WATTLE RANGE COUNCIL

2016 WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

February 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

Wattle Range Council faces an ongoing challenge to provide sustainable waste management services, similar to regional and rural councils across Australia.

Since the adoption of Council's Waste Management Plan in July 2010, much has been achieved in establishing new Resource Recovery Facilities at Millicent and Penola and closing and rehabilitating the Canunda Landfill Site.

It is important that Council continues to minimise waste and maximise recycling in order to contain escalating landfill disposal costs and increase sustainable waste management in the area.

South Australia's Strategic Plan seeks to achieve a 35% reduction in landfill disposal from 2002-03 level by 2020, with a milestone of 30% reduction by 2017–18. The target for Municipal Solid Waste is 70% diversion by 2015 for Adelaide metro councils and to maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable for non-metropolitan councils.

As a non-metropolitan council, Wattle Range Council is not bound to achieve the 70% target, however it is in Council's interest to examine ways to maximise the diversion of waste from landfill.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to:

- Describe the Council's existing waste services
- Outline the relevant policy and legislation
- Review the implementation of the 2010 Waste Management Strategy
- Summarise waste volumes and diversion rates
- Identify opportunities for improving services and facilities
- Identify opportunities for improving diversion rates
- Set out actions with timeframes and costs to improve services.

The Strategy will be an information resource for the Council, as well as the community and may be used to support applications for grant funding to improve waste management services.

The actions identified in this Waste Management Strategy will be considered for funding by Council as part of the Annual Business Plan and Budget process.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Policy Context

Australian Government

The Australian Government has a National Waste Policy that was signed off by all State Environment Ministers in 2009. The National Waste Policy set the agenda for waste and resource recovery in Australia for the next 10 years.

State Government

The Office of Zero Waste SA was a statutory authority, established in 2003. *The Zero Waste SA Act 2004* required a state waste strategy and three-year business plans. South Australia's Waste Strategy 2011-2015 set the targets for reductions in waste generation. A revised state waste strategy 2015 – 2020 was adopted in November 2015. The revised strategy maintained the 2011-2015 target of 70% diversion of household waste from landfill for metropolitan councils.

Figure 1: Landfill diversion targets in South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020

***South Australia's Strategic Plan* (Department of the Premier and Cabinet)**

> 35% reduction in landfill disposal from 2002-03 level by 2020[11]
milestone of 30% by 2017–18

Per capita waste generation target

> 5% reduction in waste generation per capita by 2020 (from 2015 baseline)

Landfill diversion targets

Year	Metropolitan (% diversion)	Non-metropolitan
Municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill diversion targets		
2009 (baseline)	55	Not applicable
2012	60	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable
2015	70	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable
2020	70*	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable
Commercial and industrial (C&I) landfill diversion targets		
2009 (baseline)	60	Not applicable
2012	65	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable
2015	75	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable
2020	80	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable
Construction and demolition (C&D) landfill diversion targets		
2009 (baseline)	80	Not applicable
2012	85	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable
2015	90	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable
2020	90	Maximise diversion to the extent practically achievable

**MSW target comprises 60% diversion from high performing bin systems contributing to an overall MSW target of 70%.*

Historically, Councils have relied on funding programs, education initiatives and other support from Zero Waste SA to deliver waste services. From 1 July 2015, Zero Waste SA has been replaced by Green Industries SA. According to the State Government, Green Industries will build on the achievements of Zero Waste SA in the areas of waste management, resource efficiency and recycling, with an emphasis on encouraging innovation and economic growth through development of the Green Economy.

The impact of this change on Council is not known at this time.

Wattle Range Council

The Wattle Range Council Community Plan 2009-2014 acknowledged the Zero Waste SA Target to reduce waste to landfill by 25% by 2014.

Strategic Direction Six – Environmental Sustainability includes the following Key Strategy:

- Deliver innovative practices which promote environmental sustainability: Waste management, pollution prevention, biodiversity

The Plan also includes:

Environmental Sustainability Strategic Actions:

- Continue with the implementation of Council's Waste Management Strategy
- Construct Resource Recovery Facilities at Millicent, Penola and Beachport

A new Community Plan is currently being developed for the Wattle Range Council.

2.2 About Wattle Range Council

Wattle Range Council stretching from the Coast to the Victorian Border incorporates the seaside towns of Beachport and Southend extending inland to Millicent as the major service centre and easterly across to the historic town of Penola and world renowned wine region of Coonawarra.

The Council region produces a huge array of products for both local and export markets including beef, prime lambs, wool, herbs, rock lobster, potatoes, apples, cherries, native flowers and a diverse range of small seeds.

The area also includes a significant plantation timber industry with softwood and hardwood, as well as Kimberly-Clark Australia's Millicent Paper Mill and timber processing at Kalangadoo and Nangwarry.

The Lake Bonney and Canunda Wind Farm developments overlooking Lake Bonney comprise 122 wind turbines producing 300 megawatts of green power. Exciting hot rocks (geo-thermal) exploration is underway with the view to establishing commercial geo-thermal power. These, and many others, are all exciting ventures and Wattle Range Council is proud to be associated with these developments.

Wattle Range Council boasts many fabulous tourist attractions including Penola's Mary MacKillop Centre and historic Petticoat Lane, the renowned Millicent Living History Museum, the Tantanoola Caves, historic Glencoe Woolshed, Canunda National Park, Woakwine Cutting, Lake George and Lake Bonney - the largest fresh water lake in South Australia.

Home to many natural wonders, Wattle Range has something to offer everyone - from the Coonawarra wineries incorporating their own cellar door sales, restaurants and cafes and providing an array of fresh and local food and wine, to the spectacular natural beauty and coastal scenes of the Canunda National Park and Rivoli Bay.

The ABS data shows a population of 12,258 in 2007 declining to 11,727 in 2011, a 4% reduction over 4 years.

The population by township is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Population by town

Town	Population	Town	Population
Millicent**	5,500	Penola	1,515
Coonawarra	310	Beachport	710
Southend	560	Tantanoola	448
Glencoe	755	Mount Burr	380
Nangwarry	503	Kalangadoo	542
Wattle Range	297		

** Includes Hatherleigh and Rendelsham Please note that areas with a population of less than 200 persons are not individually categorised. Source: ABS 2011.

Based on an average household size of 2.4 persons there are approximately 4,600 households.

2.3 Waste Management Budget

The overall waste management expenditure budgets are shown below.

Table 2: Waste Budgets 2012-13 to 2015-16

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Domestic Waste	$ 1,055,000	$ 1,094,000	$ 1,142,335	$ 1,187,583
Disposal Facility	$ 182,078	$ 170,698	$ 177,579	$ 204,579
Transfer Stations	$ 718,600	$ 687,251	$ 669,848	$ 667,783
Other Waste	$ 107,942	$ 139,815	$ 123,552	$ 106,200
Total	**$ 2,063,620**	**$ 2,091,764**	**$ 2,113,314**	**$ 2,166,145**

Source: WRC Annual Business Plan

2.4 Current Waste Data

Table 3: Kerbside Waste Data 2013-14

Kerbside Service	Tonnes	Number of Services	Kg per service per Year	Bin weight per collection (kg)
Waste to landfill	1,973	4,281	461	8.9
Recyclables	765	4,281	179	6.9
Green Organics	1,235	3,589*	320	12.3

*Rural properties do not have a green waste collection. Source: Wattle Range Council records.

Figure 2: Breakdown of waste collected from kerbside 2013-14

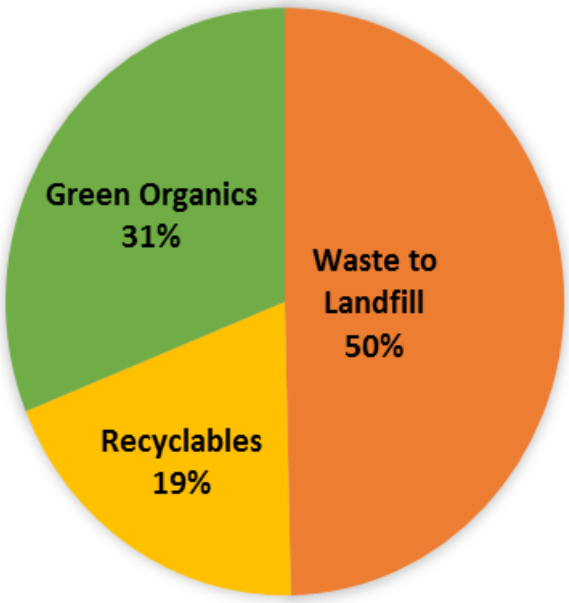


Table 4: Waste type and volume (tonnes) received at transfer stations in 2013-14

Site	General	Cardboard	Green Waste	Scrap Metal
Millicent	519	81	248	52
Penola	88	33	112	49
Beachport	7	*	Unknown	38
Furner	*	1.8	Nil	29
Glencoe	*	1.3	Nil	Nil
Total All Sites	**614**	**117**	**360**	**168**

* Skip bins from Furner and Glencoe are tipped into larger skips at Millicent, so no weighbridge figures are available. Waste tonnages from these sites are included in Millicent figures.

Source: Wattle Range Council records

3 REVIEW OF ACTIONS IN 2010 WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Waste Management Strategy 2010 included a range of actions. This section provides an update on the status of those actions. Where there are outstanding or ongoing actions new recommendations are included in this 2016 Strategy.

Table 5: Review of Actions from 2010 Waste Management Strategy

Action	Status
Landfill Sites	
Canunda Landfill Site (Millicent Region)	
• To be kept operational at this time and closed to public access when the Millicent Resource Recovery Centre is operational	Completed
• The landfill to be capped and decommissioned in accordance with the Landfill Closure Plan approved by the EPA	Completed
• The landfill site to be used for the disposal of construction and demolition materials following its closure as an operating landfill site.	Obsolete
Tower Road Landfill Site (Penola Region) – to be closed to public access when the Penola Resource Recovery Centre is operational	Completed
Resource Recovery Facilities	
Resource Recovery Facilities ('RRF') to be established at Millicent and Penola with a focus on resource recovery and recycling.	Completed
No new RRF to be established at Beachport	Obsolete
The RRF's are to accept the waste from the non-kerbside collection areas as well as industrial and commercial waste streams. The focus will continue to be on waste segregation at the RRF's to continue to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill and to reduce disposal costs	Ongoing
Waste Transfer Stations	
The Mount Burr and Tantanoola Waste Transfer Stations (WTS) are to be closed when the Millicent RRF is operational	Completed
The Furner, Glencoe & Beachport WTS's are to continue in operation with a skip bin service that is available for limited hours each week	Ongoing
The Furner WTS is to be made secure and managed on the same basis as the other WTS's	Completed
The Southend (Green Waste) Waste Transfer Stations is to be closed when the Millicent RRF is opened and the Beachport WTS upgraded	Completed

Waste Disposal	
Council has negotiated an Access Agreement with the City of Mount Gambier for the disposal of residual waste streams at their Caroline Landfill facility. This will commence following the closure of the Canunda landfill and opening of the Millicent and Penola RRF's	Ongoing
The disposal of green waste from the kerbside collection service to continue to be disposed of at Van Schaik's Bio-Gro facility at Wandilo	Ongoing
The disposal of recyclable materials from the kerbside collection service to continue to be disposed of at Green Triangle Recycling at Mount Gambier	Ongoing
Implementation of Plan	
Work with existing recycling businesses to incorporate their operations, where possible; into the Council's waste management strategy	Ongoing
Management of the new Resource Recovery Centre facilities	
Propose to seek separate Expressions of Interest for the management of the RRF's and the provision/transportation of bins to disposal site. Also allow Expressions of Interest in providing whole service.	Completed
Initial negotiations with MWOC/Bedford have been held around utilising their workforce to manage the new RRF's	Obsolete
Green Waste Processing Strategy	
A strategy to manage green waste received at the Millicent and Penola RRF's and the Beachport WTS needs to be developed and implemented	Incomplete
Bio-Baskets Kitchen Waste strategy	
This service was established as a trial in 2009 and Council has resolved to continue the service with 150 bio-bags being provided annually to households free of charge (additional bags at cost price). The service is fully operational and accepted by those household who choose to participate	Ongoing
E-Waste Collection Disposal	
Council has been providing a free E-Waste collection service at Beachport, Millicent and Penola since October 2009. It was expected that the free E-Waste collection service would operate until the new RRF's were operational.	Complete
RRF & WTS Opening Days	
Opening days/hours to be implemented were set for the RRF's and WTS's	Completed

4 KERBSIDE SERVICES

Wattle Range Council provides 2 bin and 3 bin kerbside collection and recycling services in defined collection areas in the Council area. This service is consistent with Council's long term strategy to reduce the volume of waste going into landfill and reducing the overall environmental impact of waste collection and disposal services.

The 2 bin service is provided to properties in residential rural living areas and commercial CBD areas. A 140 litre bin is supplied for the collection and disposal of putrescible (non-recyclable) waste and a 240 litre bin for the collection and disposal of recyclable waste. The 3 bin service is provided to properties in defined township areas, utilising the same putrescible and recyclable bins as the 2 bin service, plus a 240 litre bin for the collection and disposal of green organic (garden) waste.

The 2 bin service (no green organics) is provided to larger allotments on the outskirts of residential areas, while larger rural properties are not provided with any kerbside service. Properties with no kerbside service must make their own arrangements for waste disposal including self-haul to Resource Recovery Centres or directly engaging a waste services contractor to collect and dispose of waste. Detailed service area maps are provided in Appendix 1.

Figure 3: Map of kerbside collection area for Millicent

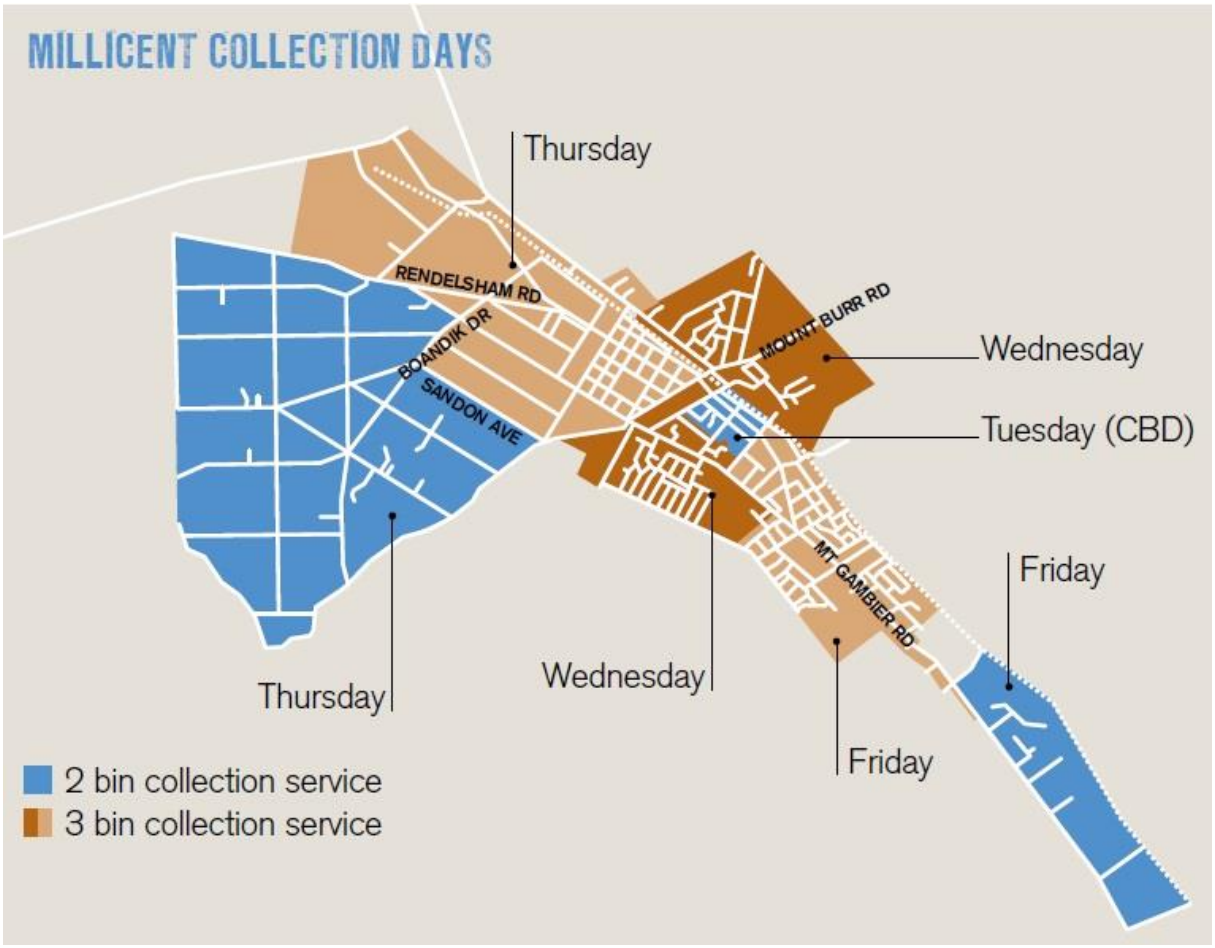


Figure 4: Map of kerbside collection area for Penola

The 3 bin service provided to urban residential areas is a ''Best Practice'' service in line with industry standards. It comprises:

- Waste Bin 140 litre mobile garbage bin (MGB) (red lid) collected weekly
- Recycling Bin 240 litre MGB (yellow lid) collected fortnightly
- Green Organics Bin 240 litre MGB (green lid) collected fortnightly

Properties provided with a kerbside service are charged a fee set annually in Council's Annual Business Plan. This amount reflects the cost to Council for collection, recycling (recyclables and green organics) and landfill disposal (putrescible waste). The number of services in each township in 2014-15 is shown below.

Table 6: Number of kerbside services by township 2014-15

Town	2 Bin Services	3 Bin Services
Beachport	80	426
Coonawarra	0	24
Glencoe	177	0
Hatherleigh	23	11
Kalangadoo	0	153
Millicent	304	2,228
Mt Burr	0	171
Nangwarry	0	243
Penola	47	707
Rendelsham	19	34
Rocky Camp	32	0
Southend	0	184
Tantanoola	7	105
Total	**689**	**4,286**

The following table details the Waste Collection Service Charges over the past four years.

Table 7: Kerbside collection service charges (per service / per year)

Service	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2014-15
3 Bins	**$ 272**	**$ 283**	**$ 295**	**$ 307**
2 Bins	**$ 210**	**$ 217**	**$ 228**	**$ 237**
3 Bins (Pensioner)	**$ 109**	**$ 113**	**$ 118**	**$ 123**
2 Bins (Pensioner)	**$ 84**	**$ 87**	**$ 91**	**$95**

4.1 Kerbside Collection Contract

Council has a contract with Veolia for the collection of kerbside garbage, recyclables, green organics and street litter bins. The initial contract term was 7 years with the option to extend for up to 3 years. The Contractor was performing satisfactorily and Council has negotiated with the contractor to extend the contract for the full 3 years - up to September 2017. At the end of the contract the contractor owns the bins; however there is an option for Council to purchase the bins from the contractor.

The contractor is responsible for collection of materials and transport to the nominated receival facilities. The cost of disposal/sorting/processing at the receival facility is borne by the Council.

4.2 Garbage Disposal

The putrescible waste (garbage) collected under the kerbside contract is transported to the Caroline Landfill by the contractor in the collection truck. The distance from the western most town – Beachport to the landfill is about 100 km. The landfill is owned and operated by the City of Mount Gambier and is located off Vorwerk Road, approximately 13 km south east of Mount Gambier. Wattle Range Council has negotiated an Access Agreement with the City of Mount Gambier for the disposal of waste, which ends in June 2017. The period of the Access Agreement may be extended by negotiation. The gate fee is set annually by the City of Mount Gambier as part of its annual budgeting process. The trucks are weighed at the weighbridge at the City of Mount Gambier Transfer Station on route to the landfill.

4.3 Green Organics Disposal

Green waste collected under the kerbside contract is transported in the collection vehicle to the Van Schaik's Bio-Gro facility at Wandilo, near Mount Gambier. The distance from the western most town – Beachport to Wandilo is about 80 km. The material is weighed at the site.

Wattle Range Council has an agreement with Bio-Gro for the receival and processing of green waste including fruit and vegetables. The agreement commenced in August 2012 and was due to end in July 2015. An extension for a further 12 months has been negotiated with Bio-Gro.

Council pays a gate fee based on green metric tonnes. The gate fee may be adjusted annually by agreement. The terms of the agreement are confidential. However the annual quantity is approximately 1,200 tonnes.

4.4 Recycling Disposal

Recycling collected under the kerbside contract is transported in the collection truck to Green Triangle Recycling at Mount Gambier. The distance from the western most town – Beachport to the Mount Gambier facility is about 85 km. Recyclables from the transfer stations are transported to Green Triangle Recycling in skip bins. There is some sorting of recyclables at the transfer stations using split skips to separate cardboard. Material is weighed on route to the Green Triangle facility at the weighbridge at the City of Mount Gambier Transfer Station

The City of Mount Gambier has a contract with Green Triangle for the receival and processing of recyclables. The contract period is July 2010 to June 2017. Under the contract there is a gate fee payable per tonne for receival and processing of the recyclables. The City of Mount Gambier is required to deliver a minimum quantity of recyclables and has negotiated with Green Triangle for neighbouring Councils to dispose of recyclables at the same gate fee as the City of Mount Gambier.

Green Triangle invoices the City of Mount Gambier who in turn, invoice Wattle Range Council. Wattle Range Council has no contract directly with Green Triangle and is not required to deliver any minimum quantity of material.

4.5 Waste Diversion Rates

The diversion rate for kerbside services is calculated by taking the total tonnes of recyclable waste collected (including green waste if collected) and dividing by the total tonnes of all waste collected including garbage and recyclables.

Table 8: Calculation of diversion rate for kerbside collection (based on 2013-14 data)

Kerbside Service	Tonnes	Number of Services	Kg per service per year
Waste to Landfill	1,973	4,281	461
Recyclables	765	4,281	179
Green Organics	1,147	3,589	320
Diversion Rate	**50%**		**52%**

This calculation shows that for properties with the three bin system Wattle Range Council had a diversion rate of 52%.

There is no information readily available to allow a comparison with other South Australian Councils. Sustainability Victoria publishes a list of diversion rates for all Victorian Councils and the City of Mount Gambier has published a waste profile.

Based on the 2010-11 Victorian report, a diversion rate of 50% would rank Wattle Range Council alongside Frankston City Council, which was ranked 17 out of 79 Victorian Councils. For comparison with nearby Victorian Councils - Southern Grampians Shire had a diversion rate of 35% (ranked 51) and Glenelg Shire Council had a diversion rate of 26% (ranked 74).

4.6 City of Mount Gambier – Waste Profile

The City of Mount Gambier conducted an audit of its waste bins and the report - *City of Mount Gambier – Waste Profile 2011-2012* is published on its website.

According to the report, in the City of Mount Gambier:

- Garbage bin yield is on average 466 kg per household each year
- 58.6% of waste in general waste bins is recyclable, made up of
    - 7.2% garden organics
    - 32.2% food organics
    - 22.2% recyclables
- Recycling bin yield averaged 188 kg per household per year
- 12.3% of material is non-recyclable – contamination
- Green waste bin yield averaged 223 kg per household

4.7 Waste yield comparisons- Sustainability Victoria Report

The 3 bin system provided to residential areas is common in many municipalities in south eastern Australia. It can be considered to be "Best Practice". The full range of recyclable plastics is collected in the recycling bin and food waste is collected in the green waste bin (in compostable bags). There is limited scope for improvement to the service through increasing the range of materials collected. Any improvement to the diversion rate (calculated by dividing the total tonnes of recyclable waste collected by the total tonnes of all waste collected including garbage and recyclables) will need to come from behavior change and or changes to the service itself.

Sustainability Victoria conducts an annual survey of Victorian councils and publishes a report. This allows for the data including the diversion rates to be compared between councils and for correlation between collection systems and diversion rates.

As not every council has a green waste collection the report includes 3 diversion rates:

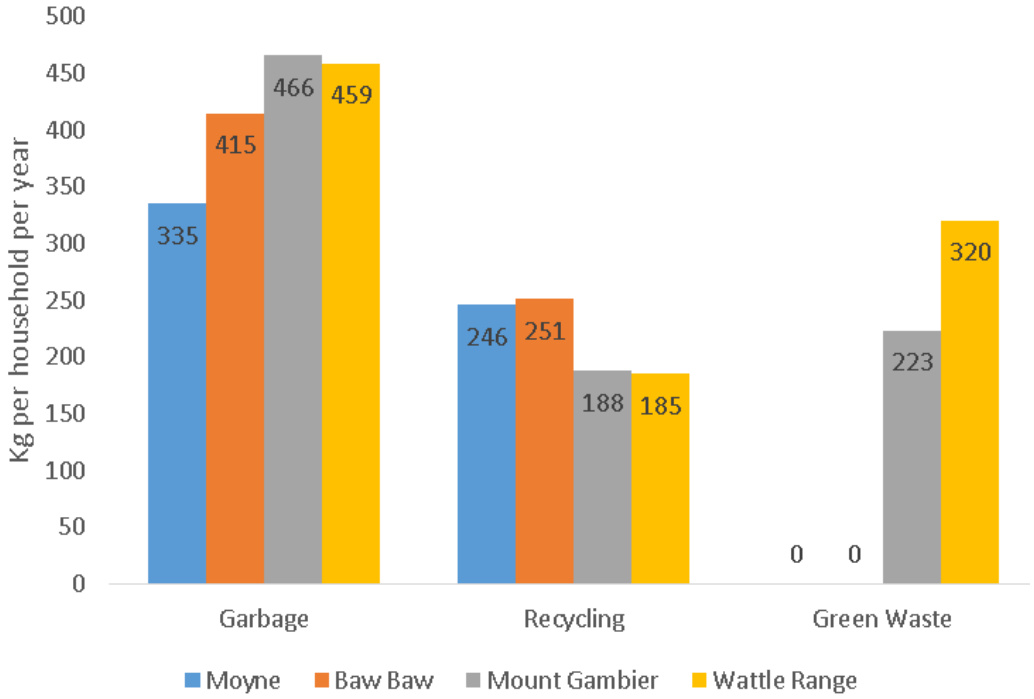
1. Including green waste in the calculation
2. Excluding green waste
3. Including green waste from transfer stations

This enables fair comparisons between Councils.

With data from 79 councils exhaustive analysis is impractical. The following information has been extracted from the report for the purposes of discussion. The 2010-11 Annual Survey showed that Moyne Shire (main town Port Fairy) had the highest Diversion Rate 1 for kerbside waste with 62%, while Baw Baw Shire (main town Warragul) was ranked 10th with a diversion rate of 55%. Both Moyne and Baw Baw have a 3 bin system that is similar to the Wattle Range Council system as follows:

- Garbage 120 litre collected weekly
- Recycling 240 litre collected fortnightly
- Green waste 240 litre collected fortnightly

Figure 5: Comparison of annual yields across Councils



Notes:

1. The South Australian Container Deposit Legislation will have an effect on recycling yield as less drink containers will go in the recycling bin.
2. The Mount Gambier green organic service is voluntary.
3. Green waste data was not available for Moyne or Baw Baw Shires

Table 9: Diversion Rates Comparison between Councils

Municipality	Diversion Rate 1	Diversion Rate 2
Moyne	62	39
Baw Baw	55	35
Mount Gambier	45	27
Wattle Range	52	28

The average annual garbage bin yield in the 2010-11 Annual Survey was 488 kg. Wattle Range with 459 kg was just below the average and would be ranked mid-way in Victorian Councils. This shows that there is significant room for improvement. The recycling yield is comparatively low, however that is influenced by container deposits in South Australia. The 2010-11 Annual Survey did not include green waste yields by Council. The Diversion Rate 1 figure for Wattle Range indicates that the Green Waste yield is healthy.

The yield figures per household can be influenced by a range of factors including:

- House Vacancy rates
- Household size (people per household)
- Understanding / Knowledge / Behaviour
- Collection system / Bin sizes
- Socio Demographics

Of these factors, Council is best placed to influence understanding / knowledge / behaviour and collection systems / bin sizes.

4.8 Kerbside Service Issues

4.8.1 Collection Areas

Extent of Collection Area: There may be opportunities to extend the 3 bin system to areas with the 2 bin system as well as extending either the 2 bin or 3 bin service to properties that are not currently provided with a Council service.

The existing boundaries are somewhat arbitrary. For example in Glencoe West there are residential properties less than 1,000 square metres in area with no service because the properties are on the west side of Glencoe West Road. Similarly there are many properties with a 2 bin system that would welcome a 3 bin system. This would improve the diversion rate.

4.8.2 Collection Contract

The current contract has been extended to September 2017. Council needs to allow 12 months (minimum) to prepare contracts documents, call and evaluate tenders and appoint a contractor. Prior to that, Council needs to consider any changes to the service and resolve whether to extend the collection areas.

Opportunities for a regional collection contract have been discussed through the Regional Waste Management Committee and will continue to be explored.

4.8.3 Diversion Rate

Improving the diversion rate will save ratepayers money, help to move towards achieving the targets in South Australia's Strategic Plan to reduce waste to landfill by 35% by 2020.

The analysis demonstrates that there are opportunities for significant improvement by making better use of the existing system. This is as simple as putting the right material in the right bin.

4.8.4 Garbage Disposal

The Access Agreement with the City of Mount Gambier for waste disposal ends in June 2017. A new agreement needs to be negotiated prior to that date.

4.8.5 Green Organics Disposal

The agreement with Van Schaik's Bio-Gro ends in July 2016. Council needs to negotiate a new agreement or explore options for alternative disposal of kerbside green organic waste.

4.8.6 Recycling Disposal

The City of Mount Gambier contract with Green Triangle Recyclers for the receival and processing of recyclables ends in June 2017. Wattle Range Council should be involved in the City of Mount Gambier tendering process.

5 RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRES AND TRANSFER STATIONS

5.1 Existing Facilities

Wattle Range Council operates two resource recovery centres and three waste transfer stations. The siting of the facilities means that the maximum distance that a resident has to travel is about 30 km.

Table 10: Operating Hours Resource Recovery Centres and Waste Transfer Stations

Millicent	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday		9am to 2.30pm
Penola	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday		11am to 2.30pm
Glencoe	Wednesday 9am to 1pm	/	Sunday 9am to 12 noon
Beachport	Wednesday 9am to 1pm	/	Sunday 9am to 12 noon
Furner	Wednesday 9am to 1pm	/	Sunday 9am to 12 noon

The services available at each site are listed in the table below.

Table 11: Services available at Council's waste facilities

	General Waste	Recyclables	Green Waste	Scrap Metal	Waste Oil	E-Waste	Fluoro Globes	Car Batteries	Drum Muster*
Millicent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Penola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Furner	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×
Glencoe	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓	×
Beachport	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	×

*DrumMuster drop off is by appointment

Small community run facilities collect scrap in Glencoe and Beachport

The sites are managed by Transpacific Cleanaway under a contract that commenced in July 2011 and runs to June 2019. The contract includes:

- Providing an attendant during opening hours
- Providing and transporting bulk bins for general waste
- Providing and transporting bulk bins for recyclables
- Managing the collection and transport of waste oil, car batteries, e-waste, fluorescent tubes
- Managing the drop off of green waste, scrap metal and rubble
- Managing the drop off and collection of DrumMuster containers.

The Millicent and Penola facilities were both opened in 2011. They are excellent facilities with good access, shelters over the main drop off areas, sealed roads, concrete retaining walls and bin placement areas. Environmental Management Plans are in place for these facilities. There are opportunities for some minor improvements to cater for rubble and green waste, as well as improved signage and line marking. The Zero Waste SA website refers to the Victorian *Guide to Best Practice at Resource Recovery and Waste Transfer Facilities* which includes standard recycling signage.

Furner Transfer Station is a basic facility with a low retaining wall to cater for 15 cubic metre skips. While the infrastructure is basic it is well sited and quite adequate for the level of use.

The Glencoe Transfer Station is minimalist and provides a limited range of services. It is sited on an old landfill site that is leased from Forestry South Australia. The site is fenced but there are no buildings or retaining walls.

The Beachport Transfer Station is a poor facility. It is sited in the dunes off Bowman Scenic Drive. The Wattle Range Council Community Plan 2009-2014 included: an action to 'Construct Resource Recovery Facilities at Millicent, Penola and Beachport'.

Green waste is processed at three sites and transported to the old Canunda Landfill or former Tower Road Landfill sites. Following an open tender process, there is currently a contract arrangement in place for mulching and transport with Mulbarton Pty Ltd. This contract commenced in July 2015 and has the option of two, one year extensions. The volume of green waste received at Council facilities has increased greatly in recent years.

A local contractor provides scrap metal bins at Millicent and Penola and periodically loads the scrap metal into the bins and removes the material. There is no formal contract arrangement in place. The contractor provides some income to Council. There is a need to formalise this arrangement to ensure regular collection.

"Scavenging" – (or salvage recovering goods for reuse) is not allowed at any of the sites. This makes management simple and there are no arguments with customers about permission to remove goods. It also eliminates a potential source of risk. There is a community perception that resalable goods may be going to landfill. However the value of such items is considered to be low by the site management contractor.

5.2 Issues Resource Recovery Centres and Transfer Stations

5.2.1 Beachport Transfer Station

A site needs to be selected and set aside for the Beachport Transfer Station. A preliminary design is necessary to determine a budget and the project budget will need to be allocated in Council's Annual Business Plan and Budget.

5.2.2 Gate Fees

Currently there are no gate fees charged at any of the Resource Recovery Facilities. This is unusual, as most municipalities charge fees for disposal of garbage. There is also an option to introduce tip tickets or vouchers, with ratepayers receiving an annual allocation. There are some advantages and disadvantages with charging no fees:

Advantages:

- Good public relations, ratepayers can see value for rates
- Staff on sites can concentrate on supervising customers and ensuring waste is segregated appropriately, rather than collecting fees
- Better for safety and overall site management with minimal staff
- Staff on site can demand loads are sorted to maximise recycling
- Less likelihood of illegal dumping to avoid fees
- No issues with handling cash on site or need for administration of a ticketing system.

Disadvantages

- No income to offset cost of the service
- Inequitable - ratepayers with a kerbside service pay an annual fee that covers the cost of the full service, including transport and disposal of waste. Ratepayers outside the collection areas and who self-haul their domestic waste are provided with a free service
- Ratepayers are not encouraged to look at other options, e.g. green waste could be composted or mulched at home
- No financial incentive for residents to sort waste or minimise waste disposal
- No way for Council to manage the escalating costs of disposal or volumes of waste.

5.2.3 Transfer Station Signage Upgrades

Minor works are necessary to improve signage at the Resource Recovery Facilities. Some of these issues have recently been addressed, however an audit would be worthwhile.

5.2.4 Salvage Rights

Council could consider assigning salvage rights to a corporation or a community group, entitling them to recover goods from transfer stations for resale.

5.2.5 Scrap Metal

A formal arrangement is necessary to provide for the regular collection of scrap metal.

6 LANDFILLS

The Canunda landfill is closed to public access and during 2013 was capped and decommissioned in accordance with the Landfill Closure Plan approved by the EPA. The site is closed and no waste is being delivered to the site. Some mulched green waste is stored at the site to enable the cap to be maintained and assist in future rehabilitation of the surrounding area.

Monitoring and testing will be continued at the site in accordance with the closure plan. The site is located adjacent to the Canunda National Park and in the future discussions should be held with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to maximise the environmental value of the site. Under the EPA Licence provisions, Council remains responsible for the ongoing monitoring and management of the licensed landfill site.

The Tower Road landfill site south of Penola is closed to public access. This site is licensed by the EPA and is currently being used for the storage of green waste and mulch. Some works have been carried out to prepare cells, including lining of the base of the cell. This site may have some potential for disposal of waste, particularly non-putrescible waste.

6.1 Issues Landfills

6.1.1 Canunda Landfill

The Canunda landfill site will require ongoing monitoring, in particular testing of ground water.

6.1.2 Tower Road site

The future of this site needs to be considered by Council.

7 LITTER STREET AND PARK BINS / BUTT BINS

7.1 Street and Park Bins

Council provides and services litter bins in streets, parks and Council reserves. The bins are all mobile garbage bins (wheelie bins) and are either locked in stands or housed in surrounds. The bins are emptied by the kerbside services contractor using the garbage collection truck. The Bedford Group assists with the litter bin collection by relocating bins so that they are readily accessible to the collection truck.

Litter bins in the town centres are housed in formal bin surrounds that are in good to fair condition. Some bins in less developed areas are located in bin stands and some of these are in need of repair or replacement.

Generally, the placement of the bins is adequate, however a review of the bin infrastructure would identify the need for new bin infrastructure as well as looking at whether bins are best placed to meet the need of the community.

7.2 Butt Bins

Butt bins are located in the commercial shopping areas of the major towns. The butt bin locations have been selected to take into account the nearby businesses.

7.3 Public Place Recycling

In 2014, Council obtained grants though the Keep Australia Beautiful Beverage Recycling Grant Program and the South East Local Government Association for the installation of public place recycling bins in the Beachport and Penola town centres.

Public place recycling provides an environmental benefit by diverting recoverable materials from landfill. Possibly of equal importance is that public place recycling reinforces the recycling message by enabling the community to recycle when they are away from home.

There may be opportunities to obtain further grants for infrastructure in the other town centres.

7.4 Dog Poo Bags

Dispensers for dog poo bags are strategically located in public areas across the Council area. The bins are serviced by Council's outdoor workforce.

7.5 Issues -Litter Street and Park Bins / Butt Bins

7.5.1 Litter bins

A review of litter bin infrastructure will identify whether bins are optimally located, their current condition and further opportunities for public place recycling.

7.5.2 Butt bins

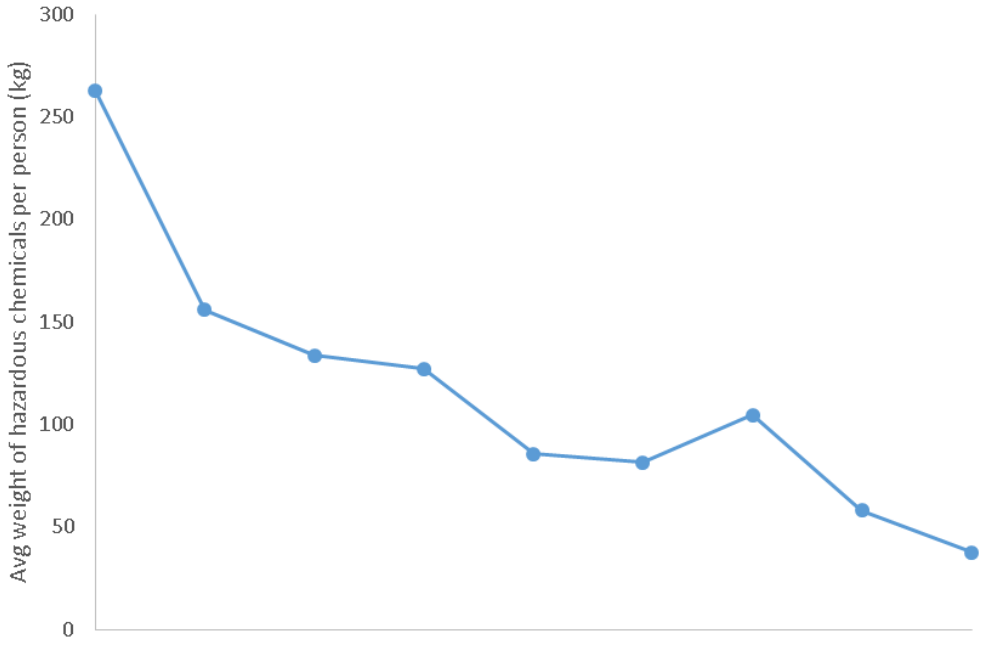
A review of butt bin infrastructure will identify whether bins are optimally located, their current condition and further opportunities for public place recycling.

8 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household chemicals can be dangerous if they are not stored or disposed of safely. Historically, Wattle Range Council has assisted Zero Waste SA to provide free household hazardous waste drop-off days to help residents to dispose of unwanted chemicals in an environmentally safe way. Licensed professional waste management contractors set up temporary drop-off points and householders were asked to deliver their unwanted chemicals to the drop-off points.

Previously, hazardous waste drop-offs were arranged with councils on average every three to four years on a rotational basis around the state. Hazardous waste from any SA household would be accepted at the drop-offs, however hazardous waste from business or industry was not allowed.

Figure 6: Average weight of hazardous chemicals per person at drop off days



Source: Philip Matthews Zero Waste SA

The first collection was attended by 53 persons who dropped off 13,922 kg of chemicals, an average of 262 kg per person. The number of participants and the weight collected at the most recent collections in 2011 show a significant reduction from earlier collections. This may indicate that households have disposed of the hazardous chemicals they had previously stored. Also analysis of data from early collections shows significant volumes of waste oil which is now collected at Resource Recovery Facilities and Transfer Stations.

There are no household hazardous drop-offs presently scheduled for Wattle Range Council and future collections are uncertain due to the changes to Zero Waste SA. Although demand may have declined, there will still be a need for periodic collections of chemicals to keep these hazardous products out of landfills or groundwater.

8.1 Issues: Household Hazardous Waste

Council needs to work with stakeholders to determine whether hazardous waste drop off days are required in the future.

9 CHEMCLEAR & DRUMMUSTER

Farmers within Wattle Range Council can drop off washed chemical containers to either Millicent or Penola Resource Recovery Facilities under the DrumMuster program. Appointments are necessary to ensure that trained staff are available to inspect and receive the containers.

In addition, ChemClear, provides Australian agricultural and veterinary chemical users with a collection and disposal pathway for their unwanted chemicals. ChemClear is funded by a per litre/kg levy collected under the Industry Waste Reduction Scheme (IWRS). The levy also supports ChemClear's sister program DrumMuster.

Farmers must register the chemicals with ChemClear and collections are scheduled based on the volume of chemical registrations. On average, ChemClear undertakes 2-3 State collections and several regional collections annually.

Further details are available at the ChemClear website: http://www.chemclear.com.au/

DrumMuster and ChemClear are important services that support primary producers. The programs help to ensure that containers are recovered and that chemicals are properly disposed of, ultimately protecting the environment. Wattle Range Council should continue to support these services by providing a site for collections.

9.1 Issues: ChemClear and DrumMuster

Council should continue to support a DrumMuster collection service by providing drop off sites at Penola and Millicent. Council should consider support for the ChemClear service on an as needs basis.

10 ACTIONS

Table 12: Recommended actions and timeframes

Issue	Recommended Action	Timeframe	Performance Measure
Kerbside Collection			
Extent of collection areas	1.1 Engage the community in a process to review existing kerbside collection areas including: • areas that may be added • areas where the 3 bin service can replace the 2 bin service • areas where the 2 bin service can replace the 3 bin service.	By December 2016	Council decision regarding changes to existing kerbside service.
Kerbside collection contract	1.2 Develop and implement a process to review the service levels to be included in a new kerbside collection contract	By December 2016	Review of service completed and reported to Council
	1.3 Prepare request for tender documentation with a view to calling tenders by September 2016.	By September 2016	Tender documentation completed
	1.4 Engage contractor for kerbside collection service	By September 2017	Contractor appointed
Diversion rates	1.5 Conduct bin audits to identify materials frequently placed in the wrong bin	By December 2016	Bin audits completed and areas for improvement identified
	1.6 Develop and implement education program to reduce contamination and volume of waste to landfill	By December 2018	Education programs delivered Results monitored
Garbage disposal	1.7 Negotiate a new agreement with City of Mount Gambier for disposal of garbage	By March 2017	Agreement signed

Green organics disposal	1.8 Investigate options for disposal of kerbside green organics	By December 2016	Options report prepared
	1.9 Arrange for disposal of kerbside green organics	By June 2016	Agreement signed
Recyclables processing	1.10 Engage with City of Mount Gambier to negotiate a new recyclables processing contract	By March 2017	Agreement signed
Resource Recovery Centres and Waste Transfer Stations			
Beachport Transfer Station	2.1 Identify and secure site	By December 2016	Site secured
	2.2 Develop concept drawings and estimates	By December 2016	Drawings completed and estimate prepared
	2.3 Seek Council budget allocation for capital works	By December 2016	Capital works project approved by Council
	2.4 Seek relevant approvals including EPA licence and development approval	By June 2017	All necessary approvals received
	2.5 Construct new transfer station	2018	New transfer station opened
	2.6 Former transfer station site rehabilitated	2020	Former transfer site rehabilitated
Gate fees or vouchers	2.7 Engage the community in options for gate fees or vouchers	By July 2016	Council decision on gate fees or vouchers
Signage upgrades	2.8 Undertake audit of signage at all sites and implement recommendations	By June 2017	Signage meets best practice
Salvage rights	2.9 Investigate options for community groups or commercial interests for salvage rights at Council's transfer stations	By December 2017	Options investigated and report provided to Council
Scrap metal	2.10 Conduct a request for tender process for the provision of scrap metal recovery at Council's transfer stations	By December 2016	Contractor appointed

Landfills			
Canunda	3.1 Develop and implement post closure monitoring plan for Canunda landfill	By December 2018	Monitoring plan adopted and implemented
Tower Road	3.2 Develop options paper for future use of the Tower Road site	By June 2017	Options paper developed
Litter Street Bins and Butt Bins			
Litter bins	4.1 Undertake an audit of litter bin infrastructure including locations and condition	By December 2016	Audit undertaken
	4.2 Identify opportunities for future public place recycling	By December 2016	Project outlines prepared
	4.3 Apply for Council and external funding for upgrades and new litter bins and public place recycling	By June 2018	Grant or Council funds received, infrastructure upgraded or installed
Household Hazardous Waste			
Hazardous waste	5.1 Work with stakeholders to determine if hazardous household waste collections are required	By June 2018	Household hazardous waste disposed of appropriately
ChemClear and DrumMuster			
Chemical disposal	6.1 Support ChemClear and DrumMuster programs by providing suitable sites and information to ratepayers	By June 2018	Sites maintained, information provided
Policy			
Stakeholder engagement	7.1 Influence State and National waste management policy	Ongoing	Submissions to consultations directly or through LGA
	7.2 Engage in regional waste management issues	Ongoing	Participation in regional waste management committee

11 FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

11.1 Current Operating Costs

At present, Council's waste management services are funded by a mixture of general rate revenue and service charges for kerbside collection.

Services charges are levied on all properties receiving kerbside services. The income generated covers the cost of the kerbside collection contract and the disposal or processing of the materials collected under the contract.

Any additions to the collection area or extension / reduction of the 3 bin service will be funded through the waste collection service charge and therefore will have no impact on general rate revenue.

There is the potential for some recovery or reduction of operating costs at Council's transfer stations through the introduction of gate fees or vouchers. There is some income from the sale of scrap metal, however this is dependent on the global price. Otherwise, all operating costs for transfer stations are funded by general revenue.

11.2 Capital Costs

The capital cost of developing new facilities or upgrading existing facilities is limited to general revenue or grants. Previously, Zero Waste SA assisted with the development of the Millicent and Penola Resource Recovery Facilities, by contributing $27,273 under the Regional Infrastructure Program.

The most significant recommendation in this strategy is the development of a new waste transfer station at Beachport. At this stage, the cost is unknown however the cost is likely to be in the vicinity of $500,000. Council will seek grant funding from State and Federal governments to assist with this redevelopment.

The strategy sets out a process for developing conceptual plans and an accurate estimate that can be considered by Council through the normal process for developing the capital works budget.

12 GLOSSARY

Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	Statutory body responsible for environmental aspects of the operations of landfills, waste and recycling depots
Garbage	Collected domestic putrescible waste likely to decompose or putrefy. Consists of food waste and other waste material placed out for collection regularly in bins by householders.
Green Waste	Garden waste including prunings up to 75mm in diameter, lawn clippings and leaves.
Green Organics	Garden waste and kitchen waste. This material is be collected from the kerbside.
Hard Waste	Solid inert waste such as electrical items, furniture, scrap metal, empty paint tins and home renovating materials.
Landfill levy	A levy is payable by the licence-holder of a waste depot for all waste received that is to be disposed of at that depot. There is no levy on waste fill material1 (formerly called 'clean fill'). The levy is used in part to fund programs such as waste minimisation, resource recovery and KESAB litter strategies. It is also used to support the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in administering the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, including licensing, waste tracking and compliance.
Recyclables	Material which can be recovered from the waste stream and used to manufacturer new products.
Residual Waste	Waste at a resource recovery facility, which cannot be recycled and is transferred to landfill.