

Waste Management Strategy

2024 2030



**FEDERATION
COUNCIL**



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FOREWORD BY MAYOR

This Waste Management Strategy details the council's vision for sustainable waste management throughout the whole of Federation Council.

A large proportion of our residents moved to mobile garbage bins (wheelie bins) over 20 years ago and these days, recycling is a firm habit within most households, giving thousands of tonnes of waste a second life and reducing the amount of landfill.

Recycling is not just bottles, cans and paper. Organic material can be recycled to produce good compost. To increase the diversion of recyclable material from landfill, a third bin, the "green" bin – called FOGO - was introduced to the larger population areas of Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala in 2015. This has produced a long term average saving in landfill disposal of 2,500 tonnes per year, with a high of 2,982 tonnes diverted in 2021/22.

Statistics indicate that most of the waste in most council areas actually comes from businesses.

This business waste comes from many different areas including cafes, restaurants and hotels, as well as manufacturing, construction and demolition, retailers, hospitals, education campuses, and offices. With the progress being made by households in recycling, one would expect a strong decline in waste to landfill; however, we are not seeing this.

Apart from the decrease with household organics being diverted from landfill via the FOGO bin, the overall amount of waste we produce continues to grow as our society consumes more and more. This strategy is Federation Council's framework to address the various waste challenges over the next six years to align with state government policies and

requirements. Our major challenge is to reduce the rates of contamination occurring in all bins. Everyone has a part to play in taking care to place the right waste into the right bin.

As well as continuing to improve resource recovery through recycling, the important task ahead is to 'do more with less'; that is, avoiding the creation of waste in the first place. With increasing community expectations, more progressive approaches by industry and governments and advances in technology, the strategy identifies the issues Council will focus on.

Engagement with the community to promote and implement more sustainable waste activities will be undertaken in various forms. We will continue to provide efficient and effective waste services to protect and improve the natural and urban environments in a sustainable manner.

I look forward to the continued involvement and support of the community as we work together on providing more sustainable options for everyone in our Council area.

INTRODUCTION

This strategy aligns with a number of recently released state government policies and strategies, which have a timeline focus of 2025 and/or 2030. Accordingly, this strategy timeline has been extended to accommodate and align with the target date of 2030.

Governments at all levels have adapted and aligned their waste practices and systems to the newer term of circular economy.

The circular economy is an alternative to the traditional linear economy of take, make and dispose. This refers to taking (usually virgin) resources, making goods that are then bought and used (usually once) to then be discarded as waste. Given there is a finite supply of natural resources which are getting increasingly harder and costlier to extract, these traditional processes result in unnecessary waste. A circular economy aims to “close the loop” by recovering and reusing items that would otherwise have been disposed of and returning them to the economy—considering them as a valuable resource rather than waste.



Sustainable waste management is a key part of economic and community development. The council should reduce the environmental impacts of waste by assisting our community to minimise waste generation, increase recycling and organic waste diversion rates, find alternatives to landfill disposal, and meet all statutory requirements.

Actions to reduce waste, either by more efficient use of resources or by enabling recovery and reuse of discarded material, are critical elements. They are becoming more apparent at the State Government level with the NSW EPA recently releasing various policies and strategies. They include the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 and NSW Plastics Action Plan which will particularly drive changes at Council.

This Waste Management Strategy has been developed to provide environmentally sustainable solutions to the collection, disposal and resource recovery from waste generated within the community. Its key aim is to guide the development and improvement of current waste management practices. Sustainable approaches to waste management need to be integrated into all future policies, strategies and planning decisions made by the council. This strategy describes ways forward and measurable actions to be undertaken by Council over the next six years to ensure we provide affordable and accessible waste services.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This strategy provides the foundation for service improvements and guides future waste, recycling, organic and litter services to benefit the whole community. It aims to provide more efficient and effective waste services, and further reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill.

State and Federal Governments have set some ambitious targets that now will drive regional and local responses. Of particular interest to Federation Council, is the RAMJO resource recovery strategy and then lastly, the local government actions listed in this strategy.

Federation Council has some unique characteristics that impact on waste activities. The northern end of the shire has at best, one refuse bin for kerbside collection, whereas the southern parts have the 3 bin system. This is partly the result of the distances between the small townships and lower population densities. The shire also has four operating landfills which for a population of some 13,000 persons, is very rare. There is a continual push by government to reduce the usage of landfills, by reducing the number of materials permitted into landfills.

At the same time, these newly banned materials are required to be recovered and recycled, usually by way of a waste transfer station and/or community recycling centre. The costs for this recycling is borne by the community by way of gate fees that need to cover all costs incurred, including the future closure of any landfills. Hence the perceived high cost of waste disposal in the Shire. There is a pending landfill rehabilitation liability of some \$20million that will alter over time as successive landfills become unviable. There are a number of outstanding maintenance issues, upgrades and improvements that require attention in the very near future.

To meet the waste targets and reduce council's future waste liabilities, there are a number of practical issues to be addressed over the life of the strategy, including:

- Reducing the amount of contamination in all three kerb-side waste bins;
- Reducing the amount of waste being deposited into landfill;
- Increasing recycling rates, with an emphasis on building and construction wastes;
- Increasing the efficiency of the landfills and waste transfer stations, and;
- closing and remediating relevant landfills in a safe and timely manner.

These actions and others are detailed in the implementation plan and will be reported to the council as necessary. While most items can be incorporated into daily activities, a number of items have been documented to allow for future budget deliberations. Some of the more critical issues that deserve higher levels of attention are:

- Increase the uptake of organic waste separation within households in rural areas and amongst the commercial sector;
- Maintain suited areas (with buffer zones) for the development of future waste facilities;
- Work with businesses to increase recycling options and decrease waste to landfill;
- Work with the EPA to ensure closure and remediation of the landfills occurs without mishap.
- Promote waste initiatives as a region, via the programs delivered by "halve waste".

These actions are all attainable if sufficient resources and direction is provided.

The introduction of the food and garden organic (FOGO) waste system for the households in the three larger urban areas in 2015 brought significant benefits to the community and the environment. This can be readily replicated in the townships in the northern parts of the municipality. Whilst costs have been contained and the percentage of refuse (red lidded bin) waste, has been reduced, there is a lot that can be undertaken at a household level. High contamination rates in all bins highlight more attention is required by everyone at home. Putting the right waste into the right bin is still a major issue of concern.

It is very pleasing that composting costs are now approximately 30% cheaper than traditional landfill costs in Albury. Expanding the FOGO service to as many households as possible will provide similar financial and environmental gains.

At the household level, the new ten year kerbside waste collection contract has been awarded and service costs have not increased at the rates expected. Households receiving the extra bins to meet the default service arrangement of three bins will however, note the relevant increase in charges which will be at no cost to council, as the charge will be at cost recovery. At the community level, costs to operate the landfills continue to rise and funds need to be set aside for large rehabilitation costs as they close. Finally, the need to close the Corowa landfill and develop a new waste transfer station will also require suitable land and budgets.

All issues within this strategy are linked to the Delivery Program and will, over time, ensure Federation Council has the infrastructure and waste processes in place to maintain a clean, safe and environmentally aware municipality.



PURPOSE

The purpose and future directions of waste management within the municipality need to be consistent and work towards those of the region and NSW as a whole. Key drivers for this strategy include:

- **Appropriately dealing with waste materials and aiming for outcomes at the top of the waste management hierarchy**

- **That disposal of waste to landfill is reduced in line with a Federal Government's target of zero**

- **Dealing with litter and Public Place Recycling in response to community expectations**

- **Aligning this strategy with all relevant Government policies and commitments relating to Waste and Resource Recovery Policy and targets**

- **The management of all solid waste including kerbside pickup, resource recovery facility operation, collection and disposal of litter and street litter bin pickups**

- **The requirement that all residential properties will have a food organics and green organics (FOGO) service by 2030; and**

- **The requirement that all retail business properties will have access to a food organics and green organics (FOGO) service by 2030.**

It is noted that a breakdown of current waste sources across the state highlights that municipal waste is only 20 per cent of the total waste volumes generated within a municipality. Thus some 80 per cent of waste comes from businesses who generally contract one of the larger national waste companies to collect and dispose of, or process their waste. Whilst Council can advocate and incentivise private businesses, we do not have control over that segment of the market. Hopefully via “halve waste” promotions, business and industry will become more waste wise and adapt to suit.

As council tenders out the kerbside collection service and also operates the waste transfer stations and landfills, there is scope and opportunity to introduce community behavioural changes. It is anticipated that, over time, a number of these changes will be adopted by businesses.



WHAT IS WASTE?

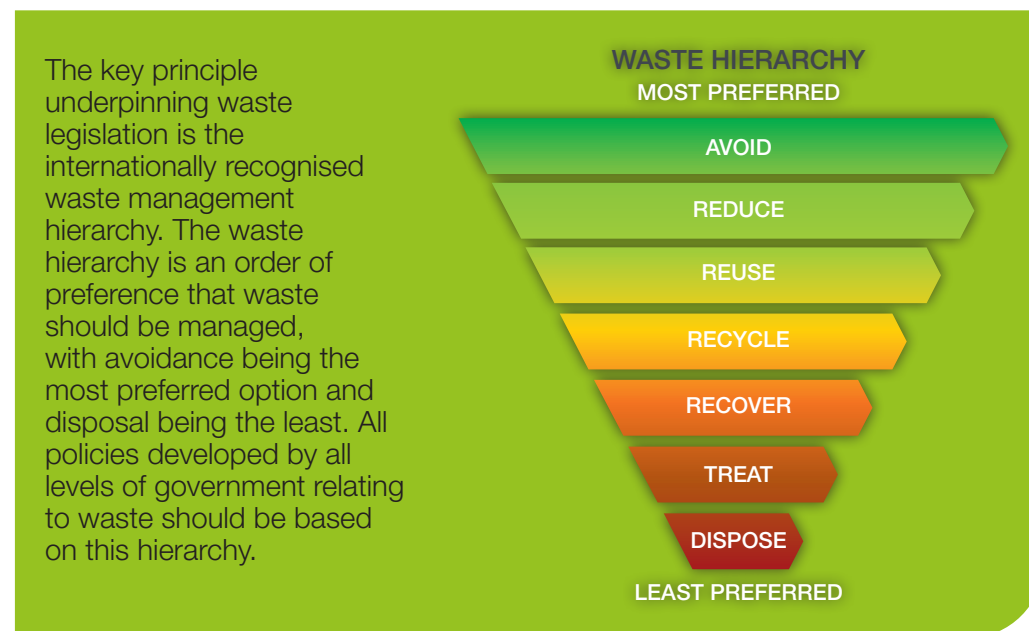
Definition

The term 'waste' has many definitions, from items that are no longer required, to the misuse or squandering of resources. From a local government perspective, waste has traditionally been understood as something to be cleaned up and removed, or something to be 'managed'. This strategy moves beyond that understanding and looks at waste in terms of resources and the circular economy. How can we reduce the amount of waste we, as a community, generate? What other uses can we find for what we have traditionally understood as waste? How can we rethink the waste we generate in terms of resources that must be valued and preserved? What actions do we as a community need to take to avoid the production of waste in the first place?

This strategy goes into those issues in detail and summaries a way forward in the action and implementation plan.



Waste Management Hierarchy



Avoidance of waste is at the top of the hierarchy and can be influenced as it relates very much to personal choices by the consumer. Personal choices stem from needs but also aspirations, both which can be influenced by suited education and other persuasive methods. Reuse of wastes is followed by recycling, which includes composting of organic wastes. Using products again instead of discarding them and creating new materials from old without the energy expense or environmental damage from mining for raw materials is the next preferred option. The recovery of energy from waste is an option if the other more preferable options are not possible. The treatment of waste involves energy use and is a relatively poor environmental outcome for dealing with waste. The last approach is disposal which refers to landfill or incineration without energy recovery, which is the least preferred option.

The traditional three terms of 'reduce, reuse and recycle' have been expanded to place greater emphasis on household applications such as re-gifting, repair and re-purposing.



FEDERATION COUNCIL - OVERVIEW

Demographics & Map of Facilities

Federation Council is located in South West NSW and is approximately 650km south of Sydney and 320kms north of Melbourne. With a land mass of approximately 5,700 km² covering 15 localities, it has a current population of 12,441. The nearest regional city is Albury, some 55km to the East. Federation Council is made up of the former councils of Corowa and Urana, and thus has a large geographical area to the north with very low populations, whereas the southern end has the large townships of Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala. All three towns are currently experiencing strong residential growth.

Dwelling type is an important determinant for domestic waste services. A greater concentration of higher density dwellings is likely to attract more young adults and smaller households, often renting. Larger, detached or separate dwellings are more likely to attract families and prospective families.

With the gradual change to less density in the north, and noticeable population increases in the south into residential and Multi Unit Dwellings, only some slight changes will be necessary to kerbside waste collection services.

Whilst smaller household bins are an option, the current waste policy sets a minimum charge per allotment regardless of bin size. This is designed to cover the supply cost of the service, regardless of volume and usage. As the three larger townships develop, it is likely that more inner city and increased density housing options will follow, often on very small allotments. Bin storage and placement may become an issue for further attention.

From a waste collection servicing perspective, detached dwellings are the easiest to service, and from an educational perspective, the individual householder can be held accountable for poor practices such as contamination. All five councils in our region deal with contamination via a “three strike” policy where after three failed attempts to change personal behaviour, the offending bin/s is removed until circumstances and practices are changed.

Apart from dwelling type, the visitor type also influences waste behaviours. Visitors to the region enjoy access to wineries, snowfields, fishing, and other leisure activities.



These visitors are often from metropolitan areas. With the high visitation rates to the area, it is important that waste infrastructure match that of large regional cities and capital cities, so that good waste behaviours are supported and re-enforced.

Economic Profile

Federation Council performs several important economic and social roles for southern NSW and the surrounding south west region by servicing and supporting the broader regional catchment. Servicing and supplying these large businesses is a key component of the many and varied small and medium-sized businesses, many of whom perform highly specialised services.

These businesses continue to contend with their own waste challenges, noting many have capitalised on opportunities to reduce operational costs as well as supporting the sustainability of the environment that hosts them.

Federation Council has the benefit and dis-benefits of having four active landfills. The Corowa landfill is nearing the end of its working life, but the landfills in Howlong and Urana have plenty of life (airspace) for decades. These local sites reduce travel time for residents and small business operators when disposing of their waste, but unless suited segregation, collection and processing of the recovered materials occurs, becomes very costly. Hence a waste transfer station is often better suited rather than direct disposal to the landfill.

The recent regional tender for kerbside collection has been awarded and that includes the disposal of that collected residential refuse waste in the southern part of the council, to the Albury Landfill. The placement of that waste into the Albury landfill, prolongs the life of the landfills owned by council and may also be better suited for our waste when the Corowa landfill is closed. Kerbside waste collected in the northern parts of the shire, is expected to be deposited into the Urana landfill to reduce transportation costs.

As the local landfills are best suited for household waste, all large commercial waste volumes are directed to Albury landfill. To avoid transport and disposal costs, local businesses will at times, undertake some separation and reclamation of products onsite and enter into private arrangements for recycling or re-use.



LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Federal Government

The National Waste Policy provides a national framework for waste and resource recovery in Australia. It also highlights the importance of working together and outlines the roles and responsibilities for everyone - businesses, governments, communities and individuals. The policy outlines the five key principles for waste management that will enable Australia to transition to a circular economy. These include:

- **Avoid Waste**

- **Improve resource recovery**

- **Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products**

- **Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy**

- **Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.**

The first National Waste Policy was published in 2009. An updated National Waste Policy was published in 2018. The 2019 National Waste Action Plan drives implementation of seven ambitious targets, including:

- **Regulate waste exports**

- **Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030**

- **Recover 80% of all waste by 2030**

- **Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry**

- **Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025**

- **Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030**

- **Provide data to support better decisions**

State Government

The NSW EPA is responsible for state legislation, policy development and the coordination of the environment portfolio. It is also responsible for enforcement of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

The NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (WaSM Strategy) outlines the strategic direction for sustainable waste management practices in the state. The WaSM has three focus areas including:

1. Meeting our future Infrastructure and service needs
2. Reducing carbon emissions through better waste and material management
3. Building on our work to protect the environment and human health from waste pollution

Landfill Levy – The EPA collects a levy on waste deposited at landfills in designated zones. The levies raised are used for environmental protection and fostering environmentally sustainable use of resources and best practice in waste management. They fund the activities of the Regional Resource Groups (RRGs) and the EPA to help establish waste management infrastructure, industry waste reduction programs, education programs, regulatory controls and enforcement regimes.


They also provide incentives to minimise the generation of waste, sending a signal to industry that the government supports efforts to develop alternatives to disposal to landfills. To date the south west region has not been included in the levy zone but a review is underway at a state level to determine if changes should occur. If a levy is applied, all RAMJO member councils will have to review, (and adjust) their waste fees and services.


Enforcement of the EPA requirements is undertaken by the inspectors from the regional EPA office in Wagga Wagga (and Albury occasionally). At times, they issue abatement and works directions, and infrequently, penalty infringement notices.

Regional council collaboration - RAMJO


The Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) has been proclaimed by the NSW state government as a Body Corporate under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and consists of 11 member councils. In addition to the 11 member councils, Balranald and Wentworth councils are also a part of the RAMJO resource recovery division. RAMJO consists of two Resource Recovery groups – The Riverina Resource Recovery Group and the Murray Resource Recovery Group. RAMJO assists the member councils by facilitating collaboration through strategic planning, priority setting, stakeholder engagement, encouraging infrastructure development through grant funding, and advocating on behalf of the region. Their Regional Resource Recovery Strategy 2022-2027 is our lead working document.


2025 TARGET


 By 2025, the NSW Government will phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics


 Reduce plastic litter by **30%**


2030 TARGET


 Reduce total waste generated by **10% pp by 2030**

 Reduce overall litter by **60% by 2030**

 Achieve an average **80%** recovery rate of resources from all waste streams by 2030

 Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill

 Triple the plastics recycling rate

 Achieve net zero emissions from organics to landfill

Local Government

Local governments have the broad responsibility for providing the collection and transport of kerbside waste streams. They encourage or operate local waste treatment options, such as community resource centres (CRC), waste transfer stations (WTS) and/or landfills for their communities.

The Local Government Act 1993 permits councils to charge for the provision of waste services within the municipality. For households, the annual kerbside collections charge is included as a single charge on the rates notice. This charge is applied to all serviced residential properties for the direct costs associated with the collection and emptying of waste bins from each dwelling on a weekly and fortnightly basis.

A Waste Facility/Environmental Levy is also applied for maintenance and future rehabilitation of landfills. All other waste programs, including street sweeping programs, public street bin infrastructure and emptying, and numerous other allied waste and litter programs are covered through general rates applied on all properties throughout the Council area..

It is important that Federation Council operates co-operatively with nearby and neighbouring local governments. There are economies of scale with regard to purchasing goods or services, and all benefit from the availability of regional educational programs through various media outlets. As the council needs to operate in a co-operative system, strong links with AlburyCity Council are in place. Similarly, the alliance with the larger cross border council landfill user group – which includes Albury, Wodonga, Greater Hume, Indigo and Towong - is important to all six councils. The success of most grant funding is partly determined by the number of collaborative partners applying together.





Community

There are four discrete waste sectors in our community, being individual households and businesses – both in the waste industries and others.

As most waste programs are directed at behaviour change, they have to be adapted to suit the local demographics. Householders are generally expected to implement the three bin system, with some intermittent use of a landfill and/or waste transfer station. Businesses generate waste as a consequence of providing goods and services. Council provides kerbside collection services to approximately 190 smaller commercial businesses but directs larger businesses to local waste collection companies.

Having the large regional centre of Albury-Wodonga nearby is fortunate as our local businesses have ready access to at least four multinational waste industries. They provide collection services, transport systems, and recycling services. Their proximity helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, supports economic development, and increases work force options.

The state government (without local government involvement) oversees the recycling refund system for beverage containers that provides a 10 cent refund for eligible containers. This system has encouraged numerous households to retain and collect those containers and not place them into the yellow lidded recycling bins provided by council. This system has thus reduced the viability and usefulness of that bin as they are now generally filled with non-eligible products and paper and cardboard only. The use of that bin may be expanded in the future to include other products such as soft plastics and/or toys etc.

WASTE TRENDS

General Waste

With a three bin kerbside collection system and various recycling options at the waste transfer station and landfills, it is generally felt that the waste infrastructure required to ensure reasonable management of wastes is now in place.

However, with the rapidly changing legislation (and advances in recovery technology), changes and upgrading will be required. To improve waste management further and gain greater alignment with the waste management hierarchy, a greater focus on behavioural change programs is necessary. The council's direct involvement in the program conducted with the five other local councils, provides the benefits of consistent messaging and economies of scale with collaborative procurement and educational activities.

There are other important trends occurring within the state; most notably a major reduction in the number of landfills, an increase in the number of waste transfer stations, increasing complexity and treatment options at waste transfer stations, aggregating products to reduce transport costs, regionalization of services, larger or combined contracts, and new or alternate waste treatment options such as composting, anaerobic digestion and waste to energy.

At the household level, refuse bin sizes are being reduced in some local government areas as data across the country reflects the volume of waste in a refuse bin is directly proportional to the bin size. A similar trend also occurs with recycling bins. These two last noted issues require further attention within our council as we are one of very few councils that have retained a 240 litre red lidded refuse bin, and the number of 360 litre recycling bins is very low. Changes will be necessary to reduce waste volumes going to landfill.

Plastic recovery has come to the fore and as a trial participant in our region, we shall soon have sufficient data to determine the feasibility or otherwise, of progressing a dedicated plastics recycling system. There are those who support the view that businesses who generate the waste plastic should be responsible – eg Redcycle, but others, support the view that the council operated kerbside collection service, should be able to deal with that (all) types of household waste. A policy stance can only be determined after a formal review has been undertaken.

Waste generation in the RAMJO area

The tables on the following page detail the rates of contamination in all three household bins and the volumes of waste going to landfill, within the RAMJO catchment of the five nearest councils.

Contamination rates in recycling bins at homes in Federation is lower than the average in this report but have been higher at other times. Good recycling habits need to be reinforced at the household level where the education can be made readily available.

Once that has been attained, the educational programs should be expanded for those times when one is not at home, but in public places like shopping areas, parks and reserves. This issue will require greater effort into the future, so that habits learned at home can be replicated both at work and also during leisure times.

Waste generation in the LGA of Federation Council

The following sections detail how the waste generated within Federation is processed. As noted previously, the bulk of commercial, industrial, construction and demolition waste (up to 80 per cent) is automatically diverted to the Albury or Wangaratta Landfills or private processors.

It is important that council ensure a holistic approach to all types of waste be undertaken. Thus Council should be further involved with the business community to help drive recovery rates. The remaining 20 per cent is generally handled by the council who, as the 'custodian' of that product, is able to ensure good practices are implemented.

Municipal solid waste (MSW)

Municipal solid waste refers to the waste generated at the household level, for which the council is directly responsible for managing. In most instances, this includes overseeing the collection of household waste, providing resource recovery options, and providing landfill options for residual wastes.

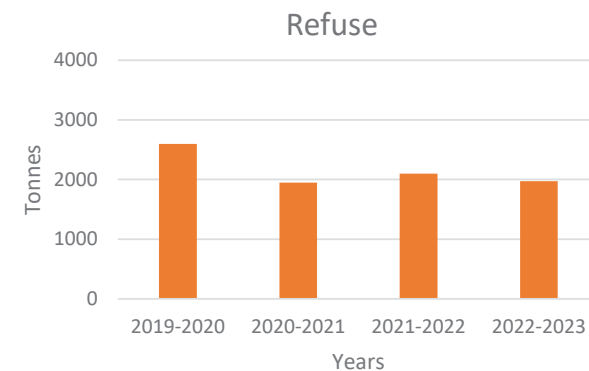
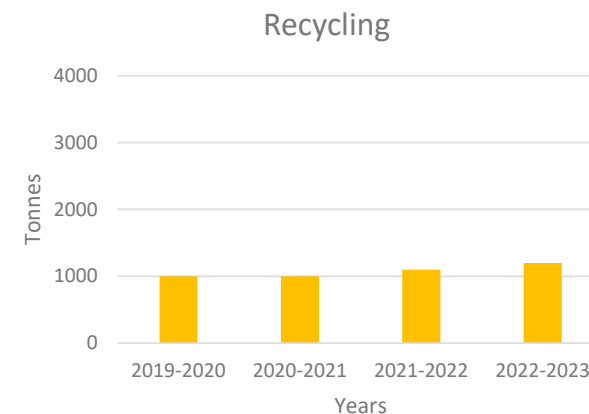
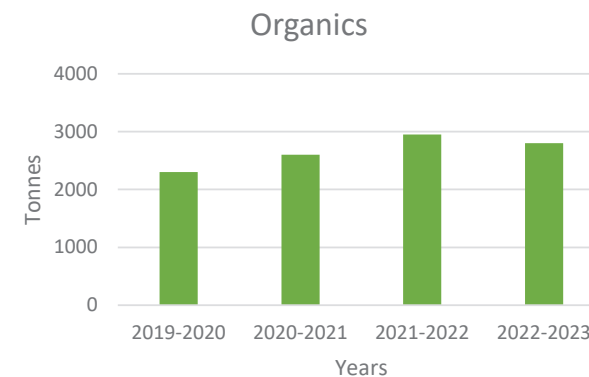
Being directly at the householder level provides very good opportunities for education, driving innovation and changed personal behaviours. It also provides opportunities to address issues on the higher end of the waste hierarchy by introducing separation of wastes at the source, prior to contamination.

Long-term arrangements are in place with the City of Albury for access to the Albury Landfill at commercial rates with a five year rolling notification period. This may enable the closure of the Corowa Landfill in the near future, thereby reducing the risk of any type of environmental pollution as has occurred in other council areas.

The current (and future 10 years) kerbside waste collection company is Cleanaway, who are contracted to provide for the collection service of all three household bins until 2034. In Federation, Cleanaway empty up to 12,500 bins weekly, and handle approximately 3,500 tonnes of product annually, of which approximately 2,500 tonnes is deposited into landfill. Separately, the waste transfer stations process approximately 2,000 tonnes annually, with 300 tonnes eventually being deposited into landfill.

Listed on the right is the data for the past four years of MSW collected in Federation from households.

MSW Collected Years 2019-2023



Kerbside household collection audits

Kerbside audits are conducted on a two yearly basis by Cleanaway and occasionally by another provider. EC Sustainable has been contracted for most of the past seven years. These audits include waste, recycling, and organic streams, and are conducted at different times of the year to capture varying data over different seasons. The most recent results for 2023 are tabled below and summarized as follows.

		Council							
Data Indicator	Unit of Measurement	Federation	Council 1	Council 2 *	Council 3	Council 4	Average - all Councils	Average - FOGO Councils	
Generation rate by weight when a bin is presented	Waste	kg/hh/wk	7.09	5.97	15.93	5.00	5.39	7.88	5.86
	Recycling		3.68	3.44	3.62	3.86	3.87	3.69	3.71
	Organics		17.35	12.68	-	14.08	21.89	13.20	16.50
	Total		28.12	22.04	19.55	22.95	31.14	24.77	26.07
Unrecovered resources in the waste bin at the kerbside	Recyclables	kg/hh/wk	1.20	1.19	3.34	0.60	0.77	1.42	0.94
	Compostable	% by weight	16.9	20.0	21.0	12.0	14.3	18.0	16.0
	Total		2.09	1.76	4.06	0.78	0.98	1.93	1.40
Contamination rate	Recycling	kg/hh/wk	0.46	0.67	0.32	0.53	0.51	0.50	0.53
	Organics**	% by weight	12.6	19.5	8.7	13.8	13.1	13.5	14.6
Resource recovery rate	Recycling	% by weight	0.01	0.01	-	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01
	Organics**		0.04	0.04	-	0.09	0.25	0.12	0.11
Diversion rate at the kerbside	Actual	% by weight	72.8	68.7	49.7	82.5	79.4	68.4	75.8
	Potential		89.1	87.5	-	94.0	95.5	86.7	91.8
Eligible CDS containers	Recycling	kg/hh/wk	73.1	69.9	16.9	75.8	80.9	66.1	75.3
	All bins	Count/hh/wk	84.8	83.2	22.9	113.6	86.5	79.6	84.2
	Recycling	kg/hh/wk	0.21	0.20	0.47	0.58	0.47	0.39	0.37
	All bins	Count/hh/wk	3.5	3.4	8.0	9.1	8.0	6.4	6.0
			0.36	0.24	0.74	0.61	0.53	0.50	0.43
			5.8	4.2	12.5	9.9	10.4	8.6	7.6

* Greater Hume does not provide an organics bin collection service.

** Recyclable paper and cardboard was not included as contamination in the organics bins. It is not advertised as accepted but was deemed to be acceptable by Council. The resource recovery figure excludes recyclable paper and cardboard in the organics based on the preference to put recyclable paper and cardboard in the recycling bins.

The long term data (aggregated for the region) over the past 7 years has shown a gradual improvement in most criteria. With the pending expansion of the FOGO system into Urana and all other local townships and also our nearby councils, there is likely to be some peaks and troughs as the system becomes a universal system across south west NSW.

With suited education, our community can attain rates more in line with the regional averages.

The rates of recycling for soft drink and beverage containers are likely to continue to fall in coming years as the impacts of the container deposit legislation drives personal redemption at home and may also tempt more collectors to remove eligible containers from roadsides. From the start of the new collaborative waste contract on July 1, 2024, Council will no longer receive a dividend for the eligible containers collected via the household kerbside recycling pickup. The new contract has detailed that to drive overall recycling costs down, an all-inclusive cost be provided to eliminate change and variation over successive months and years.

The following statistics on the right are all by weight and compared to FOGO councils due to Greater Hume not having FOGO services.

All these indicators, whilst only a point in time, reveal that as a community:

- We place high volumes of materials into the red lidded bin and
- We place a lot of recyclable material into both our refuse bin and organics bin.
- However, we are close to averages in most cases, make very good use of the organics bin, and we have a low contamination rate in our recycling bin.

• Our generation of refuse in Federation is 21% above the average

• Our generation of recyclables is 2.4% below the average

• Our generation of organics is 5.2% above the average

• Unrecovered recyclable resources in the refuse bin is 28% above the average

• Unrecovered compostable resources in the refuse bin is 49% above the average

• Our recycling contamination rate is 13% below the average

• Our organics contamination rate matches the average

• Our recycling recovery rate is 4% below the average

• Our organics recovery rate is 3% below the average

• Our diversion rate at the kerbside is 2.9% below the average

Kerbside bin options

The current default service in Federation (excluding Urana and surrounds and rural isolated areas) is three bins, with various options for larger families, the elderly, those in medium density areas and people with specific medical needs.

The default sizes and frequency are:

- **General refuse - 240 litre, red lidded bin - fortnightly**
- **Recycling - 240 litre, yellow lidded bin - fortnightly; and**
- **Food and garden organics - 240 litre, green lidded bin -weekly**

Council has made available the option of upsizing the recycling bin to 360 litres, which has not been taken up by many households even though our data shows overflowing or 100% full recycling bins being noted by survey, by 45% of respondents. The purpose of this offer is to divert more recyclables from the refuse stream by providing additional storage space, particularly for large families and for those enjoying the festive seasons like Grand Final, Christmas and Easter.

For Urana and surrounding towns and large rural properties that do not have 3 bins, there are skips bins in public areas for collected waste. When the new kerbside contract commences on 1 July 2024, those townships currently without the default 3 bin service, will be upgraded. The rural skips should then be able to be removed.



COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Landfills and Waste Transfer Stations

The Corowa landfill has numerous areas for recycled materials, and all residual waste is buried onsite, but the landfill is nearing the end of its life. There is no heavy-duty compaction occurring as only a rubber tyred loader operates on site. The site has some infrastructure suited for waste transfer station operations should the landfill operations cease for any reason.

There was a number of lodged complaints by a community member regarding the usage of the site. The site is open to the public 2 half days a week. The need to release a contract for a formal landfill closure plan was recognised some years ago, but has not progressed. This matter requires urgent attention as does the need to allocate a suited replacement site in or near Corowa.

We are currently partnering with Albury City to extract and reuse plaster board at no cost to residents or council. It is likely this activity will attract costs in the future and those costs will need to be collected from depositors via an entrance fee. Similarly, Federation Council is also part of trial relating to the collection of soft plastics via the 240 yellow lidded recycling bin. The results of this trial to date indicate good public support from the trial participants and may become available to all. Costs are likely to be borne by Council unless a formal variation to the contract is negotiated and fees to householders being correspondingly increased next year.

The Community Recycling Centre (CRC) is at the council depot and is accessible to the community between 7-30am 4-00pm Monday to Friday.

The Urana landfill also has a CRC, is open one half day a week and has an expected life exceeding 5 decades with current usage. The residual waste is buried onsite, and there is no heavy-duty compaction. The site was used for the burial of some \$80,000 worth of flood material last year. Attendance numbers (and corresponding income) are very low.

The Howlong Landfill site has numerous areas for recycled materials and some products suited for the CRC are extracted. The residual waste is buried onsite, and there is no heavy-duty compaction. The landfill is well sited with good access and has an expected life exceeding 3 decades with current usage patterns.

Council has operated a Waste Transfer Station at Mulwala after obtaining the use of

suited land from Department of Defence via a lease agreement more than a decade ago. Without a long term agreement, there is a risk that the site may become unavailable with insufficient time to develop a new site. There is considerable separation of recycled materials, eg metal, bricks etc and some products suited for the CRC are also extracted. This venue does not have a landfill so all material is transported to Albury Landfill for disposal. There is some compaction to increase the weight of each skip prior to transportation to Albury, as only a backhoe is utilised on an as needs basis. The site is open to the public two half days a week. A contingency plan or other suited site has not been identified, should the site become unavailable.

As Council does not own any landfill heavy machinery, we are subject to cost increases beyond our control. A review of the value of owning some heavy machinery should be re-examined.

The table below clearly indicates that Federation Council has the greatest number of active landfills within the region and also the least number of waste transfer stations.

Council	Active Landfill/s	Waste Transfer Station/s
Greater Hume	2	6
Berrigan	1	1
Albury	1 combined with WTS	1 combined with Landfill
Wodonga	0	1
Indigo	0	2
Wangaratta	1	4
Federation	4	1

Operating landfills places an obligation on Council to rehabilitate the site and conduct environmental monitoring for 30 years post closure.

These waste facilities are currently costly to maintain, have environmental risks and require onsite supervision at the relevant tipping area/s to ensure appropriate recycling, segregation and burial occurs. With likely changes to environmental legislation and as costs, including rehabilitation rise, a reduction in the number of active landfills is strongly supported. This would be an appropriate time to transform or replace those landfill sites with a waste transfer station.

Hard waste kerbside collections

Hard waste kerbside collections involves the placement of unwanted materials outside private homes and on council or public land. They were generally introduced prior to advent of recycling centres and waste transfer stations where waste can be properly and effectively separated and recycled. This practice was adopted by the former Urana shire and is currently under review.

Councils across the state and country have reduced the number of hard waste kerbside collections or ceased the activity altogether as has occurred with most councils within the RAMJO catchment. The rationale for ceasing this activity include:

- It is contrary to the view of personal responsibility of acting in line with the waste hierarchy
 - Does not encourage waste separation or resource recovery at home;
 - Materials collected are unlikely to be re-used, repurposed etc;
 - The cost of the program being borne by all households, not just those using the option;

- WH&S and OHS risks to staff collectors, windblown materials affecting property owners

- Illegal materials being deposited on nature strips– eg chemicals, tyres, syringes, poisons etc

- The unsightly and dangerous conditions, as some members of the public tend to commence storage of hard waste on nature strips well before the actual collection day

- Orphaned materials (often controlled items like mattresses) tending to accumulate into oversized stockpiles

- Ready availability of waste skip services to residents from a number of private contractors

- The delivery of hard waste to the landfill or waste transfer station not being very difficult for the majority of residents

- The movement of private vehicles amongst the collectors is totally uncontrolled.

- Operating reversing large vehicles in close proximity to children and cyclists is extremely unsafe.

- It is only available in certain areas/districts, and

- It is inconvenient if it occurs whilst the owner is away

In some cases, councils have replaced hard waste collections with the provision of free tipping vouchers, whereby the householder self transports the waste to a suited venue. This negates a lot of cost for council and therefore the broader community and reduces the WH&S risks considerably. Illegal substances are then accounted for and the service becomes partly user pays, but will still require some subsidy via general rates.

As part of the harmonisation of the waste service, it is recommended that the current hard waste collection for the northern end of the municipality be discontinued.

Litter

The word “litter” is used to describe both the product, usually waste, deposited in an unacceptable place and also the action of doing so.

The state government recognise the litter problem within the state and have via the WaSM set an ambitious target for 2030, to reduce overall litter by 60%.

Local government is a major player in controlling, cleaning up and preventing litter in public places.

The most effective litter prevention education and behavioural change programs include a mix of approaches across the three critical areas of education, infrastructure and enforcement.

The mix of these elements needs to be adapted to the local conditions and include incentives, communications and evaluation. These are the elements that characterise NSW’s approach to litter prevention

Staff in various teams have been actively pursuing illegal dumping in recent years, when the source of the material is able to be identified.

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping has multiple benefits including the removal of leaves, oils and debris that would otherwise create a slip hazard, pollute local water ways or create blockages and flooding. It also enhances the visual attraction of our streets, parks and footpaths.

Council owns one street sweeper, generally operating Monday to Friday. In the past this vehicle has been sub contracted for a small number of private works and conversely, Council has had to hire in a replacement vehicle from other councils when our own vehicle is being serviced or repaired. Currently sealed streets with a kerb and gutter in the urban areas of Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala are serviced at least annually. The smaller townships in the northern area of the municipality are only serviced on an as needed basis.

Street Litter Bins

Street litter bins are provided for the general public to dispose of personal waste, eg, food containers, wrapping material, sometimes cigarette butts, etc. They are not provided for the use of commercial businesses who are required to employ private waste collectors. In more recent times, the bins are located in surrounds to partly hide them and make the storage area more visually pleasant, particularly if the waste bin is accompanied by a recycling bin as well. They are usually positioned in high profile areas such as shopping areas, parks and reserves, to ensure that area can easily be kept clean.

Council’s 275 public street litter bins are cleared on a regular basis, currently seven days per week. The popular tourist areas in Mulwala, Corowa and Howlong require servicing on weekends, with extra servicing during the summer months. A number of bins are emptied daily such as Sanger Street (x7/w) and Howlong and Mulwala main streets (x3/w).

Public litter bins (including those at sporting grounds) are an important component of litter management infrastructure. To date, the bin surrounds within the municipality do not have a facility for separating waste from recycling materials. Bin lids are also not consistent, as it appears that green, black, red and yellow lids are used for general waste in various locations. Replacing and swapping all lids should become a priority. All and any options for grant funding should be pursued.

Bin surrounds should also be continually upgraded, at times being reliant on successful grant applications. The messages for encouraging recycling away from home are not strong when the street litter bin surrounds have no facility for recycling. This sends inconsistent and inappropriate messages to the community about the importance of separating waste and recycling materials. The lack of dedicated recycling bins in public places and the placement of recycling into the street litter refuse truck also sends a very poor message to the community.

Public place recycling bins have yet to be placed at sporting fields and council parks. The current street bin waste collections are conducted by council staff. Introducing public place recycling bins is supported and again all funding options should be examined.

Event litter management

There is a need for event planners to have a waste management plan including the appropriate disposal of waste and increasing the amount of recycling. Most events now have recycling bins, but more recently, there has been some discussion on also providing a third bin for food and organic materials. Audits indicate the messaging for organic separation away from home isn't well understood.

It is critical that any messaging and educational material is consistent, uniform and easy to understand. Duplicating messaging or worse, contradictory messaging must be avoided, hence the desire throughout the strategy that Federation Council maintain a very strong link with Halve Waste. This negates the need for council to employ a separate waste education/promotion officer, or conduct separate campaigns.

Events provide an opportunity to address waste from further up the waste hierarchy. For example, conditions could be placed on vendors to ensure less packaging and less waste is produced, together with avoiding water bottles by providing fill up stations or bubblers, and other innovative ideas.

The above issues and solutions will be forwarded to Halve Waste for a future regional promotional campaign.



Organics collection and recycling

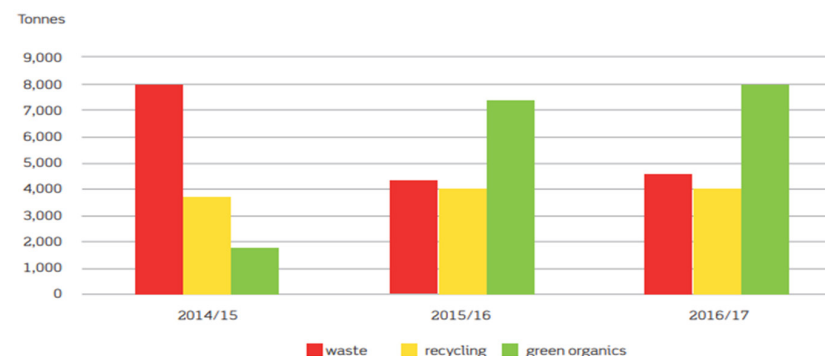
The state government recognises the advantages of removing organic material from the waste stream and have via the WaSM set an ambitious target for 2030, to reduce the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 50%.

The diversion of food organics and green organics from MSW bins is best achieved through separation at the source by providing a third bin for household organics. The current organics contractor conducts a bulk up and pre-sort decontamination at the Albury Waste Management Centre and then transports the clean organic material to various licensed composting facilities.

Staff will work with local waste contractors to pursue the option of collecting organics from commercial businesses. This will greatly reduce the volume of methane production in the landfill and should also provide a cheaper alternative to the business sector.

From the audits completed in 2015 and 2017 by the North East Waste group, (NEWRRG) , approximately 47% of waste generated from a household is organic material. That is now being diverted from landfill. The benefits from introducing the organic waste collection are cost savings from processing, reduction of waste material going into the landfill, reduced greenhouse gas production in the landfill, and the generation of a potentially resalable product; either compost or soil improver.

The proposed extension of the three bin system including FOGO, to as many properties as possible is strongly supported. The ultimate aim is to greatly reduce the volumes of refuse going to landfill and greatly increase the volumes going to organic processing as shown in the example below from a council in the North East group.



Waste Education

Waste education is focused on behavioural change and this common theme has links to all aspects of waste management and the contents of this strategy. Community waste education is currently undertaken through a variety of methods including major media campaigns, followed up by a personal visit to households when necessary.

The current education and behavioural change program focuses on:

- Avoiding, reducing, reusing and recycling waste in the community, schools and businesses;
- Providing programs related to green waste and organics and options for preventing these from entering the waste stream;
- Providing sustainable shopping and consumption programs to reduce food wastage and packaging;
- Improving education relating to council waste services, including kerb-side services, resource recovery facilities and green waste;
- Improving resource recovery for all works and new developments under the control of the council; and,
- Supporting litter prevention and clean-up programs.

As noted above, all promotional and educational waste programs should be conducted by Halve Waste as Federation Council has representation on the committee that arranges the annual plan.



WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN THE FUTURE

There are additional waste issues currently under consideration which may affect waste management options in the region in the future. These are discussed in further detail below and include:

- **Banning all electronic waste from landfills;**
- **Local or regional hub to aggregate products to reduce transportation costs;**
- **Record keeping via weights rather than an estimate;**
- **Worker health and safety issues, sole operator, chemical handling etc;**
- **Upgrade and new services being available at the Albury Waste Management Centre;**
- **Possible closure of landfill/s**
- **Likely need to purchase/allocate land aside for a new waste transfer station**
- **Possible introduction of a waste levy; and,**
- **Waste to energy and/or similar new technology.**

Electronic Waste

The State Government is committed to banning all electronic waste (e-waste) from landfills and is currently exploring the impact of enabling legislation. Most equipment with electronic components are considered as e-waste; typically phones, computers, televisions, (termed in scope) excluding those larger items such as refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines etc. with electronic sensors (termed out of scope). It is hoped the State Government will introduce controls to avoid rogue traders stockpiling the materials, as has occurred with tyres. In the interim, these products will be segregated and separately disposed of.

Regional Hub

The continued development and expansion of services offered at the Albury Waste Management Centre (AWMC) will benefit those nearby smaller councils like Federation and gain more government funding as the regionalisation of services occurs. This will permit the aggregation of waste at one site, prior to product separation, with suited bulk up facilities, prior to ultimate transportation to a suited recycler.

This also provides a solution to a major issue identified in the risk profile for this service that may attract media attention; namely an incident at a landfill (or WTS) that forces a closure.

As the current refuse from the waste transfer station in Federation goes for landfill into AWMC, it is important that close co-operation occurs between both councils as has been the case with the introduction of FOGO. It is also important that the waste transfer station continues to be developed in harmony with activity in Albury, including joint procurement and educational promotions.

Some waste products (that could be recycled) are currently being extracted and then collected from our smaller waste sites. The cost of processing would reduce if aggregated at the one site, such as tyres, polystyrene and some timber. An investigation in the viability of conducting a weekly/monthly “milk run” to all 5 waste sites should be undertaken.

Weights and volumes

It is anticipated that eventually weighing waste products will become either mandatory or necessary for annual reporting for landfills, and also waste transfer stations. A weigh bridge would also provide very accurate billing, thereby greatly reducing the angst displayed by various attendees. A re-design of the site would be necessary as best practice relies on a one-way direction of travelling. With our lesser number of attendees, it may be possible to have the dual use of the weighbridge (entry and exit) to avoid the purchase of two weighbridges per site.

The supply and installation of a weighbridge often exceeds \$100,000 and should be listed in the long term capital budget for future funding should grant opportunities become available, or the need for a weighbridge becomes fully justified. Should a new waste transfer station be constructed, it would be necessary to install weighbridges from the onset. Recent investigations have revealed there are smaller and/or less costly weighbridges available but a detailed costing is required prior to any ordering of equipment.

Worker health and safety

It is anticipated the rules governing worker health and safety, including mental health, will continue to be increased. Working without a partner or crew is becoming uncommon and in certain professions and/or certain tasking, is banned. Accidents do occur and a sole operator is at greatest risk, particularly where heavy machinery and physical outdoor functions are being undertaken. To educate customers at waste facilities, a direct approach is necessary and that places the staff member at risk from an aggrieved customer. Doubling up staff will greatly increase the operational budget at each site, without necessarily increasing productivity. This issue requires continual scrutiny.

State Waste levy

There is a risk to Council should the NSW State Government introduce a waste levy that impacts on Federation Council. The state government introduced a waste levy payable for each tonne of waste deposited to landfill more than 10 years ago. It is currently \$80/tonne. This is collected by the landfill operator on behalf of the government. It makes the relative cost of recycling products more attractive as the levy is not applied to that recyclable material. Some of the levy is returned to councils via a grant scheme aimed at increasing recycling rates.

The state is divided into segments, generally based on the distance from central Sydney and other very large cities. The metropolitan segment pay the levy, where-as the non metropolitan segment does not. This includes Federation and all RAMJO councils. If the levy is expanded to include the Federation LGA, Council would be liable to pay approximately \$200,000 per annum to the State for the 2,500 tonnes deposited into landfill. This cost would be automatically added to household rates that council approves each year and also to the gate fees applied at the landfills and waste transfer station.

The state government is conducting a review of the levy and a final report is due in mid 2024.



Waste to energy

'Waste to energy' is a term commonly used to describe the process of generating energy – such as electricity, heat or fuels – from waste. The State Government is currently not supportive of this technology. There are only a few waste to energy facilities currently in operation in Victoria and Western Australia. Most of these use organic feedstocks to generate energy that they use on site. Benefits of recovering energy from waste include:

- **Net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by reducing methane from waste in landfills;**
- **Reducing carbon dioxide from fossil fuels used in electricity generation;**
- **Broadens our energy mix, with the potential to add a small amount of reliable renewable electricity;**
- **Reduced reliance on landfill, thereby increased public amenity with reduced noise and odour emissions;**
- **Opportunities for economic development in regional areas; and,**
- **Opportunities for regional employment.**

These feed stocks, often include the organic material in green lidded bins or the residual waste in the red lidded bin. These wastes may become a valuable commodity in the future. This feedstock is not available whilst we maintain a rolling five year lead time formal agreement with AlburyCity for the landfilling and/or processing, of these wastes.

"It is unlikely that a waste energy business would locate in the Federation LGA as the Albury Waste Management Centre continues to expand to aggregate and process all manner of wastes and recyclables.

Corporate risk

There are a number of risks particularly salient to waste management in the local government setting such as:

- **Financial risk- Suited funding is required to be set aside each year (and compounded) for future (long term) landfill rehabilitation;**
- **The possibility that the state introduces landfill levies to our region;**
- **Fees to be increased annually to cater for CPI and direct cost increases for processing new or varied waste products, eg all electronic waste, plastic bans, etc;**
- **Fraud by attendees or staff either purposefully or accidentally;**
- **A lack of investment for annual maintenance;**
- **Poor design of facilities, requiring reconfiguration;**
- **Physical risks - staff handling chemical containers or lifting heavy televisions;**

- Aggressive or threatening behaviour by attendees;
- Lease with Department of Defence at Mulwala is not renewed;
- Suited land not being available (in the correct zone) to permit the construction of waste infrastructure, eg a new waste transfer station;
- A fire, explosion or fire hazard onsite, and a
- A flood or fire event resulting in large deposits into the landfill or waste transfer station.

These risks shall be monitored regularly and Council will be made aware if a critical impact or issues arises.



THEMES

Council will continue to work with the community to provide efficient and effective waste services to protect and improve the natural and urban environments in a sustainable manner. This strategy identifies the following four related themes. The specific relevant actions are detailed in the implementation plan attached in Appendix C.

1. Delivering accessible and affordable waste facilities and collection services

Update data collection to assist in delivering services

Develop suited financial modelling for all waste costs and incomes

Reduce costs and emissions associated with waste processing

Ensure all waste infrastructure meets current and future needs

2. Creating civic pride through clean and litter free public places

Reduce the amount of dumped litter, creating a clean, welcoming and safe place

Implement programs to bring all infrastructure to an acceptable and consistent standard

3. Rethinking our 'waste' as resources

Develop a sustainable consumption program to influence the culture of how the community buys and uses products

Cease kerbside hard waste collections and remove communal waste skips

Expand the three bin systems as widely as possible

4. Collaborate and advocate for better waste outcomes

Explore opportunities to receive funding to deliver programs

Explore using incentives and disincentives to encourage rethinking consumption behaviour

Develop and maintain strong links with all partner councils within the region

The 43 actions in the implementation plan were grouped under the above listed broad four themes. Undertaking them in a reasonable timeframe, will raise household recycling rates, reduce the contamination rates and increase the diversion of waste to landfill more in line with the regional averages.

A small number of large actions will require sizable funds, where-as the bulk of actions can be accommodated with the ongoing employment of a dedicated waste officer.

FINANCES

Kerbside collection service

The new ten-year kerbside collection service has been awarded and costs contained. The service fee will generally increase in line with CPI but households receiving an upgraded service will note a larger increase per property for the inclusion of new services. There should be no substantial impact to council's overall budget. The "fixed price" does allow for CPI and fuel costs increases, which may be quite sizeable in the near future.

Councils budget for this first year of the strategy is \$2,794,180 for these collection costs and will be adapted year on year to ensure full costs are recouped via this charge.

Landfill rehabilitation

The closure of landfills is very costly with current estimates for the rehabilitation of all 4 currently operative landfills exceeding \$20million. It is important that the closure of landfills occurs in an orderly manner and that suited alternatives, usually a waste transfer station, be installed if deemed necessary. Due to the high levels of air space (future capacity) and location of the Urana and Howlong landfills, they should remain open if found to be the most economical way forward. A formal policy with suited strategy should be adopted by Council to ensure this liability can be suitably managed over the long term.

Councils budget for this first year of the strategy is \$528,775 for the rehabilitation and maintenance of these assets and will be adapted year on year to ensure reasonable costs are recouped via this charge.

Full details are provided in Appendix D – Revenue Policy 2023-2024 – waste management sections 4 and 5.



Waste transfer station and landfill service charges

The principles of cost recovery and user pay should be applied to the operation of landfills and waste transfer stations. Householders that follow the waste hierarchy, being careful with their purchases, separating recoverable materials etc, should not bear the cost of a waste facility they do not require nor use.

The current fee structure is designed to provide an affordable option to all residents. However, low prices do not necessarily act as a deterrent to poor waste practices, hence the state waste levy was introduced throughout most of the state. The gate fees should exceed the direct costs of immediate processing and disposal and include a component toward rehabilitation of the site in the future. A set percentage should be determined and adopted.

A comparison of fees against nearby councils highlights that the fees in Federation are considered fair and reasonable due to distances that so many products have to be transported, eg general waste from the Mulwala waste transfer station to Albury Landfill etc. A full breakdown is provided in Appendix A.

Landfill operating costs as shown below, reveal that if maintenance is not conducted annually, there will be a repetitive “spike” cycle that will severely affect Council at odd internals. It places Council at greater risk that a reportable EPA incident will occur and such a cycle is also very difficult to manage financially given rate capping restraints.

Year	17-18	18-19	19-20
Corowa Tip	\$ 83,671.77	\$ 101,866.61	\$ 728,213.46
Howlong Tip	\$ 171,296.22	\$ 182,150.66	\$ 349,626.67
Mulwala Transfer Station	\$ 87,223.14	\$ 125,209.35	\$ 156,779.24
Urana Tip	\$ 40,405.42	\$ 32,222.30	\$ 35,945.75
Oaklands Tip	\$ 33,076.17	\$ 30,178.21	\$ 34,277.91
Tip Expenses	\$ 415,672.72	\$ 471,627.13	\$ 1,304,843.03
Hard Waste Collection	\$ 15,959.39	\$ -	\$ 19,465.13
Total Expenses	\$ 431,632.11	\$ 471,627.13	\$ 1,324,308.16
Corowa Tip	-\$ 79,501.16	-\$ 101,549.60	-\$ 83,241.52
Howlong Tip	-\$ 29,110.48	-\$ 58,627.90	-\$ 30,469.19
Mulwala Transfer Station	-\$ 28,599.91	-\$ 21,310.81	-\$ 22,237.27
Urana Tip	-\$ 4,786.38	-\$ 441.81	-\$ 3,093.61
Oaklands Tip	-\$ 3,386.82	-\$ 3,160.92	-\$ 1,409.08
Total Income	-\$ 145,384.75	-\$ 185,091.04	-\$ 140,450.67
Waste Facility Levy	-\$ 354,168.49	-\$ 354,870.00	-\$ 357,255.00
Capital			
Purchase of a closed road within the Howlong Waste Facility	\$ 7,376.45	\$ -	\$ -
Tip Cells at Waste Facilities - Howlong Landfill cell 13,500 CM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
\$ 435,145.48	\$ 300,754.89	\$ 381,337.34	\$ 163,943.12
\$ 172,623.94	\$ 228,687.68	\$ 124,854.51	\$ 129,613.34
\$ 187,343.56	\$ 133,645.54	\$ 128,910.49	\$ 115,548.69
\$ 56,938.65	\$ 2,597.76	\$ 47,754.81	\$ 20,254.12
\$ 33,483.69	\$ 17,896.99	\$ 20,352.80	\$ 18,805.86
\$ 885,535.32	\$ 683,582.86	\$ 703,209.95	\$ 448,165.13
\$ -	\$ 22,141.73	\$ 5,411.26	\$ 19,132.82
\$ 885,535.32	\$ 705,724.59	\$ 708,621.21	\$ 467,297.95
-\$ 107,737.16	-\$ 123,709.36	-\$ 113,387.42	-\$ 61,949.10
-\$ 51,835.91	-\$ 42,672.03	-\$ 63,788.19	-\$ 40,506.48
-\$ 38,195.28	-\$ 36,606.52	-\$ 26,957.14	-\$ 23,679.05
-\$ 1,292.72	-\$ 725.45	-\$ 328.17	-\$ 676.36
-\$ 550.01	-\$ 166.37	-\$ 68.18	-\$ 368.18
-\$ 199,611.08	-\$ 203,879.73	-\$ 204,529.10	-\$ 127,179.17
-\$ 440,177.05	-\$ 523,510.00	-\$ 528,060.00	-\$ 531,310.00
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,909.09	\$ -

* Approximate income based on 6,000 properties paying the \$65 levy.

The table indicates that the operation of landfills (and the WTS) does not fully recover all costs at any time in the past four years.

The above table also indicates that the council applied waste levy needs to increase (and/or gate fees) to ensure that maintenance issues as were addressed in years 2019 and 2020 can be undertaken more regularly, perhaps annually. Some of that revenue (if unspent) could be set aside for future landfill rehabilitation.

The attendance at the three busiest waste facilities is shown below.

Year 2022-2023	Attendees per annum *	Average attendees per week	Average attendees per open half day
Corowa	2571	49	25
Howlong	1818	35	17
Mulwala	1108	21	11
Totals	5497	105	53

The table above indicates that the venues are still well patronised. Analysis of attendance times indicates a good spread of attendees over the 3-4 hour opening time. An out of hours key access arrangement is provided to a select number of businesses but with little direct controls in place. Numbers and volumes are not well recorded. A review of opening hours should occur regularly.

If the Corowa landfill is closed and the existing but unused WTS infrastructure made operative, an extra staff member would be required to ensure suited recovery of recyclable wastes occurs. A personal approach with a focus on education, together with an offer of assistance comes at a cost, but is required to ensure costs of disposal at Albury landfill are minimised.

MEASURES AND TARGETS

Measures

The council reports to the State Government on an annual basis and this data then becomes available for comparison amongst all councils in the waste region, being RAMJO.

Targets

It is important that localised targets be set and then reported on. The following have been selected to encourage a sustained focus on continuous improvement and are tabulated on the following page.

The first five targets have been set at a generalised 1% per year for the next six years, totally 6% overall. The following three targets have been set at a generalised 12% decrease per year over the coming 6 years. All targets have been set to try and match (or better) the averages within the RAMJO group by 2030. The targets were selected as they are already reported to RAMJO annually. Secondary, independent waste audits will also continue to be undertaken every second year to measure progress against the set targets.

Recommendations

The recommendations have been listed with timeframes to permit reasonable attention and focus by the small waste team. These recommendations, all listed in the implementation plan, will be reviewed and reported to Council in an aggregated format annually.



Indicator measurement	Waste type	Measure	Baseline 2022-23	Target 2030	Improvement
Generation rate by weight when a bin is presented	Refuse	Kg/hh/week	7.09	6.66	6% decrease over 6 years
Generation rate by weight when a bin is presented	Recycling	Kg/hh/week	3.68	3.90	6% increase over 6 years
Generation rate by weight when a bin is presented	Organics	Kg/hh/week	17.35	18.39	6% increase over 6 years
Resource recovery rate	Recycling	% by weight	72.8	77.17	6% increase over 6 years
Resource recovery rate	Organics	% by weight	89.1	94.45	6% increase over 6 years
Unrecovered resources in the waste bin at the kerbside	Recyclables	Kg/hh/week	1.20	1.06	12% decrease over 6 years
Unrecovered resources in the waste bin at the kerbside	Organics	Kg/hh/week	2.09	1.84	12% decrease over 6 years
Contamination rate	Recycling	Kg/hh/week	0.46	0.41	12% decrease over 6 years
Contamination rate	Organics	Kg/hh/week	0.01	0.01	12% decrease over 6 years

* Data from annual RAMJO reports

Implementation Plan

This section outlines the proposed actions and outcomes of advancing all waste related works. High priority actions are proposed to be commenced within the next 1-2 years, medium priority in 3-4 years and low priority in 5-6 years. All actions shall be reported on by the Coordinator Waste and Resources, even though some issues will ultimately become the responsibility of others, such as the economic development team for new waste industries, etc.

This implementation plan sets out the actions Council will undertake to implement the 43 recommendations to better support the transition to a circular economy. The plan groups the 43 recommendations into four themes and sets actions, a priority and likely outcome for each action. It aims to strike a balance between circular economy outcomes, protecting the environment and being financially responsible with householders rates.

Whilst the priority sets the expected start times, these are dependent on project priorities and interdependencies. For example, some actions are unable to start until other actions have been started and/or completed.

REVIEWS

Strategy Time frame

This strategy has a six year life as there are a number of state and federal initiatives that have to be met by 2030. The development of a new strategy in six years is strongly supported as is a formal review in three years time.

Yearly Review of Implementation Plan

A yearly review of the implementation plan is recommended as it is important that the actions be agile and adaptable as circumstances in the waste industry and via government legislation, are evolving rapidly. Fees and charges are adjusted annually as part of the usual business budgeting cycle and process.

References and Acknowledgements

The following documents were reviewed and utilised for reference as required. Council acknowledges the use of parts of those documents.



- Regional Resource Recovery Strategy 2022- 2027- RAMJO

- EPA NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041, Stage 1: 2021-2027

- RKC8 – Regional Kerbside Collection Services Joint Request for Tender- July 2023

- Resource Recovery & Waste Management Strategy 2019-2024 indigo Shire

- Waste Management Strategy 2019-2023, City of Wodonga

- Waste Management Strategy SLR June 2023 Albury City Council

- Waste Options Assessment Report – Talis – December 2020

- EC Sustainable (2015) – NE Vic. Region Domestic Kerbside Waste and Recycling Audit 2013

- DELWP (2017) –Garbage Bin Audit NevRwaste (2012) 2012 – 2015

- Turning waste into energy, discussion paper NevRwaste (2008) – 2008



APPENDIX A

Comparative gate fee charges at the Waste Transfer Station and Landfills 2023/2024

Indicator measurement	Federation \$	Albury \$	Wodonga \$	Indigo \$	Greater Hume \$
Household General Waste/m ³	88.00	180.00 per tonne *1 (\$49)	56	51.60	18
Household Green Waste/ m ³	43.80	60 per tonne *2 (\$20)	20	22.15	10
Commercial General Waste/m ³	88.00	180.00 per tonne *3 (\$49)	56	51.6	33
Comingled Construction and demolition/m ³	197.15	180.00 per tonne *4 (\$90)	104	Not accepted	33
Concrete C&D/m ³	65.70	180.00 per tonne *5 (\$90)	24	51.60	81
Mattresses Single	55.30	35.50	30	39.80	28
Mattresses Double	87.60	35.50	34	39.80	33
Tyre Passenger	21.90	7.50	7.00	13.85	8
Tyre Truck	87.60	24	18	42.75	26
Lounge/seat	10.45	20	13	42.95	18

*1: conversion is approx. 0.270m³/tonne - thus approx. \$49 tonne

*2: conversion is approx. 0.33m³/tonne - thus approx. \$20 tonne

*3: conversion is approx. 0.270m³/tonne - thus approx. \$49 tonne

*4: conversion is approx. 0m³/tonne - thus approx. \$90 tonne

*5: conversion is approx. 0m³/tonne - thus approx. \$90 tonne

APPENDIX B










Implementation Plan 2024-2030

Key:

High: 

Medium: 

Low: 

	Action	Outcome	Priority
1.0	Delivering accessible and affordable waste facilities and collection services		
1.1	Determine which system of data capture provides the best information for all council waste decisions	Credible data is provided for good decision making	
1.2	Undertake waste audits annually to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of initiatives and report on targets under this waste strategy	Credible data is provided for good decision making	
1.3	Review and update bin infrastructure and community engagement to meet the needs of residents and visitors	Consistent messaging and practices	
1.4	Encourage builders and developers to source separate wastes onsite	Less litter on sites and less pollution escapes	
1.5	Activate the waste transfer station infrastructure at the Corowa landfill	Educate the community to utilise a transfer station	
1.6	Renegotiate a long term lease for the Mulwala transfer station site	Long term access security	
1.7	Apply for suited funding to progress these various priorities	Reduce costs to the community	
1.8	Develop a financial model that compares all income, waste fees, charges and levies against all costs including landfill rehabilitation and site replacements	Good financial accountability	
1.9	Develop a process and program that ensures all public events have appropriate waste management plans addressing waste avoidance where practicable	Increased recycling options	

1.10	Consider adjusting waste systems for medium and high density housing and commercial businesses	More readily adopted practices by consumers	◆
1.11	Work with commercial businesses to increase diversion of waste from their premises	Long term access security	◆
1.12	Review the viability of the existing landfills to determine which should be closed	Reduced waste to landfill	◆
1.13	Review the viability of the existing landfills to determine which should be closed	Responsible financial accountability	◆
Action		Outcome	Priority
2.0	Explore the development of and implement an incentive program to encourage reduced waste generation behaviour	Decreased waste to landfill	
2.1	Participate in the Keep Australia Beautiful and Clean Up Australia Day programs	Good community involvement Increased awareness of waste issues	◆
2.2	Introduce more public place recycling options, particularly at sports events and sports facilities	Good community involvement Increased awareness of waste issues	◆
2.3	Promote and actively enforce the RID program provided by EPA for councils	Decreased littering and non compliance	◆
2.4	Develop and implement an engagement program with businesses to reduce the oils and litter load entering storm waste and sewer drains	Reduced pollution Protection of council assets	◆
2.5	Monitor illegal dumping and litter hotspots (via CCTV if necessary) and increase infrastructure and/or education in those areas	Reduced pollution and increase public awareness	◆
2.6	Review the existing waste reduction and promotion of waste minimisation programs at festivals and events	Leading by example Reduced cost to operate events	◆
2.7	Implement targeted waste streams for problem materials such as cigarette butts and syringe litter in public open spaces	Decreased littering	◆
2.8	Develop a strategy to ultimately remove all dog bag dispensers in public places and develop a program to encourage all dog owners to carry their own pet waste bag	Cleaner public places Increased responsible pet ownership	◆
2.9	Creating civic pride through clean and litter free public places		◆

Action		Outcome	Priority
3.0	Expand recycling and organic waste collection to as many households as possible	Major reduction in waste going landfill Major reduction in the production of greenhouse gases	
3.1	Cease kerbside hard waste collections	Consistent messaging Changed behaviours adopted	◆
3.2	Attract a “waste to energy/fuel” operator that utilises the feed-stocks generated by the kerbside bin system	Reduced reliance on Albury landfill Future proofing against the introduction of a state based waste levy	◆
3.3	Advocate for a state-wide approach on plastic bag minimisation programs	Consistent messaging with the group and cross border	◆
3.4	Regularly apply for funding from all sources, particularly from the state or federal governments	Reduced capital and/or operational costs for council	◆
3.5	Remain abreast of advances in the waste industry by attendance at relevant conferences	Being prepared for innovative systems Being prepared for legislative change	◆
3.6	Promote council innovation around waste maximisation and recycling	Possible savings realised Clear leadership	◆
3.7	Develop a sustainable consumption program to influence the culture of how the community buys and uses products	Consistent messaging Changed behaviours adopted	◆
3.8	Expand recycling and organic waste collection to as many businesses as possible	Major reduction in waste going landfill Major reduction in the production of greenhouse gases	◆
3.9	Investigate and pilot technology to process food waste from the commercial sector	Reduced volumes of waste to landfill Reduced business cost	◆
3.10	Rethinking our “waste” as a resource		◆
Action		Outcome	Priority
4.0	Collaborate and advocate for better waste outcomes		
4.1	Lobby for a better distribution of the EPA waste levy to small local governments	Reduced costs to the community	◆
4.2	Review the council’s development and construction management plans to ensure waste minimisation and litter management is included	Less pollution on building sites More products reclaimed and recovered and not landfilled	◆
4.3	Increase the amount of materials that are recycled at the waste transfer station and landfills, such as polystyrene, tyre, mattresses etc.	Reduced volumes of materials going into landfill	◆

4.4	Develop one site as an aggregation site for all recoverable materials to reduce transport costs and increase the viability for processors to attend the site	More products recycled Cost for processing per product is decreased	◆
4.5	Provide or allocate land suited for waste facilities with correct buffers	Maximise options for future waste disposal and processing sites	◆
4.6	Select a site for a new waste transfer station to service Corowa households	Prepared for final closure of Corowa landfill	◆
4.7	Strengthen the links between Federation and Albury councils to recognise and support the beneficial waste arrangements currently in place	Consistent and complimentary systems within the region High levels of cooperation occur	◆
4.8	Be an active participant in the planning and future visioning of waste programs for the RAMJO and cross border regional groups	Consistent and complimentary systems within the region High levels of cooperation occur	◆
4.9	Work with local sporting clubs that generate significant waste to improve diversions	Increased recycling Reduced disposal costs to sporting clubs	◆
4.10	Review purchasing practices and procurement methods within council to promote improved waste management outcomes	Decrease waste to landfill Reduced environmental impact	◆



APPENDIX C

Revenue Policy 2023-2024 – waste management

4 - Waste Management

The Local Government ACT 1994 does not allow domestic waste management to be subsidised from the general rate. All costs associated with collection and disposal of domestic waste must be financed from a charge(s) for the purpose:

In accordance with Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council make an annual **Kerbside Waste Charges** (a)(i) and (a)(ii) for the provision of domestic waste management services for each occupied property within the designated waste collection as detailed in the section 5 table to the right, or are located outside the designated area but use the service;

In accordance with Section 496 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council make an annual **Domestic Waste Management Charge** (b) of \$55 per annum for each vacant property within the designated waste collection areas;

In accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council make an annual **Business Kerbside Waste Charges** (c)(i) and (ii) per annum for the waste management services for each property categorised as Business in accordance with Section 493 of the Act and where those properties are located within the designated waste collection;

That in accordance with Section 501 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council make an annual **Rural Waste Management Charge** (d) of \$55 per annum for each property and where those properties are located outside Council’s designated waste collection areas;

5 - Waste Facility/Environmental Levy

Council provides a Waste Facility in Corowa and Howlong, a transfer station in Mulwala and disposal sites with limited access at Oaklands and Urana (including provisions for decommissioning when environmental issues occur). A Waste management strategy is under development and will guide the future of this charge.

The following (section 5 table) charge be levied under Section 501 of the Local Government Act 1993.

Section 4	2022/2023		2023/2024	
(a)(i) All serviced ratepayers Section 496 (user charge) serviced by Cleanaway - 3 bin service	5,422 services x \$400	\$2,168,800	5,478 services x \$425	\$2,328,150
(a)(ii) All serviced ratepayers Section 496 (user charge) serviced by private contractor - single bin service	405 services x \$336	\$136,080	406 services x \$355	\$144,130
(b) All vacant land is serviced areas. Section 496 (user charge)	533 services x \$55	\$29,315	518 services x \$55	\$28,490
(c)(i) Business Kerbside Waste Section 501 serviced by Cleanaway - 3 bin service	442 services x \$430	\$190,060	438 services x \$465	\$203,670
(c)(ii) Business Kerbside Waste Section 501 serviced by private contractor - single service	150 services x \$370	\$55,500	151 services x \$390	\$58,890
(d) Rural Waste Management Charge Section 501	74 services x \$55	\$4,070	70 services x \$55	\$3,850

Section 5	2022/2023		2023/2024	
	Quantity	Amount	Quantity	Amount
All ratepayers	8,102 assessments x \$65	\$526,630	8,135 assessments x \$65	\$528,775



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