



Ararat Rural City

Operation of the Waste Reserve Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

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Stakeholder Engagement:
Audit and Risk Committee
Councillors
Chief Executive Officer

1 PURPOSE

This policy establishes the framework for the operation of the waste reserve and the annual financial allocation to the waste reserve.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Ararat Rural City Council ('Council') meets its legislative obligations regarding the raising of waste fees and charges to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet waste service capital infrastructure requirements as documented in Council's 10-year capital works plan.

2 POLICY

The waste reserve is an important funding source for waste related requirements that arise given the dynamic nature of waste management and the changing regulatory framework.

The waste reserve is funded through fees and charges raised for the provision of the waste service.

A budget allocation is made to the waste reserve each year to fund works associated with waste management. These works ensure that Council meets changing and evolving legislative requirements, ensures waste infrastructure is at current best practice and assists in diverting greater volumes of waste from landfill.

Business cases for initiatives/projects will be presented to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration prior to preparation of the annual budget.

The identified initiatives/projects are assessed annually as regulations change or new information becomes available and a projected 10-year capital works plan outlining the expenditure from the waste reserve over the coming years is then presented to Council.

Funds raised through fees and charges and allocated to the waste reserve can only be used for waste capital infrastructure.

When setting waste fees and charges in the annual budget Council must ensure that:

- The full cost of performing waste and resource recovery services are met.
- There are sufficient funds raised annually to ensure an allocation is made to the waste reserve that aligns with the 10-year capital works plan.
- The waste reserve has sufficient funds allocated to deliver the activities identified in the capital works plan for the follow year and must give consideration to the identified requirements of subsequent years.

3 EXCLUSIONS

Funding of non-waste related services and infrastructure.

4 DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Waste	Unwanted household and commercial items such as residual waste, comingled recyclables, and food and garden organics
Waste Fees and Charges	Annual charges levied on each property's rates for waste, recycling and food and garden organics services. Gate fees collected at transfer stations.
10 Year Capital Plan	Outlines infrastructure projects required to deliver the service.
Legislative Obligations	Legislation set by state and federal government agencies related to the delivery of the waste services. These include acts, regulations, policies and guidelines.
Waste Infrastructure	Capital items such as equipment, buildings, civil works for example transfer stations, landfill rehabilitations, bin fleets.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this document, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a Council department or officer and minor updates to legislation which do not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be by resolution of Council.

6 RELATED LEGISLATION

Essential Services Commission
Local Government Act 2020

7 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Waste Resource and Recovery Strategy
Council's Annual Operational and Capital Works Budget
10-Year Capital Works Plan