



WASTE & LITTER STRATEGY

2016-2040



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	2
INTRODUCTION & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT	3
HOW THIS DOCUMENT WORKS	4
VISION AND OBJECTIVES	4
SHORT & LONG TERM TARGETS	6
WHAT WE HEARD	7
REFUSE DISPOSAL FACILITY	9
RDF STRATEGIC PLAN & VISION 2040	10
WASTE MANAGEMENT TOKENS	10
TRANSFER STATION	11
RESALE SHED & EDUCATION CENTRE	12
ALTERNATIVE WASTE TECHNOLOGY / PRE SORT FACILITY	12
ENVIRONMENTAL DIVIDEND	13
HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION SERVICES	14
BIN INFRASTRUCTURE	15
WASTE & EDUCATION PROGRAMS	16
COMMUNITY	16
CORPORATE SERVICES	17
COUNCIL BUILDINGS & EVENTS	17
SCHOOL/COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS	17
SCHOOLS / KINDERGARTENS/ SPORTING CLUBS	17
LITTER REDUCTION & PREVENTION	18
WATERWAYS & COAST	19
BUILDING SITES	19
ACTIVITY CENTRES	20
ILLEGAL DUMPING	20
ROADSIDE LITTER	20
NATIONAL & STATE LITTER PREVENTION PROGRAMS	22
CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME (CDS)	22
PLASTIC BAG BAN	23



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Along with our population, our waste continues to grow. As modern consumption patterns continue to influence our daily lives, there is a recognition that waste will remain a long term issue for Wyndham and beyond.

The Waste & Litter Strategy provides a long term vision for waste in Wyndham; this Strategy shifts the focus from waste management to resource management by concentrating on topics that will instil waste avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling.

The key purpose of this document is to set and deliver on a new direction for the Wyndham community which concentrates on avoidance, reuse and recycling rather than disposal; and prioritises our areas of influence and responsibility.

A key difference from the previous Waste Management Strategy 2010-2015 is the inclusion of litter as a topic in order to provide the full picture of waste related themes impacting on Wyndham and the community.

The Strategy is made up of a series of long term aspirational targets for 2040 as well as short term targets (updated every four years) providing a pathway to achieving the long term vision.

WHY WE NEED A STRATEGY



64% of the materials generated from households goes to landfill
(36% landfill diversion)



23% of the recycling bins are made up of contamination (items that should not be there)
On average the garbage bin contains 14% recyclable packaging



46% of the garbage bin is food waste which release harmful greenhouse gas emissions when deposited to landfill



Only 15% of collected hard waste is recycled



Council spends over \$2 million on litter abatement measures per year

INTRODUCTION & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

The Waste & Litter Strategy replaces the previous Waste Management Strategy 2010 – 2015 as well as incorporating the Litter Prevention & Reduction Strategy 2014 – 2016 generating a full roadmap for the future direction of Wyndham’s waste and litter services.

The Waste & Litter Strategy provides Wyndham City with a clear direction when it comes to both waste and litter services, programs and general areas of focus in order to divert waste from landfill.

The Strategy documents the current state of play in terms of how Wyndham City is performing when it comes to waste diversion, contamination, service offerings and education as well as providing direction and priorities to achieve our long term aspirational goals by 2040.

The Waste & Litter Strategy has been developed with reference to a number of local, metropolitan and state level policies and plans, illustrated below:

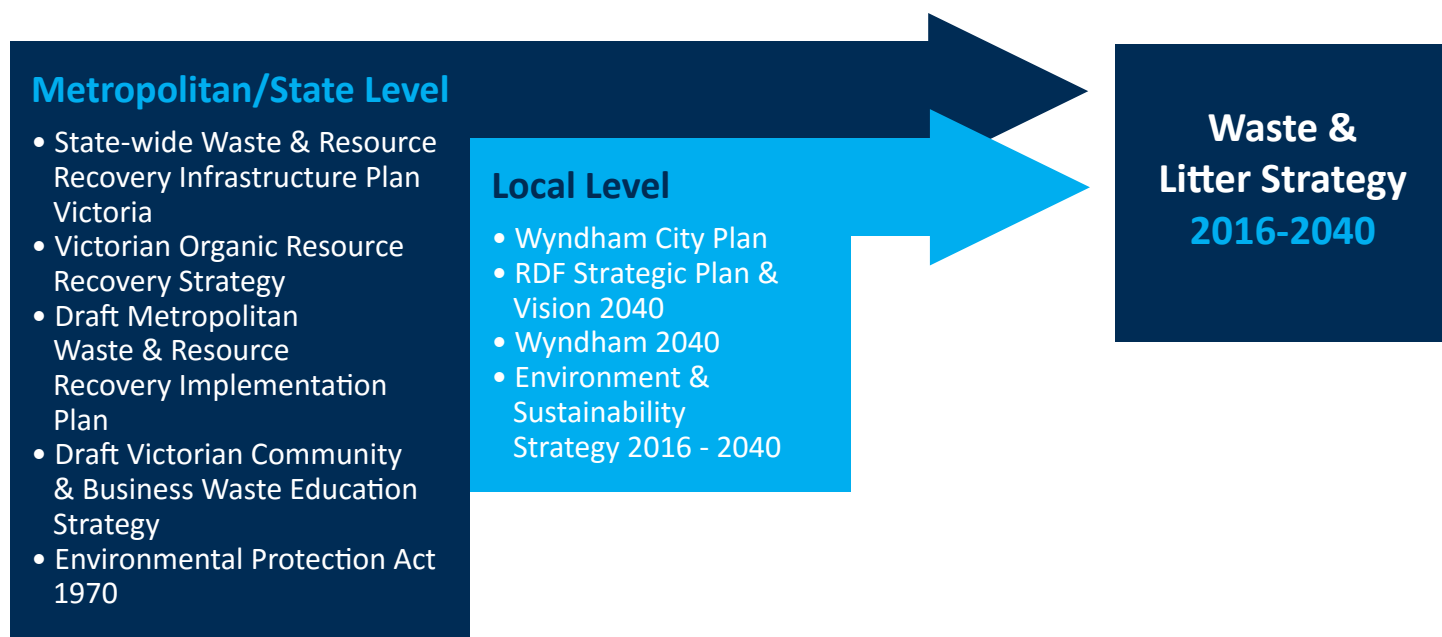


Figure 1. Strategic context of the Waste & Litter Strategy



HOW THIS DOCUMENT WORKS

This document provides a long term vision for resource management in Wyndham through to 2040, outlining the targets and key strategic responses that have been developed based on what the community have told us through the consultation process.

Each Strategic Direction outcome is highlighted in a box and illustrations show how this outcome assists in achieving the overall vision of the Strategy.

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

“To lead and support a community that fosters a positive commitment to the environment by reducing their garbage, eradicating litter and viewing waste as a resource to be recovered, reused and recycled.”

The Strategy has been developed with key objectives that will deliver on the overall vision, these objectives are to:

- Motivate a change of thinking that sees waste as a resource that needs to be recovered, reused or recycled;
- Increase resource recovery and decrease waste to landfill;
- Become leaders in resource recovery and litter management;
- Instil a community culture that won't tolerate litter or illegal dumping; and
- Empower a diverse community with knowledge through waste and litter education programs and services.





Figure 2. Key Strategic Outcomes

SHORT & LONG TERM TARGETS

Topic	2020 Targets	2040 Targets
Refuse Disposal Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly developed and operational Transfer Station Increase in collected recycled materials from the Transfer Station by 15% (from 2015 baseline data) 75% of landfill gas generated at the RDF is captured for renewable energy generation and flaring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly developed and operational Resale Shed & Education Centre established Waste pre-sorting technology and/or other feasible alternative waste treatment technologies maximising resource/energy recovery established at the RDF
Waste and Recycling Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contamination rates in residential recycling bins to be under 15% (average of audited sample) Contamination rates in residential green waste bins to be under 3% (average of audited sample) Uptake of green waste bins to 35% of resident base 25% of Hard Waste Materials to be diverted from landfill Have Australian Standard bin infrastructure (lids & size) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landfill diversion rate of 90% (recyclables, green organics, hard waste and drop off materials) Uptake of Green and/or food waste bins to 95% of resident base Household yield of garbage collected reduced by 50%
Council Operational Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sports buildings will have recycling facilities 30% of Civic Centre organic waste (by weight) diverted from landfill Contamination rates in the comingled, paper and cardboard recycling will be no higher than 5% at Civic Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Council facilities to have a landfill diversion rate of 95% No landfill waste to be generated at major Council events
Litter & Illegal Dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of community litter reports by 25% (from 2015 baseline) Develop baseline on infringements issued against dumping events by 2018 More robust reporting and classification of littering data (e.g. separation of street sweeping, litter bins, dumping, roadside litter figures) Completion of an audit of all gross pollutant traps (GPT's) within the municipality, measuring the design, maintenance and source of litter for each outlet 25% reduction in litter at 15 regularly monitored locations including rural, urban, industrial, developing, waterways and coastal areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incidents of illegal dumping in Wyndham 50% reduction in the total weight of collected litter (per capita) Customer Satisfaction Survey results to demonstrate increased satisfaction and importance around litter and illegal dumping Waterways and beaches to be free from litter Have functioning and well serviced litter abatement systems on all stormwater outlets across the municipality Use of the Local Litter Measurement Tool across all of Council

WHAT WE HEARD

Waste is a topic that impacts all residents; therefore it was vital that engagement was both informative and widespread in order for the Strategy to be representative of the Wyndham community.

Consultation commenced prior to drafting the Strategy with the completion of a Waste Survey late in 2014, this survey posed a number of questions to the community regarding waste services and programs with 197 responses being collected via online promotions and manual surveying at events. A Draft Consultation Paper was then developed in order to generate conversation around a number of topics relating to waste in Wyndham.

A number of internal stakeholders and committees were also consulted, including the RDF Community Reference Group and the Environment & Sustainability Strategy & Policy Development Committee.

The Consultation Paper was then promoted via Council's communication channels (social media, Wyndham news, e-newsletters) and events during the formal Consultation period, late January - early March. The Paper was also sent to key stakeholders such as State Government Departments, local environmental groups, utility companies and community groups such as the 2040 district groups.

107 responses were received through the consultation process; these being a mix of formal and informal responses to the range of questions posed through the Consultation Paper.

The table below provides a summary of the feedback received:



Waste Management (Tip) Tokens

Majority of respondents displayed satisfaction with the current token system (2 tokens per year), with support provided to increase hard waste collections in lieu of the second tip token. Little appetite was received to increase or remove tip tokens.

Submissions highlighted the need to focus on resource recovery rather than landfilling waste, as well as the need for a model that allows equal access to renters & residents who can't access vehicles/trailers.



Transfer Station

Strong support for the redevelopment of the Transfer Station was received, with responses showing increased likelihood to utilise the facility if it was redeveloped and accepted more recyclable materials free of charge.

Feedback also highlighted the need for this target to be accelerated to 2020.



Environmental Dividend

Clear support was received to establish an environmental dividend to utilise a portion of the profits from the Refuse Disposal Facility (landfill) for resource recovery projects



Alternative Waste Technology / Pre Sort Facility

Overwhelming support was received to test the feasibility of establishing alternative waste and pre-sort technology at the RDF. Some concerns were raised around possible odours and environmental impacts of burning waste and the need for extensive research to be completed before any commitments are made.



Bin Infrastructure

Feedback provided on this topic was in favour of changing the lids to be aligned with Australian Standards, with requests calling to accelerate this target to 2020.

Comments outlined that residents shouldn't have to incur extra charges to accommodate this change of infrastructure.

Majority of these respondents were also satisfied with Council's current bin sizes. Limited comments suggesting a downsized waste bin, reduced waste collections or alternatively increasing recycling collection to a weekly service were received.



Green Waste Service

Prior to and throughout the consultation process, Green Waste was a frequently raised topic.

Commentary highlighting issues relating to access and cost of the service, especially for rental properties (landlords not accepting the additional charge) and the need for alternative sized green waste bins to accommodate properties with small backyards.



Litter Management

General support was received on the proposed areas of focus for litter management and education (waterways, activity centres, illegal dumping, roadside litter & building sites).

The need for more ambitious and measurable short term targets was also discussed.



Container Deposit Legislation & Plastic Bag Bans

Responses were commonly in favour of Council advocating for a payback scheme for recyclables, as well as encouraging local businesses to reduce, ban or provide sustainable alternatives to plastic bags.

There was also some commentary against a Container Deposit Scheme, stating that it is a State Government issue and will ultimately inflate the cost of products.



Resale Shed

Support was received to redevelop the Resale Shed, with residents keen to see more items available, particularly items that can be repurposed such as wood and metal.

A number of residents weren't aware of what the Resale Shed was, what was sold & it's operating hours.

Support was also received to establish an Education Centre



Resource Recovery Programs

Overall, residents were supportive of the additional programs and initiatives which have positive resource recovery outcomes.

In particular, respondents want more public place recycling bins, additional recycling stations, ongoing support of subsidised worm farms/compost bins and a Council managed recycling service provided to local schools.

REFUSE DISPOSAL FACILITY

Wyndham owns and operates a large regional landfill on Wests Road, approximately 8km south west of the Werribee Township and 35km south west of the Melbourne central business district, the 223 hectare site has been in operation since 1976 servicing Wyndham City as well as numerous other local government and commercial customers across Melbourne.

The recently released State-wide Waste & Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan has highlighted that in the future, landfills like the RDF will only be for receiving and treating waste streams from which all materials that can be viably recovered have been extracted.

The Refuse Disposal Facility (RDF) site has a Transfer Station, Resale Shed and potential for complementary industry to be established in and around the site.

RDF STRATEGIC PLAN & VISION 2040

The recently adopted Refuse Disposal Facility Strategic Plan & Vision 2040 sets a clear long-term (2040) vision for the RDF site as well as providing a series of themes and actions to be completed over the next couple of years.

The actions and themes outlined in the Strategic Plan are aligned with this Strategy, particularly the theme 'Toward Serious Resource Recovery'. Outlining that for the RDF to become the centre of a resource recovery precinct, there must be a shift toward less landfilling and increased resource recovery.

Vision 2040: “The RDF will become the centre of a precinct focused on resource recovery, with residual waste to landfill. Complementary businesses are co-located and the area is a centre for economic growth and green jobs. The centre plays a key role in environmental education and is acknowledged by the community.”

WASTE MANAGEMENT TOKENS

Wyndham has been operating a waste management token system for a number of years, providing ratepayers two tokens per year enclosed with the July rates notice. The current usage rate of issued tokens is around 30%.

HOW WE’VE LISTENED

To ensure all residents have equal access to services and for the community to view waste as a resource to be recovered, reused and recycled the Strategic response is to gradually phase out the current tip token system through strengthening alternative services such as increasing hard waste collections and providing better recycling options at the Transfer Station. By 2020 all Wyndham residents will receive three bookable hard waste collections, with ratepayers also being entitled to one waste management token per year.

This will allow greater access to renters who make up approximately 25% of Wyndham’s resident base as well as bringing a convenient service to the community’s doorstep through the bookable Hard Waste Collection Service.

By increasing recovery rates for Hard Waste collections, the additional service is a step towards reaching the ultimate goal of 90% diversion from landfill.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Hard Waste Collections to increase to three per year in lieu of 1 tip token by 2020



TRANSFER STATION

Wyndham City's Transfer Station is located on site at the Refuse Disposal Facility on Wests Road. Site users are requested to separate recyclable materials from their vehicles before disposing of waste into the landfill pit.

The majority of the accepted items are at no cost for residents including batteries, motor oil, paint, mobile phones, TVs and computers, polystyrene, commingled recyclables and fluorescent globes. Remaining materials are charged in order to recover costs, including tyres, mattresses, gas bottles and hard plastics.

The current site has logistical issues with traffic flow, order and access to recyclable pits. This has led to redevelopment plans being drafted which would see the layout and traffic flow improved by locating the weighbridge and ticket box after the patron has travelled through the transfer station site, incentivising recycling of materials.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

Our Strategy response based on the support from the community is for the Transfer Station to be redeveloped and operational by 2020, allowing for increased recyclable materials to be recovered in a safe and convenient way.

This response is aligned with the RDF Strategic Plan vision for the site to be a precinct focused on resource recovery.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Newly developed and operational Transfer Station established by 2020



RESALE SHED & EDUCATION CENTRE

Wyndham's Resale Shed is located at the Transfer Station site on Wests Road, the Resale Shed is open during week days and weekends for limited hours and is staffed by Wyndham City RDF operators. The Resale Shed currently stocks items that have been discarded into the landfill pit that have the potential to be reused or repaired.

Aligned to the vision for the RDF site, the aim is for more items to be salvaged, repaired and repurposed in order to reduce waste being sent to landfill. The Resale Shed also has the potential to provide local employment (e.g. Social Enterprise arrangement) and also to promote a reuse culture here in Wyndham.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

By 2040 a newly developed and operational Resale Shed and accompanying Education Centre will be established at the RDF precinct.

By embedding specifications into new Hard Waste Contracts ensuring that reusable materials are delivered to the Resale Shed, as well as extending hours and hosting community and school groups the Resale Shed and Education Centre will become valuable tools for increasing awareness and resource recovery.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Newly developed and operational Resale Shed & Education Centre established



ALTERNATIVE WASTE TECHNOLOGY / PRE SORT FACILITY

It is hard to predict the future of waste treatment in Victoria; however, it is clear that alternatives to landfilling waste have abundant environmental benefits. Alternative Waste Technology (AWT) facilities treat waste that would generally be deposited to landfill. AWT facilities typically treat waste that has not been separated using techniques such as composting and mechanical pre-sorts to recover potentially recyclable materials. This is generally done due to the high financial and environmental costs of landfilling and/or limited airspace available.

Landfill costs in Victoria are still significantly lower than our neighbours in New South Wales and South Australia; however, with landfill levies potentially expected to rise AWT facilities are increasing nationally.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

Based on community feedback, the target relating to Alternative Waste Technology has been amended, separating the pre-sorting technology and AWT ensuring they are not mutually exclusive.

Based on the results of the feasibility study, the long term target is for waste pre-sorting technology and/or other feasible alternative waste treatment technologies maximising resource/energy recovery to be established at the RDF.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Waste pre-sorting technology and/or other feasible alternative waste treatment technologies maximising resource/energy recovery established at the RDF



ENVIRONMENTAL DIVIDEND

The RDF operates at a profit, with the bulk of proceeds currently contributing to Wyndham's capital works program, funding vital infrastructure such as community centres and playgrounds for our community.

The pathway to an improved Transfer Station and alternate waste disposal options are expensive and there is currently no recurrent or seed funding budget available.

With Wyndham City owning and operating the Wests Road RDF; there is potential to establish an environmental dividend that would see a portion of the sites profits being utilised for resource recovery projects.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

In line with the received feedback and Strategic Direction towards resource recovery, an environmental dividend policy will be established determining the percentage of profits and types of environmental initiatives undertaken.

With a number of out of budget expenses associated with the targets in this Strategy, a dividend will help to fund projects such as the redeveloped Transfer Station, establishing Pre-Sorting or Alternative Waste Technologies or standardising bin infrastructure and providing green bins for all households.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Establishment of an environmental dividend, using a portion of the RDF's profits back into resource recovery and other environmental projects



HOUSEHOLD COLLECTION SERVICES



Figure 3 Current Waste Collection Services

- Weekly household garbage service 140lt bin
- Fortnightly household recycling service 240lt bin
- Fortnightly opt in household green waste service 240lt
- 2 Bookable Hard Waste Collections (6m2 per year)
- 2 Waste Management tokens for redemption at the Wests Road Landfill (these tokens are issued with rates notices, so are often not transferred onto rental properties)

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

Wyndham City's Strategic direction is to roll out subsidised green waste bins to all properties; eliminating issues around rental access, increasing resource recovery, reducing contamination and potentially decreasing illegally dumped green waste within the municipality. Sizes will be determined on dwelling size and type.

Based on audit data, the average waste bin in Wyndham contains 46% organic waste which has the potential to be composted, diverting this material from the waste stream is a huge step towards achieving the 90% landfill diversion & 95% uptake of green waste bins by 2040.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Subsidised Green Waste Service to all residents by 2020 by using Environmental Dividend



BIN INFRASTRUCTURE

Currently Wyndham's standard size and bin colours are not in line with the Australian Standards, providing a 140lt garbage bin (yellow lid, green body), 240lt recycling bin (blue lid, green body) and 240lt green organics bin (light green lid, green body) as displayed in table below.

Benchmarking exercises have shown that majority of metropolitan Councils have either a 120lt or smaller 80lt garbage bin; with only three other Council's currently offering 140lt garbage bins as standard. In terms of bin lid colours, Wyndham and only one other Council have yellow lidded garbage bins, creating confusion for visiting and/or new residents and not allowing participation in state-wide education campaigns.

The costs associated with changing over the lids is expensive, the rapid growth experienced in Wyndham also creates the issue that a great number of bins across the municipality are relatively new and the costs are getting increasingly more.

Type of bin	Wyndham City Council	Australian Standard
	Lid Colour	Lid Colour
Garbage	Yellow	Red
Recycling	Blue	Yellow
Green	Green	Green

Figure 4. Wyndham current bin colours vs. Australian Standard

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

In order to meet Australian Standards, utilise state-wide education campaigns and reduce household garbage yields an extensive bin changeover program will commence in line with the new collection Contract.

Environmental dividend potential from recycling contract and/or RDF, or future collection contracts will investigate having a bin changeover, funding will also be sought in order to cover the cost of the changeover.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Australian Standard Bin Lids & Sizes by 2020





120lt general waste 240lt recycling 240lt/120lt green waste 3 x hard waste collections & 1 x waste management token (issued to the ratepayer)

Figure 5. 2020 suite of waste collection services per household

WASTE & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY

Wyndham City offers a range of additional resource recovery initiatives, making recycling both convenient and inexpensive to the community.

These initiatives include, but aren't limited to:

- Recycling Stations - accepting light globes, batteries, CDs/DVDs, printer cartridges and mobile phones
- Public Place Recycling Bins - recently launched in Station Place early in 2016
- Detox your Home Program (mobile) – accepting household chemicals
- Detox your Home Program (permanent) – accepting household batteries, globes and paint
- DrumMuster Program – for safe disposal of crop drums
- Garage Sale Trail – national reuse campaign
- Compost Revolution Program – subsidised worm farms and compost bins

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

We will continue to provide additional waste services and programs which aim to generate increased resource recovery. This will be done by installing additional public place bins, continued participation in the Resource Recovery programs such as Detox your Home & Compost Revolution as well as exploring other campaigns and initiatives which promote reuse & resource recovery.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY



CORPORATE SERVICES

COUNCIL BUILDINGS & EVENTS

Wyndham City operates a range of buildings across the municipality from office spaces, community centres, libraries, recreational facilities and operational sites such as the Refuse Disposal Facility. Due to the diversity and usage of sites, individual waste management systems and contracts are in place.

Wyndham also hosts a number of events including the Children's Week Picnic, Pet Expo and State Rose and Garden Show attracting large numbers of residents and visitors to the municipality. Events currently have a waste and recycling service, however efficiencies can be gained in terms of resource recovery particularly with food waste and use of non-recyclable packaging by stallholders.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

Wyndham City is committed to ensuring that waste generated at Council facilities and events are managed responsibly, ensuring there is appropriate bin infrastructure in place, adequate educational signage is installed and by eliminating non-recyclable food packaging at events.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Council has committed to ensuring that all buildings have a waste service with 95% landfill diversion and for all major events to become landfill free (no waste) by 2040.



SCHOOL/COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Wyndham City provides local schools and community groups access to free educational sessions on topics such as worm farming, composting, recycling and general waste avoidance as well as litter and its effects. In-house Educators are used to provide education sessions ensuring messages are relevant and local to Wyndham and its residents.

In order to reach the target of 90% diversion by 2040, education is the key. Council has committed extra resources in order to increase the amount and reach of education campaigns and programs going forward.

SCHOOLS / KINDERGARTENS/ SPORTING CLUBS

Waste services are currently provided at cost to Council owned and operated kindergarten and sporting facilities, this service is operated the same as a household waste collection with facilities being charged a yearly garbage fee for the service.

Schools have been identified as a gap, with Council not currently offering waste or recycling services to local schools. This has resulted in majority of the local schools either not having any recycling facilities at all or others having a limited cardboard or paper service. With schools having very limited resources, they are often not in a position to fund a commercial waste service which results in majority of the schools within Wyndham only having a general waste service.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

In order to provide access to recycling at both home and school and to establish desired behaviours at a young age; Wyndham City will establish an at cost collection service for schools within the municipality similar to the service currently available to kindergartens and sporting clubs.

Teamed with an extensive waste education and support program, schools will become important avenues for raising awareness of the significance of resource recovery.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Wyndham City recycling service extended to local schools on a 'fee for service' arrangement



LITTER REDUCTION & PREVENTION

Wyndham City spends in excess of \$2 million per year on litter mitigation which includes street sweeping, managing illegal dumping and providing a public place bin service.

Environmental costs of littering include degraded environments, injured wildlife, contamination of land and waterways, potential health hazards to the community, potential resource losses and general unsightliness and perceptions of lessened safety.

Wyndham is taking a multifaceted approach based on best practice litter prevention to achieve project objectives. This method suggests researching and monitoring the problem, working together with the community, explaining the problem through education, providing infrastructure and reinforcing the message through prosecution to achieve project objectives. Underpinning this is Wyndham City's commitment to improve the liveability, public safety and image of the municipality by reducing litter, improving public amenity and environmental policy.

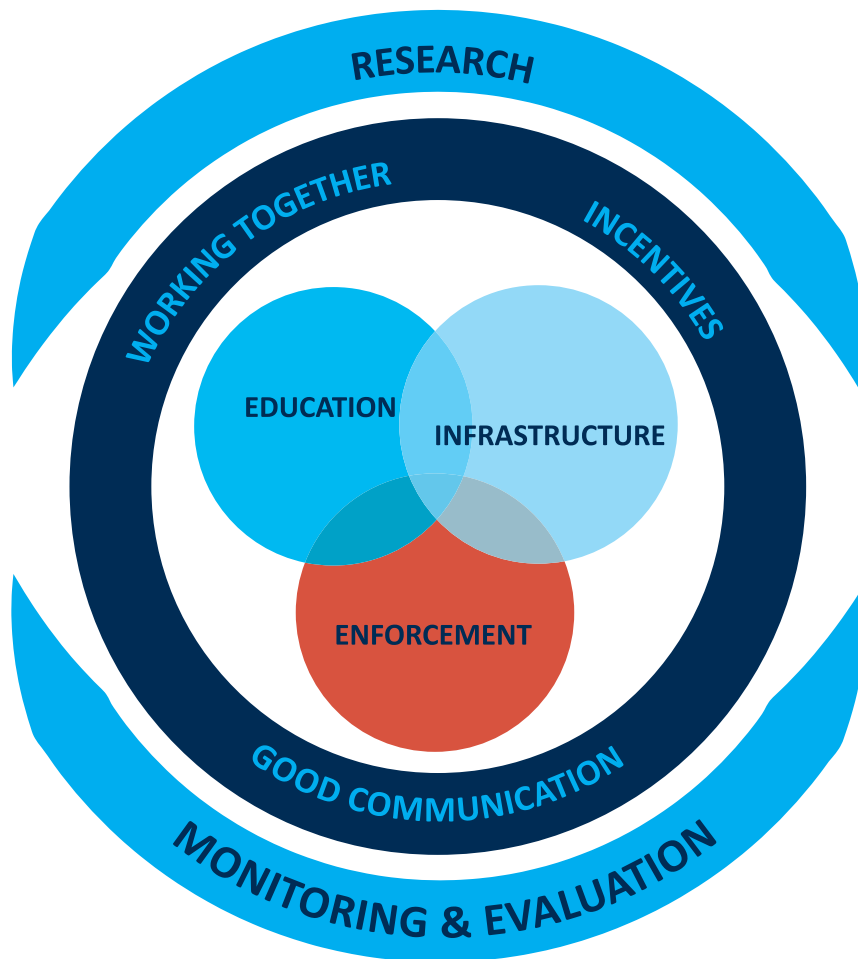


Figure 6. Victorian Litter Action Alliance Litter Framework

The areas of focus for litter and illegal dumping in Wyndham until 2020 are:

- Waterways & Coast
- Building Sites
- Activity Centres
- Illegal Dumping
- Roadside Litter

WATERWAYS & COAST

Wyndham is home to iconic natural systems such as the Werribee River and largely untouched coastline. In order to protect these valuable environmental assets litter needs to be eradicated. A recent report into the health of the Werribee River outlines the need for waterways to be protected and kept free of litter.

BUILDING SITES

Wyndham's rapid growth brings ongoing development. In order to reduce the impacts new estates and building sites have on the environment, litter needs to be well managed.

Council has made some progress in this area by introducing increased surveillance on waffle pod building site litter and having restrictions on the storage of waste on building sites; there is however still more work to be done as our City grows.

ACTIVITY CENTRES

In locations where people come together there is often an increased amount of litter. This includes locations like shopping strips and centres, community centres and sports & recreation facilities. Activity Centres have been identified as an area where litter is a problem; this could be due to a number of factors including a lack of infrastructure, responsibility and education.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping remains a significant issue for Council due to the cost of clearing, environmental impacts and the general unsightliness that dumping creates.

ROADSIDE LITTER

Roadside litter has a significant impact on amenity, health, community wellbeing and the environment as well as being expensive to manage.

Roadside litter can gather in waterways, nature strips and drains resulting in litter entering stormwater outlets, lining our roads or getting caught in trees or fencing. It can also attract wildlife to roadsides causing injuries.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

Litter is a topic that generated a lot of commentary throughout the consultation process; as a result the areas of focus and targets were derived.

Wyndham City is taking a zero tolerance approach, aiming to eradicate illegal dumping and have waterways and beaches free from litter by 2040.

By improving access to bins, raised awareness, successful enforcement, extensive monitoring and improved services such as hard and green waste services and the redevelopment of the Transfer Station residents will have ample options to sustainably dispose of waste removing the need to litter.



NATIONAL & STATE LITTER PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Emerging national and state issues relating to litter are often raised locally; two current issues which this Strategy will address at a local level relate to the push for a statewide Container Deposit Scheme and Plastic Bag Ban.

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME (CDS)

Container deposit schemes are typically determined by State Government legislation which attracts a price on beverage containers such as glass & plastic bottles and aluminium cans. Local Governments cannot enforce or impose a Deposit Scheme; however, they can play a role in advocating to a more central government to implement one.

Container deposit schemes work in a way that sees beverage companies charge consumers a levy on beverage containers, the containers can then be redeemed for a rebate of typically 5 or 10 cents. These schemes have proven to be effective in recycling containers and reducing litter in South Australia, with New South Wales also looking to introduce a version of the scheme in 2017.

A report by Sustainability Victoria in 2012 found the financial impact of a levy would vary significantly between councils. The report stated the introduction of a levy would increase the value of the materials in a kerbside recycling bin by 5% and decrease the volume of materials by 17%.

There is an argument that the introduction of a Scheme will reduce the amount of litter as people will be inclined to 'cash in' their unwanted items rather than litter and pollute our urban and natural systems.

In Victoria, metropolitan Councils typically receive a payment, rebate or discounted waste management contracts depending on the value of the recyclables in their kerbside collections. The report identified Councils that pay for the processing of kerbside recyclables will be better off than those that receive payments.

A recently released Senate Inquiry Report on the threat of marine pollution in Australia has recommended introducing a Container Deposit Scheme nationally by 2020, as well as introducing a national ban on microbeads and single use plastic bags. Currently, the Victorian State government has indicated very little appetite to introduce a CDS.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

Wyndham City will continue to maintain knowledge of legislative changes as well as installing reverse vending machines within the municipality. These machines will allow residents to deposit beverage containers, in turn providing users with a small incentive such as vouchers, competition entries or fundraising options for the local community. The machines will be used in strategic locations such as shopping and aquatic centres. Usage and litter levels will be monitored in order to assess impacts locally as well as helping to develop Wyndham City's stance to the State Government.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Installation of reverse vending machines for the collection of beverage containers as a trial.



PLASTIC BAG BAN

Plastic bags are a growing element of our waste stream, also contributing to litter in particular pollution in local waterways due to their lightweight nature.

Bans have been introduced in South Australia, Canberra and Tasmania on lightweight single use plastic bags in recent years. Follow up reviews have typically seen a decrease in single use bags, but an increase in uptake of thicker 'boutique' bags and bin liners. As mentioned above, a recent Senate Inquiry into marine pollution has generated recommendations to ban single use lightweight plastic bags.

There are positive examples of small towns successfully becoming plastic bag free due to limited supermarkets and retailers; however large cities with a broad variety of outlets are more challenging to target and police.

HOW WE'VE LISTENED

Wyndham City will create a campaign promoting avoidance of single use plastic bags, as well as continuing to work with our recycling processing company SKM to investigate ways to recover and recycle plastic bags.

We will also continue to maintain knowledge of legislation changes.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION TOWARDS 90% RESOURCE RECOVERY

Implementation of a plastic bag avoidance campaign locally

