

Attachment 1 – Submissions and responses to consultation on the draft *Kerbside Resource Recovery Policy*

Submitter 1: Holly Melrose

Issues raised:

I live in Elmhurst and would welcome any form of recycling. More needs to be done with a view to the future where everything should be composted or recycled.

Response to issues:

The Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy seeks to ensure our community moves towards best practice standards for the recycling and recovery of material and minimising the need for landfill. To achieve this with the proposed changes all households will have a waste, recycling and glass bin with urban and village landowners also required to have a compost bin.

The new system, if embraced by the majority of householders will see a reduction in waste being landfilled by individual households of between 35-60%. These estimates are based on outcomes for similar communities in North East and Goulburn Valley that have been running such systems for more than 7 years.

Recommendation: Note comments and confirm Council supports the proposed actions the submitter raises

Submitter 2: Daryl Scherger

Issues raised:

Council should work with Northern Grampians Shire to re-establish a materials recovery facility similar to the facility that processed both municipalities recyclables around 10 years ago. It was operating successfully and provided employment to a number people included some with disabilities.

Processing green and organic waste will produce around 40% of woody material unsuitable for composting. A use needs to be identified for this material and using it to heat a local facility is a practical option. The long term management of general (non recyclable) waste isn't mentioned and it's an issue that needs to be resolved.

Waste to energy is the most practical solution but the planning process to develop such a facility is long and involved and council should begin the process as soon as possible.

Response to issues:

The processing options for recyclables in the longer term is still under investigation. The policy seeks to focus on how the kerbside collection service will operate.

The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy proposes the following actions to advance improved resource recovery:

4.4	<i>Assess the potential feasibility of developing a local MRF (including with/without co-located organics and glass processing capability).</i>
4.5	<i>Work with other councils to explore future regional processing opportunities and consider participating where feasible.</i>

Work is progressing on Action 4.4 with the co-location of the glass facility with the Ararat Transfer Station and development of a local organics solution.

Council has chosen not to participate in the recent regional processing report for the Grampians region since a local focus has been taken.

Waste to Energy capability is limited for the state under the Circular Economy Act and the small volumes of Ararat municipality alone make this not the preferred path forward.

Recommendation: Note comments and advise submitted of the actions Council is pursuing more broadly in this space

Submitter 3: Barkley Vincent

Issues raised:

Why seek feedback if the policy has been adopted. It's not marked draft in anyway and the implementation date was May 31. It's now 6/6. Whaddup with that?

Response to issues:

At the Council meeting on 31 May 2022 the Council resolved to:

That Council adopt the Draft Kerbside Resource Recovery Policy for consultation purposes and review the feedback at the July 2022 Council Meeting.

The absence of a "Draft" watermark is an omission by staff; whilst the adoption date reflects the above meeting the draft policy was presented to and will be updated when comments are considered by Council.

Recommendation: Note comments advise of the error in missing the watermark and the protocol to label documents

Submitter 4: Sue & Col Macaffer

Issues raised:

This is fantastic, well done council!

Response to issues:

No response needed.

Recommendation: Note comments and thank for their input

Submitter 5: Dee-Ann Kelly

Issues raised:

I would like to see composting for business in rural areas - restaurants, accommodation and any business that has food waste.

Will the compost be available for community gardens and encourage local food production to improve and secure local food resources.

Response to issues:

The requirement for registered food businesses to use the organics service has been adopted by several Councils in Victoria with success. This approach relies on the ability to offer multiple collections during peak periods over summer. The final collection design for the new service is still in progress.

The policy allows for these businesses to be included but does not mandate it at this time.

Recommendation: Note comments and advise will revisit expanding to include food businesses 12 months after service commences due the broad range of changes already being undertaken and the need to consult with food businesses for effective inclusion.

Submitter 6: Mike Russell

Issues raised:

1. will we be able to source compost from Council?
2. what is the cost of the new bins and
3. Can we opt out?

Response to issues:

1. Yet to be determined if compost will be available for sale for the producer. Council is proposing to provide the material to a third party to make the compost so it will be their decision rather than Council's on the availability of domestic quantities
2. The new bins cost between \$23-29, dependent on the size of the bin
3. The policy and associated costings are based on all residents having the 3 bins (waste, recycling and glass) and all lots under 5ha having these bins plus the organics collection.

Opt-in will only be available for those on land over 5ha in area or businesses where service requests can be accommodated. Offering a broad suite of choice adds to the costs and complexity of providing the service

Recommendation: Note comments and advise answers to questions

Submitter 7: David Harris

Issues raised:

Are all small towns classified as rural eg Pomonal? A lot of residents have chickens or recycling therefore an organic bin is not required.

This policy does not address the excessive use of council owned small town public waste bins that being used for domestic waste by visitors and residents who don't have their own bin service. On long weekends these bins are often overflowing and then pollute the surrounding environment. This issue has been raised with council but has fallen on deaf ears. Council needs to review bin locations and provide new secure enclosures.

Also, council needs to carry out a thorough audit of residents who don't have their own bins.

How does this service impact upon the operation of small-town waste transfer stations? No details are provided? Can this be communicated?

An annual free tip voucher used to be provided for hard waste. This was withdrawn and converted to green waste. Other councils provide this as a basic service, why did Ararat withdraw the service?

Small town halls need secure bin enclosures that are provided by council. The council needs to step up and take responsibility for council owned facilities, the current arrangements are dysfunctional and reflects poorly on the council. This issue also applies to facilities for visitors eg picnic tables and BBQ's.

Response to issues:

The small towns and villages, including Pomonal would be classified as being in the urban four bin system unless the resident's landholding is over 5ha. Whilst it is recognised that chickens and other livestock on lifestyle parcels can reduce the amount in bins, they do not consume all the same materials that the Organics service can handle and many garden cuttings and some food stuff may be toxic to them.

The purpose of the policy is to define the kerbside collection service so there is only limited information for public waste bins, other than recognising the need to increase the provision of recycling bins in public places so good habits to separate materials at home can be undertaken when people are out and about.

The changes to the service to bring the kerbside collection in-house allows Council to integrate and improve services on weekends and high visitation time/places. The form of these changes is yet to be resolved as there is a significant amount of work in planning for the new services to households.

The provision of new bins will create an audit of the services and ensure that all are participating and paying their share.

The operation of the transfer stations is not impacted by these changes directly. More broadly Council is reviewing the environmental performance and management of closed landfill sites and the operation of transfer stations. This will be the subject of further work after the commencement of kerbside services.

The provision of the voucher for green waste was implemented to support site tidy up in readiness for fire season given many parts of the municipal area are prone to this risk. The removal of a voucher or hard waste service is consistent with state policy to see this part of the household responsibility for waste generation and management.

Council will be refreshing the many barbeques and picnic spaces over the next 18 months. The provision of secure bin spaces at Council halls is not an issue current staff have been advised of before but is a conversation that can be arranged.

Recommendation: Note comments and advise answers to questions.



Ararat Rural City

Kerbside Resource Recovery Policy

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Category Type: Policy
Type: Council

Responsible Officer: Waste Services Coordinator

Last Review Date: N/A
Date Approved: 31 May 2022
Next Review Date: May 2026

Revision No: New

Stakeholder Engagement:
Councillors
Chief Executive Officer
Community

POLICY OBJECTIVE

This policy details the waste management services provided at the kerbside by Council to residents, businesses and other groups in the community.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable waste management is a vital part of economic and community development. The Council plays an essential role in assisting the community to minimise waste, increase resource recovery and find alternatives to landfill disposal.

The Council helps residents achieve this by offering a waste management service to all residential properties and an option for commercial and industrial to take up the service provided by Council. With this service, Council will provide waste minimisation education.

The Council establishes this policy in accordance with its powers under the Local Government Act 2020.

URBAN AND RURAL WASTE SERVICE PROVISION

The Council provides a simple residential and rural service to collect waste, recycling, glass and organics. The prices are structured to reflect the service cost to the Council and are to encourage residents to reduce waste to landfill.

The provision of waste and recycling services to properties has changed. All properties located on land less than five hectares have been provided with a mandatory organic collection as part of the residential service.

Within this area, the waste collection service operates thus:

- Red Waste/Refuse bin collected weekly.
- Yellow Recycling and Green Organic bins will be collected on alternate fortnights.
- Purple Glass bin collected monthly

In rural areas, a green organics bin is not automatically assigned as larger lots often can dispose of organic waste in compost heaps or as stock food. An organics service can be provided on an 'opt in' basis.

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

Persons or corporations operating a business or industry may 'opt in' in writing for the levied waste management collection.

Business and commercial properties may be able to access services to suit them; this may include the provision of multiple collections during the service program, additional services or cancellation of services. These additional services will be charged in accordance with the Council's fees and charges on a full cost recovery basis, where the Council can facilitate the request.

Any business that does not take up a waste management service with the Council is recommended to source a private collection.

WASTE SERVICE

Mobile bins are provided by and remain the property of the Council. Bins must be left at the property they are issued to when a sale or change of tenancy occurs. The Council will replace bins that have been lost or stolen on request, and repairs will be made to damaged bins.



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The Council provides a mandatory waste collection service to all properties with houses located within the municipality. Rural pick-ups may be allocated to a central drop-off point in areas where access and distance travelled are not viable for providing service.

Additional services are available upon request and attract an additional fee depending on the chosen size, frequency, and service. Currently, available waste service choices are:

Residential

Waste – Weekly (Red)	Recycling – Fortnightly (Yellow)	Organics – Fortnightly (Green)	Glass – Monthly (Purple)
140 litre	240 litre	240 litre	80 litre

Rural >5ha

Waste – Weekly (Red)	Recycling – Fortnightly (Yellow)	Glass – Monthly (Purple)
140 litre	240 litre	80 litre

ADDITIONAL BIN SERVICES

To encourage households and businesses to maximise waste diversion from landfills, additional services can be purchased, including:

- Extra Bins – all streams collected with a cost based on the adopted fees and charges
- Additional Collections – all streams where the additional bins will not place an undue load on the collection system.

All charges will be made on a full cost recovery basis.

A restriction shall be placed on the number of weekly collections allowed to avoid strain on the system in terms of OHS and vehicle movements.

ROUTE EXTENSIONS

The Waste Services Coordinator may extend the defined service area after considering viability, access and safety of movement for the waste collection vehicle and other road users. If these criteria are met, an extension to the waste collection route will only be considered where the road is on the Council's Register of Public Roads where a vehicle can safely turn around. Council will not access private roads for the delivery of this service.

Where the owner of a rural property wishes to receive an organics collection service, the property owner can arrange to place their bin at their collection point for the other three service streams.

It may be possible for Council to offer the collection to ratepayers in other adjoining municipalities in proximity to the border with Ararat Rural City. Requests will be investigated on a case by case basis, with the same requirements as a route extension. Service charges will be invoiced as a sundry debtor by Council.

NEW WASTE SERVICES

A new service may be applied for at any time. Application forms are available from the Customer Service Centre or on the Council's webpage. New dwelling applications are required to include a certificate of occupancy.

Once an application has been received, it is recorded and assigned to the Waste Services Coordinator. It will be processed to supply and deliver new bins and then forwarded to the rates team for inclusion in the Council's rates system. New service bins will be delivered to the property within five business days of the receipt of the application.

CANCELLING SERVICES

Existing property waste services can only be cancelled if the dwelling is uninhabitable. Cancellation will be made on a case by case basis, with relevant evidence provided to the Waste Service Coordinator.

TENANTED PROPERTIES

Only the property owner or agent can change the bin options for the property where there is an additional cost involved.

Tenants who require additional bins must provide written confirmation from the property owner or real estate agents.

VACANT LAND

Waste services are not provided to vacant blocks and do not attract a waste management charge.

MISSED COLLECTION

If the collection service genuinely misses a bin, the bin will be collected that day if the resident informs Council before 2:00 pm. If a resident calls after 2:00 pm, the missed service will be collected on the next collection day.

Bins must be presented kerbside/roadside by 6:00 am on the scheduled collection day. However, bins should be put out for collection the night before to reduce missed collection.

CONTAMINATION

If a bin is found to hold contaminated or inappropriate material, an educative and enforcement process will commence, escalating as follows:

1. First Instance - The bin will be stickered to inform the resident that the incorrect material was placed in the bin.
2. Second Instance – Council will send a letter to the property owner informing them that the bin was again presented for collection with contamination evident.
3. Third Instance – The bin will be removed from the property's next cycle.
4. Fourth/Final Instance – The bin will be removed from the property and not replaced until the resident complies with the requirements to use the bin correctly. Should the bin be removed from the property in this instance, the waste management charges will continue to apply to the property.

All costs associated with the removal and reinstatement of the bin after contamination will be forwarded to the property owner.

Council does not wish to take the steps outlined in instances three and four. The contamination of each collection service brings financial penalties to the Council and the broader community. The Council's staff will support households, schools and community groups to change behaviours to use the bins correctly.

Any misuse of any bin may result in the Council utilising the neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2021 provisions and issuing a fine.

OTHER GROUPS

Higher Density Developments

High-density developments such as nursing homes, retirement villages and multi-unit complexes will be required to 'Opt In' to the waste collection services. Special consideration may be given to a reduced service due to their population density and demonstration of waste generation.



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Schools/Kindergartens/Child Care/Non-Rateable Properties

Schools, kindergartens, child care centres and non-rateable properties will be required to 'Opt In' to the waste collection services, as with commercial and industrial properties.

EDUCATION

Schools, kindergartens and child care centres are encouraged to educate students on appropriate waste behaviours by implementing recycling and organics recycling within the class or care room and demonstrating this philosophy across the premises.

The Council can also assist with providing education material and arranging tours of various facilities to support the educational program, and requests should be directed to the Waste Services Coordinator.

PROPERTIES AND RESERVES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL

The Council will provide one bin service to each property at no charge.

COUNCIL APPOINTED COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT

The Council will provide one bin service to each property at the scheduled charge.

CHARITIES

Charities that maintain charity bins on private property are responsible for any illegal dumping. The Council will not approve public land for the location of charity bins due to criminal dumping issues.

PUBLIC PLACE RECYCLING

The Council encourages residents and visitors to practice their home recycling habits when out in the community. The Council provides street litter bins and progressively installs recycling bins in high traffic areas to support them.

EVENTS

Special Event Bins

Special events bins may be hired from the Council by request as part of the Events Application Form. The hire rate will be set annually as part of the fees and charges. Council staff will work with event organisers around the appropriate number of bins required and the correct placement of bins.

Recycling Trailer

The Council has an events recycling trailer available free of charge to encourage recycling at events. Booking the trailer for events makes up part of the Events Application Form. The applicant is responsible for the security of the trailer. They must take reasonable steps to minimise the likelihood of damage or theft of the trailer and its contents. Waste disposal charges will apply if the bins are contaminated on return.

ASSISTANCE FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

On written direction from the CEO, waste disposal fees may be waived in the event of a natural disaster. Council staff will record the value of the fee waivers associated with the event, and this will be reported to Council and other authorities as required.

Separation of materials will be required to reduce waste to landfills and maximise resource recovery for processing.