contamination rates across Australia generally vary from 3% to over 30%. In Mitchell Shire we can see how attitudes and behaviours impacts what ends up in each bin. A regional kerbside bin audit was complete in 2021, a summary of the audit findings are presented in Figure 6.

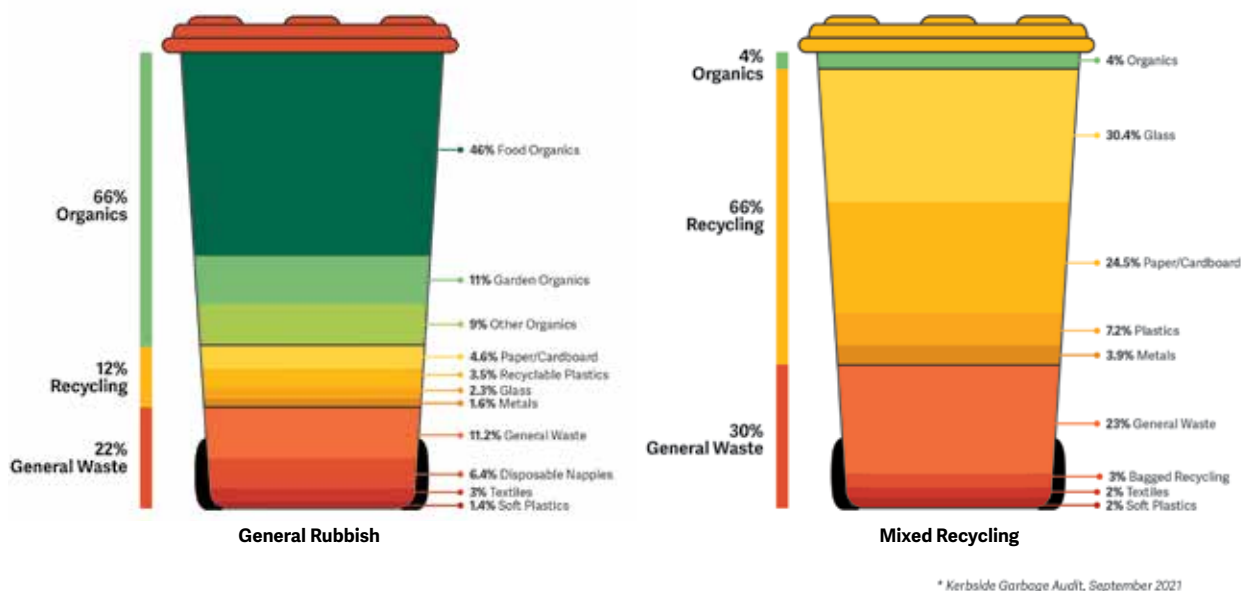
The kerbside bin audit confirmed a recycling bin contamination rate of 34% in Mitchell Shire. This figure is considered high compared to other municipalities in the Goulburn Valley region,

although it is difficult to directly compare contamination rates as population densities and demographics are often different, as is the way and frequency that that waste is collected.

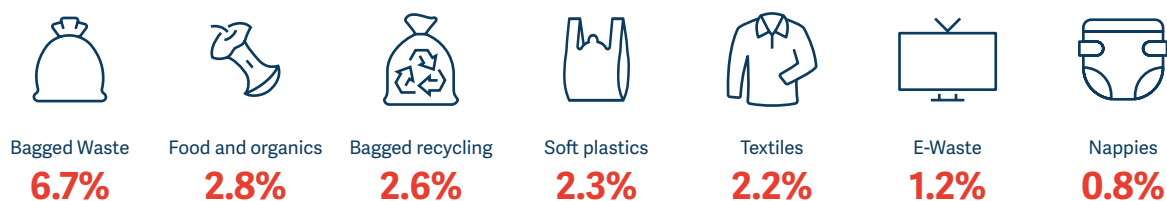
Some of the opportunities to improve kerbside recycling behaviours include:

- Run education campaigns on recycling and waste sorting to help residents learn what can and can't go in each bin
- Provide written and visual education materials to households regarding correct recycling behaviours
- Provide transparent information about where recycling ends up to help build trust in the recycling system
- Establish a kerbside waste and recycling contamination management and bin inspection program

Figure 6: 2021 Bin Audit Results



The biggest contamination issues identified in kerbside recycling bins in Mitchell are:



Rapid population growth

Mitchell Shire is Victoria's fastest growing outer metropolitan municipality. More than 53,000 people call Mitchell Shire home, with almost 182,000 residents expected to reside in Mitchell in the next 20 years. Each week over this period, the population is projected to increase by an average of 130 people. This equates to 42 new homes being built every week, increasing the volumes of waste being collected through kerbside services for disposal and recycling.

Council is embracing the opportunities and responding pro-actively to the challenges of population growth to ensure residents have access to the waste and resource recovery services and facilities they need.

Some of the opportunities and challenges resulting from population growth include:

- Ongoing expansion of the current waste and recycling services and infrastructure to meet the needs of a larger community
- Larger residential numbers requiring kerbside bin services may result in a smaller cost per capita for this service
- Producing educational material in languages other than English (LOTE) as LOTE communities continue to grow
- Opportunities to expand the types of waste and resource recovery services provided to the community

Managing Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure

Mitchell Landfill in Hilldene has works approval for a further three cells to be constructed on site. Based on future available airspace and projected waste generation volumes for the shire it is anticipated that the site will close by 2030.

The Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria Policy highlights the State Government's direction to reduce waste to landfill and thus the number of landfills across the state. Therefore, continuation of landfill operations in Mitchell Shire beyond 2030 is unlikely.

The Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan (VRIP), which is currently under development, will include analysis of the current and future availability of landfill airspace across the state and once adopted will be the guiding document for future landfill needs and approvals in Victoria.

Council has ongoing obligations to continue to manage its landfill sites once they close and must ensure that there is no ongoing risk to human health and the environment. Council uses a risk-based approach to prioritise the management of closed landfill sites in its ownership.

Council currently operates four RRCs in Broadford, Pyalong, Seymour and Wallan. Recent changes to Environment Protection Act legislation has resulted in the requirement for all RRC in the state to be registered with the Victorian EPA. All four RRCs are now registered. To ensure our RRCs remain compliant and can cater for future population growth and changes to waste regulations, planning for the way we collect and store material on these sites into the future is critical.

Some of the opportunities associated with the operation and management of waste and resource recovery infrastructure in the Shire include:

- Explore alternatives to landfilling including waste to energy beyond 2030
- Investigate options for financial incentive to increase recycling and decrease waste generation and disposal
- Undertake initiatives to deliver better practice waste facilities for our communities
- Reduce financial, OH&S and environmental liabilities associated with landfill operations

Financial cost of waste management

Council is committed to keeping our waste services economically viable. Our infrastructure and services are under pressure from external influences such as industry changes including fluctuating market commodity prices, population growth, continued increases to the Victorian Government Landfill levy, limited airspace in our landfill, and legislative reforms.

Waste services are self-supported through income derived from the Waste Service Charge levied on those properties with a kerbside service and income received at our landfill and RRCs. Not all properties pay the Waste Service Charge so there is inequity in the way that services are currently funded.

The provision of RRC vouchers with annual rates notices impacts on the income we receive to cover the cost of our waste services. In 2021-2022 nearly \$1 million of income was forgone as a result of RRC vouchers being redeemed.

Some opportunities include:

- Review and adjust fee and charge structures to ensure the cost of managing waste within the shire is equitably distributed
- Explore the introduction of a separate broad based 'waste infrastructure charge' to all properties to fund waste infrastructure upgrades
- Seek out and secure additional funding sources for implementation of new services and upgrades to facilities and operations
- Explore opportunities for public private partnerships to provide some waste services
- Review the impact of foregone income of RRC vouchers on the Waste Service Charge

Local business, industrial, and commercial waste management

More work is needed to improve waste management practices in our commercial sector, particularly in our local shopping strips, farming and industrial sectors. Council currently offers businesses a kerbside collection service in line with residential kerbside collection services.

Under the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria policy, businesses that produce organic waste will need to separate and manage their food and garden waste by 2025.

Some of the opportunities in this area include:

- Engagement and education with local businesses to encourage reuse, recycling and minimising waste
- Support or provide services for business to manage organic waste
- Develop waste management guidelines and fact sheets tailored to the needs of small business and agricultural industries
- Find 'business champions' in our community who demonstrate best practice waste management and share the lessons they have learned with other businesses
- Encourage the development of business-led sustainability networks in the Shire and/or region which address resource efficiency and waste avoidance

Construction waste management

Up to 40% of the waste going to Australia's landfills is related to the construction and demolition of buildings. Therefore, it is increasingly important to minimise, separate and recycle waste on construction sites. As our towns grow and new developments occur we need to strengthen the focus on reducing waste to landfill from developments and adopting better practice recycling targets.

Some of the opportunities in this area include:

- Explore the option to mandate a recycling target of at least 70% for all demolition and construction waste on development and construction sites in Mitchell Shire
- Develop Mitchell specific waste management guidelines and fact sheets tailored to the needs of the construction sector
- Ensure site Construction Environmental Management Plans include better practice waste and resource recovery measures



Strategic Action Plan

Using the guiding principles, policy context, community feedback and knowledge of the local challenges and opportunities we have put together the following Strategic Action Plan that will guide our waste and resource recovery efforts until 2030.

We have developed an overarching vision and three key goals to guide the direction and implementation of the vision. To help measure our progress towards this vision, measurable targets have been adopted.

For each goal and its associated target there are actions with timeframes and required resources so that we can make meaningful plans and budgets to deliver on our commitments and reach our targets.

Vision

"We will become a waste wise shire that lives the principles of a circular economy, working locally to protect our natural environment and community from the impacts of waste".



GOAL 1



Avoid creating waste through education and decision making

Targets

1	2	3	4
Divert 80% of waste from landfill by 2030 (includes kerbside and RRCs).	Cut waste generation per capita between 2020 and 2030 by 15% (includes kerbside and RRCs).	Reduce waste produced from Council's depot and main office by 50% between 2022 and 2030.	Use of single use plastics phased out of municipal buildings by 2023.

Action		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
Education and behaviour change				
1.01	Deliver waste education and behaviour change workshops online and face to face, that targets community, local businesses and Council operations.	Ongoing	\$	Waste and Resource Recovery Education
1.02	Implement a regular and on-going media campaign for community waste education Including social media and local radio opportunities such as EarthChat and FoodXchange.	Ongoing	\$	Waste and Resource Recovery Education and Communications
1.03	Implement waste education activities focused on food production, composting, and reducing green waste at home.	Ongoing	\$	Waste and Resource Recovery Education
1.04	Support and participate in regional, state and nation wide waste avoidance and minimisation programs such as Plastics Free July, Clean Up Australia day etc.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Waste and Resource Recovery Education
1.05	Encourage and support schools to minimise their waste, including participation in Resource Smart School Program.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability
1.06	Develop a Mitchell Shire Waste Resource Recovery Education Plan.	2025	\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
1.07	Support the implementation of the Southern Goulburn Valley Waste Education Plan.	2023-2025	\$	Waste and Resource Recovery Education
1.08	Develop a Waste Education Centre at the Seymour RRC with the functionality to deliver school and community group excursions and education program.	2023	\$	Waste and Resource Recovery Education
1.09	Produce waste education materials including bin stickers, in English as well as languages other than English as our LOTE communities continue to grow.	2023	\$	Waste and Resource Recovery Education
Management practices				
1.10	Review Council policies and procedures to identify opportunities that avoid creating waste in the workplace (including increasing green purchasing, establishing a plastic-free policy, catering policy, enhanced staff education on waste avoidance and embed waste minimisation into procurement practice).	2024	Existing operational	Council wide
1.11	Create policy for increasing recycling and eliminating single-use products at Council events (Catering Policy, Waste Wise Events).	2023	Existing operational	Council wide

Action		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
Partnerships and advocacy				
1.12	Promote businesses that focus on avoiding waste and increasing resource recovery.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Economic Development
1.13	Encourage and assist businesses to promote practices to their customers that help avoid waste and improve resource recovery.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Economic Development
1.14	Partner with community groups to develop programs and initiatives that focus on avoiding waste and increasing resource recovery.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability
1.15	Encourage the development of business-led sustainability networks which address resource efficiency and waste avoidance.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Economic Development
1.16	Participate in advocacy opportunities at state and federal level to influence policy development on issues related to waste avoidance and minimisation.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability and Advocacy
1.17	Advocate for state support to reduce the use of plastic packaging.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability and Advocacy
1.18	Foster partnership opportunities with local volunteer-driven organisations including BEAM, community gardens and Landcare groups for collaborative advocacy, education and initiatives directed to community behavioural change.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Advocacy
Services and infrastructure				
1.19	Support and incentivise opportunities that promote waste avoidance in community and across Council service areas.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
1.20	Develop an auditing program to help establish a baseline data for waste generation in Municipal buildings and operations.	2023	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability

\$ - Less than \$50,000 \$\$ - \$50,000-\$100,000 \$\$\$ - \$100,000-\$150,000 \$\$\$\$ - More than \$150,000

GOAL 2



Recover the maximum value from all waste material to support a local circular economy

Targets

1	2	3	4
Introduce recovery programs for glass and food and garden organics by 2025. These related actions are mandated within the Victorian Government's 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% by 2030.	Increase the recycling rate in all Council offices and depots by 50% between 2022 and 2030.

Action		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
Education and behaviour change				
2.01	Improve waste diversion at Resource Recovery Centres with sort and save education including improved centre layout, signage and face to face education.	2024	\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.02	Promote community and Council waste and recycling performance via Council communications.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability and Communications
2.03	Provide community education to promote and support local circular economy concepts and projects.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability
Management practices				
2.04	Review the Waste Service Charge fee structure to ensure the cost of managing waste within the shire is equitably distributed.	2023	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Finance
2.05	Review Council Procurement Policy to require “green purchasing” and prioritise recycling and waste minimisation as a selection criteria in procurement. Mandate the purchase of materials with recycled content where real options exist and implement annual green purchasing reporting.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability and Governance
2.06	Deliver a circular economy think tank event bringing together local business, community groups and different parts of council to help build connections and investigate potential local solutions.	2023	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Economic Development
2.07	Work with neighbouring councils to explore collaborative procurement of best practice waste and resource recovery services.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
2.08	Work with government agencies, other local governments and organisations to increase the use of recycled materials in road, building and other infrastructure constructions.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Operations and Engineering and Capital Works
2.09	Advocate for state support for the development of plastics reprocessing industry and end markets for the recycled product for items such as silage wrap, soft and hard plastics.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
2.10	Advocate for consistent messaging and labelling on containers and packaging at State and National level.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability

Action		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
Services and infrastructure				
2.11	Identify options and incentives that increase resource recovery through kerbside waste collection, resource recovery centres and landfill.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
2.12	Investigate the viability of options to assist ratepayers with hard waste disposal – e.g. hard-waste collection service	2024	\$ – \$\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.13	Investigate options for the implementation of a glass recycling service and a food and garden organics recycling service.	2022-2023	\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.14	Implement a glass recycling service and a food and garden organics recycling service.	2024-2025	\$\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability, Customer Service and Communications
2.15	Investigate the impact of introducing glass recycling and food and garden organics kerbside services for Multi Unit Dwellings (MUDs).	2024	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Planning
2.16	Investigate how Council can best support and service local business following the introduction of the four bin kerbside services.	2024	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Economic Development
2.17	Investigate potential service enhancements for implementation in the next kerbside collection contract, including new technologies to improve our waste services.	2023	\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.18	Implement the new kerbside collection contracts, including managing the transition to new or improved services and community education to support new services.	2025	\$\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.19	Review the impact of the introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme on the existing public place bin network, RRCs and kerbside services and make recommendations to modify these services if required.	2023-2025	\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.20	Investigate alternative waste technology options for the management of materials at RRCs.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
2.21	Improve and expand the operation of Reuse Shops at Council's Resource Recovery Centres to increase diversion of waste to landfill.	2024	\$	Environment and Sustainability

Action		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
Services and infrastructure (cont.)				
2.22	Engage with community not currently receiving a kerbside service to ascertain the potential to expand kerbside collection zones.	2023	\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.23	Implement a regular kerbside waste and recycling bin audit program for regular analysis of our waste streams.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.24	Establish a kerbside waste and recycling contamination management and bin inspection program.	2024	\$-\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.25	Investigate introducing a mobile phone app that can provide information about Council's waste services as well as education about waste minimisation and correct recycling.	2024	\$	Environment and Sustainability
2.26	Investigate the expansion of existing subsidy program for the purchase of compost bins and worm farms.	2023-2024	\$	Environment and Sustainability

\$ - Less than \$50,000 \$\$ - \$50,000-\$100,000 \$\$\$ - \$100,000-\$150,000 \$\$\$\$ - More than \$150,000

GOAL 3



Protect our environment and community from the impacts of waste

Targets

1	2	3	4
100% compliance with all licence conditions for the Mitchell Landfill.	100% compliance with EPA regulations for Resource Recovery Centres.	Provide community access to best practice waste and resource recovery facilities.	Improve the collection and reporting of litter and illegal dumping data.

Action		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
Education and behaviour change				
3.01	Raise awareness of littering and illegal dumping and highlight the impacts of waste on the community and environment.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Local Laws
3.02	Promote local programs and businesses that take actions to reduce the impacts of waste on the environment.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Communications
3.03	Strengthen our community's culture to reject littering and illegal dumping and build a culture of shared responsibility for our public places by supporting community groups and litter prevention activities and continuing to encourage the community to report cases of illegal dumping.	Ongoing	\$	Environment and Sustainability and Local Laws
Management practices				
3.04	Improve Councils sustainable procurement practices, including the increased use of sustainable and recycled materials in operations and capital projects.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Council wide
3.05	Work across departments to implement policy and procedures to direct Council's response to support residents and business to manage waste created from natural disasters such as bushfires, storm and floods.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability and Emergency Management
Partnerships and advocacy				
3.06	Advocate for a State based litter prevention taskforce that includes increased enforcement, technical advice and support to address illegal dumping.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Advocacy, Local Laws and Environment and Sustainability
3.07	Continue working and collaborating with neighbouring councils on joint waste and resource recovery projects including collaborative procurement and other cost-sharing initiatives.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability

Action		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
Services and infrastructure				
3.08	Plan for the best practice transition and closure of the Mitchell Landfill in 2030.	2023	\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
3.09	Investigate options for the development of regional reprocessing facilities for food and garden organics, concrete and glass.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
3.10	Prioritise the management of closed landfills based on the level of risk identified in the Regional closed landfill risk assessment and develop capital plans for these sites.	2023-2025	\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
3.11	Develop and implement a 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan for Resource Recovery Centres.	2023	\$\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
3.12	Continue to review and update the public litter bin infrastructure database to ensure there is appropriate coverage and servicing.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
3.13	Continue to implement Environmental Monitoring Plans for licenced landfills in Council ownership.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
3.14	Continue to review standard operating procedures for Landfill and Resource Recovery Centres to ensure they comply with legislative requirements; make changes and provide resources as required.	Ongoing	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
3.15	Undertake a future needs analysis of Resource Recovery Centre infrastructure in the Shire including investigating requirement for any additional facilities including co-locating facilities with neighbouring councils.	2024	\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
3.16	Continue to implement Capital Improvement program for Mitchell Landfill.	Ongoing	\$\$\$\$	Environment and Sustainability
3.17	Investigate the application of a suitable planning overlay to protect the buffers around waste and resource recovery facilities to reduce land use conflict.	2023	\$\$\$	Strategic Planning and Environment and Sustainability

Action		Timeframe	Resources	Responsibility
Services and infrastructure (cont.)				
3.18	Continue to assess the needs and install signage and surveillance cameras at common illegal dumping sites warning of penalties and environmental damage caused.	Ongoing	\$	Local Laws
3.19	Develop a complementary waste disposal policy to support local community groups undertaking litter collection in Council reserves and parks and along roadsides.	2023	Existing operational	Environment and Sustainability
3.20	Undertake a review of accessibility of Councils current waste services for all residents.	2025	\$\$	Environment and Sustainability





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