

Mount Alexander Shire Council

# Waste Management Strategy

## 2023-2033

Working together for a healthy, connected shire



# Acknowledgement of country

Mount Alexander Shire Council acknowledges that the traditional custodians of this land, the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung peoples, proudly survive. We acknowledge their continued practise of custom and their close cultural, spiritual, physical, social, historical and economic relationship with the land and waters that make up their Country, which includes Mount Alexander Shire.

Council recognises the Victorian Government's Recognition and Settlement Agreements with both the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Taungurung Land and Waters Council.



Artwork this page by Daikota Nelson.

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# Mayor's message



**Councillor Rosie Annear**  
**Mayor**

Mount Alexander Shire Council

On behalf of Council, I'm pleased to present our Waste Management Strategy 2023-2033.

So often during my time on Council, I've been surprised to find myself becoming passionate about things that I really haven't given much thought to before. Now, I can be regularly heard to say, "I never thought I'd care so much about waste management". It's true.

Up until recently, I was one of many people who didn't really think about what happens to rubbish or recycling after it went in the bin - it just wasn't my problem any more. Now, though, I know that's not true, and it's more important than ever that we all think a little more about the ways we generate and manage waste.

Local governments are all experiencing big changes when it comes to waste management.

This presents us with both challenges, and excitingly, opportunities.

Our vision for waste management is outlined in this strategy, and we have ambitious goals to achieve.

In collaboration with our community and businesses, we aim to reduce waste to landfill and support people to think differently about the way they consume and dispose of goods.

Our shire is full of people who are passionate about protecting the natural environment, many of whom are leading innovative projects that support a future with less waste.

While a zero-waste future won't be achieved quickly or effortlessly, it's something we can all strive for and every action counts.

Whether it's choosing to reuse, recycle or repair, buying second-hand or composting at home - every little bit will make a difference.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the development of this strategy, particularly the Community Waste Reference Group for their input and enthusiasm.

Let's work together towards a more sustainable future, where we all take more responsibility for what we're leaving behind, in and above the ground.



# Purpose and scope

Waste management is an important function of Council which seeks to protect human health, the environment and maintain visual amenity. The purpose of this document is to provide a strategic pathway in an environment where there is significant regulatory and technological change and to inform the localised and cost-efficient management of waste that is generated within Mount Alexander Shire.

The scope of the strategy covers the collection and processing of four domestic waste streams – general, food and garden organics, glass and mixed recyclables, and public place waste. The strategy will further explore opportunities for expansion into commercial and industrial, construction and demolition waste, and new waste streams as they emerge. The strategy also seeks to provide the blueprint for investigations to process certain reusable material locally within the shire, such as organic waste, glass and plastics.



# Vision

Mount Alexander Shire Council engaged extensively with our community to produce the 2021 – 2031 Community Vision. The vision reflects the community's hopes, aspirations and priorities for Mount Alexander Shire over 10 years. The Community Vision states:

In 2031, our community is connected to each other, and comes together to build and celebrate an inclusive, creative shire. We are a healthy community that values the natural beauty of the Djaara Country we live on. We also know that preserving our natural environment means living sustainably. We are protecting our shire from the threat of climate change by working together. We are a welcoming

community where everybody has access to services and opportunities for housing, education, employment, and creative and social pursuits. We're known as a vibrant place which draws upon its creative spirit and shared heritage. We're building a place where everyone can enjoy the beauty, history and friendliness of the shire.

Council's focus is to reduce waste to landfill, increase the rate of reuse and recycling, and maintain a high level of community satisfaction in line with evolving legislative requirement. The following vision guides all aspects of our waste management practice.

## Our vision

A future with zero waste, where avoidance, reduction, repair and reuse are part of our daily lives.



# Key issues/influences

The following issues have influenced the development of Council's strategic direction and the development of the goals and future actions. These are all significant issues that need attention and strategic approaches.

## Increasing amount of waste to be managed

With an increase in population and an increase in consumerism comes the increase in the volume of waste generated within our community. General waste and mixed recyclables collected at the kerbside and the Castlemaine and Maldon transfer stations has increased significantly by 20 percent over the past ten years<sup>1</sup>.

In the year 2020-2021, an average of 412kg of household waste and 228kg of recyclable material was generated in Mount Alexander Shire per service. While this is comparable to the average for other Large Rural Shires in Victoria (453kg of general waste and 226kg of recyclable materials) our shire generated more waste and recyclable material than fifty percent of other Large Rural Shires in Victoria<sup>2</sup>.

With the increase in waste and recyclable materials generated comes a responsibility for residents, councils and industry to ensure the management of the material is optimised through practices that promote avoidance, increase recycling, reuse and repair wherever possible.

## Demand for improved reuse and recycling

With greater awareness of opportunities as well as concern for the environment, there is an increased expectation from the Mount Alexander Shire community to increase the volume and type of material that is reused or recycled. For example, an audit of kerbside waste and recycling bins conducted in 2022 identified that 34.1 percent of the collected rubbish contained food and organic material

that could be recycled and diverted from landfill. This rate can and must improve. Mount Alexander Shire could achieve an estimated diversion rate of 53.7 percent if all recyclables, food and organic waste are separated. This is a 28 percent increase from the current diversion rate of 25.7 percent.

Furthermore, as our community grows and increases its awareness of recycling and reuse opportunities, it seeks greater diversity in the materials that are processed through the Castlemaine and Maldon transfer stations to make their own contribution to a reduction of waste to landfill.

## The circularity of our economy

At the local, national and international level there is the ever-growing realisation we need to transition to a more circular economy. A circular economy is loosely described as creating products that are more durable, reusable, repairable and recyclable, and therefore kept in circulation for as long as possible. A circular economy starts at the design stage and advocacy is key to inform future outcomes, however it also means changing the way the community consume and use goods and services.

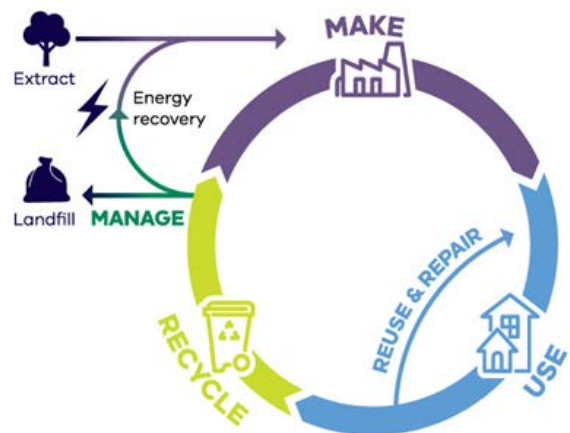


Figure One: Resource Flows in a circular economy, Recycling Victoria, A New Economy, 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Recycling Victoria, Local Government Area Summary 2013-2023

<sup>2</sup> Recycling Victoria, Local Government Annual Waste Service Survey 2020-2021, [www.vic.gov.au/victorian-local-government-waste-data-dashboard](http://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-local-government-waste-data-dashboard)



While the generation of waste cannot be eliminated entirely, there are opportunities to adjust behaviour and to consider waste in terms of resource. The separation of waste into streams which can be processed into new products creates an environment that maximises the use of resources whilst also minimising the impacts of climate change and creating less waste and pollution.

## The cost of waste and recycling

It is expensive to collect and manage waste. The cost of transporting waste and recyclables to centralised processing locations is both financially and environmentally (greenhouse gas) costly. Contrary to popular thought, the recycling of materials also comes at a cost with only a few exceptions. Car batteries and metals are two examples where the value of recycled materials covers the cost of processing. This is due to the high demand for these types of materials in manufacturing. Other items such as drumMUSTER containers or domestic batteries incur no disposal fees as the cost to recycle is built into the purchase price as a result of state or federal product stewardship schemes. Electronic waste, end of life solar panels and new aged batteries are a relatively new waste material requiring industry wide planning, the cost of which ranges from free to there being a charge as product stewardship schemes and the recycling system develops.

With a wholistic perspective on the impact and opportunities of waste management, consideration of local processing options become more viable. A challenge for a small shire is to meet the minimum supply levels required to ensure sustainability and end market demand. However, options include opportunities at the household (food and garden organics), shire wide (glass), or regional partnership (soft plastic) together with local industry and academia.

## Government policy and regulation

Waste policy at the federal and state level has been under reform, and is driven by a focus on the circular economy and developing local markets for recycled and reusable products.

At the national level, the National Waste Policy (2018) and National Waste Policy Action Plan (2019) seeks to reduce total waste generation in Australia by ten percent per person, halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill, and increase the resource recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030.

The National Waste Policy incorporated the waste hierarchy, that sets out the prioritisation of waste management practice, with a focus on reusing, recycling and reprocessing materials.

Recycling Victoria: A new economy 2020, is the Victorian Government's ten-year action plan to fundamentally transform our recycling sector, to reduce waste, and seek a more sustainable future. The most significant part of the reform is the creation of four separate waste streams, including glass, mixed recyclables, food and garden organics and general waste. The four-stream waste system will be further complemented by a container deposit scheme, and targeted investment in industry and business to improve processing and end market opportunities.



Figure Two: Waste Hierarchy, National Waste Policy, 2018

# Goals

The strategy is guided by four overarching goals that will help achieve the vision of the strategy. Each goal has a number of focus areas that more clearly identify the outcome. Collectively the four goals respond to the key issues which are guiding the direction of the future of waste management services within Mount Alexander Shire.



## Goal 1 – Reduce the generation of waste

An underlying principle of the Waste Strategy is that waste is a resource. However, it is understood that not all waste can be reused. Where we cannot reuse recyclable materials ourselves, we are committed to ensuring it is processed by others for a net benefit.

The introduction of the four waste streams will achieve a greater separation of waste types, allowing for increased reuse and recycling as well as a reduction in the volume of waste sent to landfill. General and targeted waste education programs will help residents separate material, and maximise resource opportunities via the kerbside bin collection system and at our transfer stations.

Through a systematic approach, Council will advocate for more comprehensive product stewardship schemes to include material like electronic waste, tyres and packaging products. Such advocacy will seek to reinforce the responsibility of manufacturers for end of life treatment of their products.

Mount Alexander Shire Council will also continue the implementation of workplace waste avoidance and minimisation practices across all services and project design and implementation.

### Focus Area 1.1

Increase understanding of domestic waste composition and volumes

### Focus Area 1.2

Generate less waste through awareness and education

### Focus Area 1.3

Expand waste service provision for our community

### Focus Area 1.4

Advocate for increased product stewardship

### Focus Area 1.5

Minimise waste from Council's own operations



## Goal 2 – Increase resource recovery of reusable and recyclable material

In keeping with the principle that waste is a resource, actions to increase the total volume and number of waste types that are recycled or reused drives goal two. Council will explore opportunities to enhance the recovery of waste at the two transfer stations, through improving current operational practices and investing in new infrastructure that allows the acceptance of new recyclable or reusable materials.

Such approaches may include the local processing of materials at a shire level for reuse within Council operations, or for resale to local or state and national end markets. This will be complemented by assessing the potential for expanding household level processing options, primarily for food and garden organics.

From specific and targeted campaigns through to longer-term programs, Council will work with households to improve waste separation rates and understand the consequences of disposal and recycling behaviour to help improve resource recovery and reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfill.

### Focus Area 2.1

Increase Council's capacity to increase local resource recovery

### Focus Area 2.2

Increase awareness of available recycling and reuse streams





## Goal 3 – Support a local circular economy

By embracing the circularity of our economy, Council will seek to reuse waste resources as locally as possible. In a circular economy, waste is designed out, and products and materials stay in use for as long as possible. In our shire, we will not only aim for a circular economy but also a more localised economy. Wherever possible, Council will reuse the waste generated within our shire to create economic and social benefit within our community.

This will include investigating Council's capacity and the establishment of partnerships with local businesses and community groups for the processing and reuse of glass and food and garden organics locally. The potential of emerging technology to create new markets and new business opportunities for recycled material will be considered, alongside the benefits of local employment opportunities. Such action will be complemented by the exploration of programs that enhance household level and shire wide repair and reuse programs together with community partners.

Council will also seek to increase the use of recycled products within its service and project delivery. This will include, among other actions, introducing updates to design specifications for recycled

materials and partnering with academia to trial options for technological advances where relevant.

### Focus Area 3.1

Introduce local processing of recyclable and reusable material

### Focus Area 3.2

Council's practice promotes circular outcomes





## Goal 4 – Minimise the environmental impact of waste management

Council has committed to minimising the negative impact waste generation, collection and processing have on our environment<sup>3</sup>. We all generate waste, so minimising the environmental impact of waste is a shared responsibility and challenge.

Council is committed to achieving zero-net emissions for waste in its own operations by 2025<sup>4</sup>, in doing so we will continue to monitor the environmental legacy of the Castlemaine landfill site, as well as explore the transition of our fleet and equipment to zero emissions. We further include in the criteria of future waste contracts and commercial arrangements, the energy efficiency performance of landfills and Material Recovery Facilities that Council may be required to access.

We will seek ways to ensure our public places remain clean and safe, through reviewing the management of our public place bins as well as working in partnership with community groups who contribute towards the management of sporting grounds, reserves, open spaces and community facilities. While illegal dumping and littering is not endemic within our shire, it can have a major impact on our environment. As such it is

important that we continue to monitor and work with land management organisations to stamp out incidents when they occur.

### Focus Area 4.1

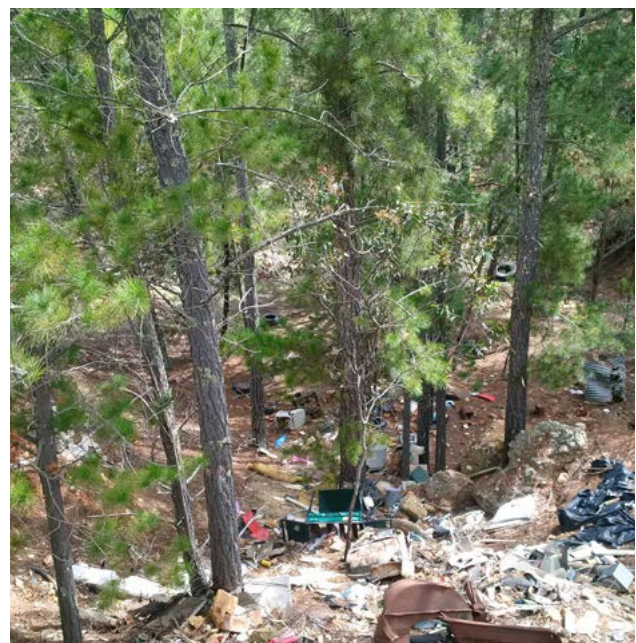
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions

### Focus Area 4.2

Community is supported to maintain clean and safe public places

### Focus Area 4.3

Reduce incidence of illegal dumping and littering



<sup>3</sup> Mount Alexander Shire Council Environment Strategy 2015-2025

<sup>4</sup> Mount Alexander Shire Council Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2020-2025



# How Council will deliver this strategy

To achieve the strategic goals of the Waste Management Strategy, Council will require support from across our community. All segments of our community generate waste, and while Council has a role to play, minimising the generation, and maximising the reuse and recycling of waste is a shared responsibility and challenge.

The four strategic goals set the direction for what is to be achieved. The focus areas are supported by a number of actions that have been identified to achieve the desired outcomes. The actions have been grouped into short (0-3 years), medium (4-6 years), and longer term (7-10 years) timeframes. The alignment of goals, focus areas and actions are presented in appendix one of this strategy.

The implementation of the Waste Management Strategy will be supported by the development of annual action plans detailing timeframes and resource requirements. Council will also conduct internal reviews of the strategy at a minimum of every four years, in line with the development of Council Plans. Reviews will also be undertaken when there are legislative or strategic updates or changes.

The details and specific actions of the action plan will be developed in partnership with community groups and specifically the Community Waste Reference Group, which was established in 2020 as an advisory group. The group will assist Council in drafting the actions and assessing performance in meeting the goals.

## Monitoring, evaluating and reporting

The monitoring and review of the Waste Management Strategy implementation is critical to ensure delivery against focus areas and ensuring outcomes are achieved against the four strategic goals.

A monitoring and evaluation framework (appendix two) sets out the approach which aims to:

- Keep our community informed
- Balance resource requirements for reporting and those for efficient service delivery

Council will report on the progress of this strategy each year through a report to Council and via the Council website.

# Strategic and legislative framework alignment

The strategic and legislative context at the Local, State and Federal levels which has influenced the development of the Waste Management Strategy is outlined in table one. Of particular note is the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 which mandates that Council implement a four-waste stream recycling service through the broader context of the Recycling Victoria policy.

The Circular Economy Act determines certain actions for Council and defines what materials must be accepted through kerbside collection and the Container Deposit Scheme.

The General Environmental Duty (GED) is at the centre of the Environmental Protection Act 2017 and applies to all Victorians. Through this, all Victorians must reduce the risk of activities potentially harming the environment or human health through pollution or waste. The GED applies to Victorian councils with a key requirement that all waste must be managed at a place that can lawfully receive it. This includes sorting, recovery and disposal.





**Table One: Strategic and Legislative Context**

Name	Level of Government	Relevant aims and objectives	Purpose and influence on Council
Mount Alexander Shire Council, Council Plan 2021 - 2025	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce waste and increase resource recovery</li> <li>• Implement Recycling Victoria actions, including FOGO and glass recycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides community vision and objectives for the four-year term of Council</li> </ul>
Mount Alexander Shire Council, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 - 2025	Local/State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for a healthy food system, from soil through to the impacts of food waste management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognises the key role of councils in improving the health and wellbeing of people in their municipality</li> </ul>
Mount Alexander Shire Council, Environment Strategy 2015 - 2025	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase diversion of waste from landfill, including green organic waste</li> <li>• Influence community behaviour through education and compliance</li> <li>• Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from current waste management facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly defines and communicates Mount Alexander Shire Council's strategic approach to its environmental stewardship role for the period 2015-2025</li> </ul>
Mount Alexander Shire Council, Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality 2020 - 2025	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero-net emissions waste for Council operations by 2025</li> <li>• Support community-wide waste reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out Mount Alexander Shire Council's roadmap to carbon neutrality that will lead to zero net emissions for Council operations by 2025</li> </ul>

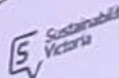
**Table One: Strategic and Legislative Context**

Name	Level of Government	Relevant aims and objectives	Purpose and influence on Council
Mount Alexander Shire Council, Climate Change Strategy	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 6: “Our shire is zero waste and has a resilient, circular economy”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describes how Council will:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- respond to climate change in our own operations</li> <li>- partner with our community to respond to climate change</li> <li>- advocate to support our response to climate change.</li> <li>- work towards the goal of zero waste and promoting a circular economy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i>	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental obligations and protections, including the General Environment Duty which makes it clear that businesses have a responsibility to reduce risk to human health and the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the regulatory framework to help reduce and eliminate the discharge of pollutants into the air, land and water</li> </ul>
<i>Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021</i>	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates the legislative framework for the new state wide, four-stream household waste/ recycling system</li> <li>• Creates the legislative framework for the new container deposit scheme</li> <li>• New regulations, compliance and enforcement powers with the creation of a new body: Recycling Victoria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides for stronger regulation of the state’s waste and recycling sector for more and better recycling, less waste and landfill</li> </ul>

**Table One: Strategic and Legislative Context**


Name	Level of Government	Relevant aims and objectives	Purpose and influence on Council
Recycling Victoria: A New economy 2020	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Victorians to have access to food and garden organic waste recycling services or local composting by 2030</li> <li>• Divert 80 percent of waste from landfill by 2030, and an interim target of 72 per cent by 2025</li> <li>• Cut total waste generation by 15 percent per capita by 2030</li> <li>• Halve the volume of organic material going to landfill between 2020 and 2030, with an interim target of 20 percent reduction by 2030</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Government’s 10-year policy and action plan for waste and recycling</li> </ul>
Regional Circular Economy Plan, Loddon Mallee October 2022	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource recovery is the primary focus</li> <li>• Product Stewardship is paramount</li> <li>• Better use of plastic (prioritising avoidance) to support the circular economy</li> <li>• Consumers are supported to engage in the circular economy</li> <li>• Recognised as a leader in the circular economy in Victoria</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the region’s aspirations to 2030 for a sustainable and thriving circular economy</li> </ul>
National Waste Policy (2018), and National Waste Action Plan (2019)	Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10 percent per person by 2030</li> <li>• Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a framework for collective, national action on waste management, recycling and resource recovery to 2030</li> </ul>

# GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS



# Appendix One


## Waste Strategy Strategic Goals, Focus Areas and Actions

Goal	Focus area	Action	Ongoing	Timetable		
				Short (0-3 yrs)	Medium (4-6 yrs)	Long (7-10 yrs)
 <p><b>1. Reduce the generation of waste.</b></p>	1.1 Increase understanding of domestic waste composition and volumes.	Determine tonnages of the four domestic waste streams and monitor annually.		✓		
		Analyse bin compositions and volumes to understand waste trends and opportunities to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling.		✓	✓	✓
		Record and monitor data on requests for hard waste services to inform future action.		✓		
		Record and monitor data on incidences and type of waste illegally dumped to inform future action.	✓			
	1.2 Generate less waste through awareness and education.	Promote services provided by Council, community groups, private sector, within shire and the region.	✓			
		Develop and promote waste avoidance education programs.	✓			
		Develop and implement behavioural change programs to reduce waste contamination.	✓			
		Work with commercial and community events organisers to enhance resource management practices.	✓			
	1.3 Expand waste service provision for our community.	Introduce four stream waste and recycling services prior to the state mandated deadlines i.e. transition to glass separation before 2027, organic waste separation before 2030.		✓	✓	
		Provide resources for households to separate waste streams at home e.g. information, receptacle.		✓	✓	
		Support the expansion of household level organic processing together with community partners e.g. Yes in My Backyard.		✓		


## Waste Strategy Strategic Goals, Focus Areas and Actions

Goal	Focus area	Action	Timetable			
			Ongoing	Short (0-3 yrs)	Medium (4-6 yrs)	Long (7-10 yrs)
		Introduce alternative methods/solutions of waste collection and disposal services in areas not covered by kerbside collection.			✓	
		Reduce the volume of household chemicals within the waste stream by promoting facilities and services that accept this material e.g. Detox Your Home program.			✓	
		Investigate processing options at waste facilities to promote further separation of materials with a robust reuse/recycle path e.g. soft plastics, glass, textiles.		✓		
		Explore opportunities for the provision of commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste collection within the shire.			✓	
1.4 Advocate for increased product stewardship		Advocate for Product Stewardship models for waste types e.g. all electronic waste, tyres, product packaging.	✓			
		Encourage local businesses to reduce product packaging and introduce recyclable or bio-degradable packaging.	✓			
1.5 Minimise waste from Council's own operations		Include in service and infrastructure project designs, requirements for the avoidance, the recycle and the reuse of waste generated.			✓	✓
		Include in service and infrastructure contracts the requirement to document waste avoidance and management approaches.			✓	✓
		Continue the implementation of workplace waste avoidance and minimisation programs, including use of Wash Against Waste trailer.	✓			

## Waste Strategy Strategic Goals, Focus Areas and Actions


Goal	Focus area	Action	Timetable			
			Ongoing	Short (0-3 yrs)	Medium (4-6 yrs)	Long (7-10 yrs)
 <p><b>2. Increase resource recovery of reusable and recyclable material.</b></p>	2.1 Increase Council's capacity to increase local resource recovery	Review Castlemaine and Maldon transfer station operational practices to increase recovery of recyclable and reusable materials.		✓		
		Investigate the establishment of a resource recovery centre at Castlemaine transfer station.			✓	
		Investigate in-house collection of glass and food and garden organic waste streams.		✓		
		Investigate options for the separation and management of additional waste streams e.g. soft plastics, nappies, EV batteries, solar panels, textiles, etc.			✓	✓
		Stay informed of developments in technology and resource management practice that increase recycling and reuse.	✓			
	2.2 Increase awareness of available recycling and reuse streams	Promote Council managed free green waste drop off campaigns.	✓			
		Promote waste streams accepted at Mount Alexander Shire transfer stations.	✓			
		Promote Recycling Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.	✓			
		Promote Recycling Victoria public education campaigns aimed at increasing reuse and recycling and reducing littering.	✓			
		Work closely with local businesses and community groups within the shire that provide services that reduce waste to landfill e.g. Repair Café, Mount Alexander Sustainability Group, op shops, etc.	✓			

## Waste Strategy Strategic Goals, Focus Areas and Actions

Goal	Focus area	Action	Timetable			
			Ongoing	Short (0-3 yrs)	Medium (4-6 yrs)	Long (7-10 yrs)
 <p><b>3. Support a local circular economy.</b></p>	3.1 Introduce local processing of recyclable and reusable material.	Investigate in-house capacity and partnerships with local businesses for local processing of glass and food and garden organic waste streams.		✓	✓	
		Explore partnerships with private sector and community groups for increasing the reuse of recoverable materials.		✓	✓	
		Investigate household level repair and reuse programs together with community partners.		✓	✓	
		Provide advice to residents on how to reuse, recycle or dispose of bulky items that are more difficult to handle.	✓			
		Promote and support partnership approaches that support management of commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste generated within the shire.		✓	✓	
		Increase reuse of material through upgrading the Council 'tip shops'.		✓		
	3.2 Council's practice promotes circular outcomes.	Consult Sustainability Victoria's Buy Recycled directory during procurement processes.		✓	✓	✓
		Council services and infrastructure program designs and specifications identify options for increased use of recycled materials.	✓			




## Waste Strategy Strategic Goals, Focus Areas and Actions

Goal	Focus area	Action	Timetable				
			Ongoing	Short (0-3 yrs)	Medium (4-6 yrs)	Long (7-10 yrs)	
 <p><b>4. Minimise the environmental impact of waste management.</b></p>	4.1 Minimise greenhouse gas emissions.	Continue the monitoring of gas converted from methane to carbon dioxide post installation of the gas flare at the Castlemaine landfill site.	✓				
		Investigate transition of Council's transfer station plant to zero emission options.			✓		
		Include in kerbside collection contracts specifications for landfill, processing and plant greenhouse gas emission requirements.	✓				
	4.2 Community is supported to maintain clean and safe public places.	Review the location and management of public place bins for general and recyclable materials.				✓	
		Review arrangements for supply and collection of public place bins at all sporting grounds, reserves, open spaces and community facilities.				✓	
		Work with community groups and Community Asset Committees on ways to reduce waste and improve resource collection.		✓	✓		
	4.3 Reduce incidence of illegal dumping and littering.	Promote the Litter Report Line managed by EPA.	✓				
		Develop and promote information on the risks to human health and biodiversity from illegal dumping of waste.		✓			
		Partner with EPA and land management organisations to coordinate action on illegal dumping.	✓				
		Support, where relevant, community land management group(s), clean up campaigns and deterrent programs.	✓				
		Consult with second hand and opportunity shops on the issue of dumped, non-resalable waste items.		✓			



# Appendix Two


## Monitoring and Evaluation framework

Goal	Focus area	Action	Evaluation
 <p><b>1. Reduce the generation of waste.</b></p>	1.1 Increase understanding of domestic waste composition and volumes.	Determine tonnages of the four domestic waste streams and monitor annually.	# tonnes that can be diverted from landfill # tonnes recycled
		Analyse bin compositions and volumes to understand waste trends and opportunities to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling.	# bin audits conducted
		Record and monitor data on requests for hard waste services to inform future action.	# of service requests received
		Record and monitor data on incidences and type of waste illegally dumped to inform future action.	# of service requests received
	1.2 Generate less waste through awareness and education.	Promote services provided by Council, community groups and private sector, within the shire and the region.	# messages/publications and list of mediums
		Develop and implement behavioural change programs to reduce waste	# campaigns delivered
		Work with commercial and community events organisers to enhance resource management practices.	# events with successful waste management
	1.3 Expand waste service provision for our community.	Introduce four stream waste and recycling services prior to the state mandated deadlines i.e. transition to glass separation before 2027, organic waste separation before 2030.	Glass and food and garden organic services introduced
		Provide resources for households to separate waste streams at home e.g. information, receptacle.	# resources provided
		Support the expansion of household level organic processing together with community partners e.g. Yes in My Backyard.	# household uptake of community-lead organics processing solutions
		Introduce alternative methods/solutions of waste collection and disposal services in areas not covered by kerbside collection.	# tonnes of materials collected from areas not covered by kerbside collection


## Monitoring and Evaluation framework

Goal	Focus area	Action	Evaluation
		Reduce the volume of household chemicals within the waste stream by promoting facilities and services that accept this material e.g. Detox Your Home program.	Audits conducted
		Increase processing options at waste facilities to promote further separation of materials with a robust reuse/recycle path e.g. soft plastics, glass, textiles.	Investigation report and potential business case
		Explore opportunities for the provision of commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste collection within the shire.	Investigation report and potential Business Case
	1.4 Advocate for increased product stewardship.	Advocate for Product Stewardship models for waste types e.g. all electronic waste, tyres, product packaging.	# messages/representations
		Encourage local businesses to reduce product packaging and introduce recyclable or bio-degradable packaging.	# programs/representations undertaken
	1.5 Council's own waste minimisation practice.	Include in service and infrastructure project designs, requirements for the avoidance, the recycle and the reuse of waste generated.	# designs incorporate requirement
		Include in service and infrastructure contracts the requirement to document waste avoidance and management approaches.	# tenders incorporate requirement
		Continue the implementation of workplace waste avoidance and minimisation programs, including use of Wash Against Waste trailer.	# practices maintained # events which employed waste reduction


## Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

Goal	Focus area	Action	Evaluation
 <p><b>2. Increase resource recovery of reusable and recyclable material.</b></p>	2.1 Increase in-house capacity to increase local resource recovery.	Review Castlemaine and Maldon transfer station operational practices to increase recovery of recyclable and reusable materials.	Review report # improvements implemented
		Investigate the establishment of a resource recovery centre at Castlemaine transfer station.	Investigation report and potential business case
		Investigate in-house collection of glass and food and garden organic waste streams.	Investigation report
		Investigate options for the separation and management of additional waste streams e.g. soft plastics, nappies, EV batteries, solar panels, textiles, etc.	Investigation report and # additional waste streams implemented
		Stay informed of developments in technology and resource management practice that increase recycling and reuse.	Record of opportunities
	2.2 Increase awareness of available recycling and reuse streams.	Promote Council managed free garden/green waste campaigns.	# messages and types of medium # volume of green waste collected
		Promote waste streams accepted at transfer stations.	# messages and types of medium # volumes of separated waste streams
		Promote Recycling Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.	# messages and types of medium
		Promote Recycling Victoria's public education campaigns aimed at increasing reuse and recycling and reducing littering.	# messages and types of medium
		Promote local businesses and community groups within the shire that provide services that reduce waste to landfill e.g. Repair Café, Mount Alexander Sustainability Group, op shops, etc.	# messages and types of medium

## Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

Goal	Focus area	Action	Evaluation
 <p><b>3. Support a local circular economy.</b></p>	3.1 Local processing of recycle and reusable material.	Investigate in-house capacity and partnerships with local businesses for local processing of glass and food and garden organic waste streams.	Investigation report # partnerships explored or established
		Explore partnerships with private sector and community groups for increasing the reuse of recoverable materials.	# partnerships explored # suitable partnership established
		Investigate household level repair and reuse programs together with community partners.	# discussions with community groups # programs implemented
		Provide advice to residents on how to reuse, recycle or dispose bulky items that are more difficult to handle.	# messages and types of medium
		Promote and support partnership approaches that support management of commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste generated within the shire.	# discussions with industry and businesses and # partnerships explored
		Increase reuse of material through upgrading the Council 'tip shops'.	Detail of upgrades to 'tip shops'
	3.2 Council's practice promotes circular outcomes.	Consult Sustainability Victoria's Buy Recycled directory during procurement processes.	Procurement documents to refer to directory
		Service and infrastructure program designs and specifications identify options for increased use of recycled materials.	# designs and specifications that include identification options for increased use of recycled materials

## Monitoring and Evaluation framework.

Goal	Focus area	Action	Evaluation
 <p><b>4. Minimise the environmental impact of waste management.</b></p>	4.1 Minimise greenhouse gas emissions.	Continue the monitoring of gas converted from methane to carbon dioxide post installation of the gas flare at the Castlemaine landfill site.	Monitoring results
		Investigate transition of Council's transfer station plant to zero emission options.	Investigation report # plant/equipment transitioned
		Include in kerbside collection contracts specifications for landfill, processing and plant greenhouse gas emission requirements.	# procurement documents incorporate specifications
	4.2 Community is supported to maintain clean and safe public places.	Review the location and management of public place bins for general and recyclable materials.	Investigation report and # changes made
		Review arrangements for supply and collection of public place bins at all sporting grounds, reserves, open spaces and community facilities.	# discussions with community groups # adjusted arrangements
		Work with community groups and Community Asset Committees on ways to reduce waste and improve resource collection.	List of actions introduced
	4.3 Reduce incidence of illegal dumping and littering.	Promote the Litter Report Line managed by EPA.	# messages and types of medium
		Develop and promote information on the risks to human health and biodiversity from illegal dumping of waste.	# messages and types of medium
		Partner with EPA and land management organisations to coordinate action on illegal dumping.	List of actions undertaken
		Support, where relevant, community land management group(s) clean up campaigns and deterrent programs.	# type of support provided
		Consult with second hand and opportunity shops on the issue of dumped, non-resalable waste items.	# discussions held

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