

ITEM 10 POST EXHIBITION - DRAFT WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY STRATEGY 2034

On 24 June, Council endorsed the draft Wollongong Waste + Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 for public exhibition. The draft strategy was exhibited from 25 June – 23 July 2024 and drew a total 188 responses from the community. Minor amendments are proposed to the draft strategy based upon the feedback received from the community.

The draft strategy has been prepared to build on the previous Strategy 2014 – 2022 to guide the management of Council's waste related services for the next 10 years.

This report proposes adoption of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 to guide the way Wollongong manages its waste into the future.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council notes the proposed amendments to the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy following review of the submissions received as part of the Community engagement process.
- 2 The Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 be adopted.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Paul Tracey, Manager Open Space + Environmental Services

Authorised by: Joanne Page, Director Infrastructure + Works

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Engagement report
- 2 Summary of submissions received
- 3 Summary of proposed amendments
- 4 Amended Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034

BACKGROUND

The provision of waste services for the community is a significant function and responsibility for Wollongong City Council with more than 88,000 properties receiving:

- Weekly Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and mixed waste (landfill) services,
- Fortnightly comingled recycling service,
- Enhanced services including:
 - on-call bulk household kerbside collections,
 - garden organics and cardboard drop offs at selected times throughout the year.

Council's Public Place waste collection services more than 1,300 public place bins, street cleaning and city presentation. In addition, Council operates the Wollongong Waste + Resource Recovery Park – Whytes Gully, which provides a landfill facility for domestic and commercial waste, public drop-off transfer station, and a community recycling centre.

Our waste + resource recovery services are important and valued by our community, with the 2023 Wollongong City Council Community Satisfaction Survey indicating:

- 88% of our community are satisfied with the current Domestic Waste service.
- 84% of our community are satisfied with current recycling and FOGO services.
- 67% of our community are satisfied with the current Public Place bin services.

On 24 June, Council considered the draft Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 developed to provide clear direction towards sustainable waste and resource management for the City of Wollongong into the future, which has been developed based on four key goals:

- 1 Reduce Waste to Landfill – '*Landfill is a last resort for waste*'
- 2 Transition to a Circular Economy – '*A circular economy provides the best use of resources*'

- 3 Reduce our Waste Related Emissions – ‘When it comes to emissions less is best’
- 4 Improve our Waste Management – ‘*Getting waste management right is key*’

The draft strategy also recognises the important role of ongoing waste education and engagement which underpins the success of all four goals and will continue to evolve through the life of the strategy to ensure broad reach and higher rates of engagement within the community.

The draft Strategy also aims to build on the achievements of the former strategy which include:

- The commencement of a fully functional FOGO collection service and weekly green bin collection
- Construction and opening of a Community Recycling Centre at Whytes Gully
- Landfill gas capture and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at Whytes Gully
- Improved on-call kerbside collection service
- A sustainable waste policy for public and special events
- Community recycling stations installed in Council Libraries
- Improved waste education and access to waste information
- Improved environmental performance at Whytes Gully particularly air, water, and odour.

The draft Strategy recognises that several actions listed in the previous strategy will continue to remain a focus in the new strategy including:

- Update of the waste chapter of our Development Control Plan (DCP)
- The rehabilitation of the former Helensburgh waste facility
- A plan for emergency waste management
- Investigating and implementing pricing incentives for separated materials
- Continued improvements into illegal dumping
- Implementation of a public place recycling solution.

PROPOSAL

The public exhibition of the draft Wollongong Waste + Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 resulted in 188 responses (See Attachment 2 - Summary of Submissions) during the community engagement period, and these responses are collated into the following themes:

What respondents liked:

- Thinking about waste management in the future for the region
- Reducing waste going to landfill
- Exploring solutions for soft plastics recycling
- Expanding recycling solutions
- Increasing education
- Address illegal dumping
- Targeting polystyrene
- Increasing FOGO uptake
- Investigating a North Illawarra waste disposal option
- Transitioning to a circular economy, particularly with the idea of repair/circular economy hubs.

What respondents didn't like:

- Moving to a fortnightly red-lid bin service without prior consultation or ability to opt-in
- Current recycling solutions – domestic collection, public recycling bin availability, accessibility to Whytes Gully as the only tip option
- Increasing costs
- Lack of soft plastic recycling or polystyrene solution in region
- Continued increase of waste (eg. packaging, commercial waste, textiles) ending up in waste stream and going to landfill.
- Community engagement approach to build Draft Strategy.

Things to consider:

- Future consultation on red-lid bin changes so there are not adverse negative consequences/risks for households that are unable to move to a fortnightly service (large families, children in nappies etc.)
- More effective recycling solutions for domestic services (eg. weekly recycling service).
- Increase treatment / recycling options for problem waste eg. textiles, glass, e-waste, nappies bulky items for kerbside collection
- Education that is tailored to what community wants and needs
- Reducing illegal dumping and enforcement of illegal dumping
- Future possibility of energy generation from waste
- Expanding engagement strategy for community on the topic of waste
- Evaluating costs of landfilling in a cost of living crisis
- Incentivising effective waste management in the community

Media focus and the Red Bin collection service

During the exhibition period, local media focussed on the draft action to investigate an 'opt-in' fortnightly red bin collection service. Much of the feedback received on this proposed action was a perception that the change would occur without choice or consultation, rather that the opt-in approach proposed in the strategy which aimed to provide an opportunity for people to reduce red bin collection services if they choose to do so.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy was exhibited for 28 days from 25 June to 23 July 2024 across the following engagement platforms:

- Our Wollongong website:
 - An online survey was used to capture participants' comments.
 - An online Q&A forum was provided for participants to ask questions about the draft plans.
- Face to face conversations:
 - Drop-in information session at the Wollongong Library on 4 July 2024
 - Waste Education pop-up stall at Wollongong Friday Markets on 19 July 2024
 - Aboriginal engagement
- Social media posts
- Email
- Hard copy surveys
- Sustainability newsletter
- Council e-newsletter
- Phone calls
- Letters

A total 188 responses were received from the community including a combination of local residents, local resident forums, experts in waste, businesses in the waste industry, previous participants, commercial businesses, and members of the Aboriginal community. Feedback received has informed the amendments made to the strategy.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This strategy contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2032 Goal 1 – We value and protect our environment. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan 2032		Delivery Program 2022-2026
Strategy		Service
1.4	Work together to achieve a net zero carbon emissions and reduce waste going to landfill	Waste Management

RISK MANAGEMENT

Waste + Resource Recovery services generally carry a higher level of risk with complex and significant environmental, economic, social, operational, and reputational risks.

The strategy aims to provide a clear and transparent direction for the way Council provides its waste services, to ensure risk are mitigated into the future.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Actions within the draft strategy will be delivered as part of Council's core waste business, and through Council's annual review of its Fees and Charges including the Domestic Waste Charge.

Council will continue to seek grant funding opportunities for specific waste improvement actions within the Strategy that may accelerate proposed timing for completion.

Any actions that are not funded operationally will be considered against other community needs for the allocation of resources as part of Council's annual Delivery Program and Operational Plan process.

CONCLUSION

The draft Wollongong Waste + Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 provides the community with clear direction on Council's waste service overall.

The report proposes adoption of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 to guide the way Wollongong manages its waste into the future.



OUR WOLLONGONG JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034

July 2024

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Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy - Engagement Report July 2024

The information in this report is based on data collected from community members who chose to be involved in engagement activities and therefore should not be considered representative.

This report is intended to provide a high-level analysis of the most prominent themes and issues. While it's not possible to include all the details of feedback we received, feedback that was relevant to the project has been provided to technical experts for review and consideration.

The analysis of engagement results was assisted by the use of AI technology using de-identified data. All data had been reviewed and de-identified by staff before being input into AI.

Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy - Engagement Report July 2024

Executive Summary

Following the Council meeting on Monday 24 June, the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy was put on exhibition from 25 June – 23 July 2024.

Engagement heard from almost 200 voices - a combination of local residents, experts in waste, businesses in the waste industry, previous participants, commercial businesses, Aboriginal community and more.

The themes that emerged from the exhibition period have been summarised as:

What people liked

- Thinking about waste management in the future for the region
- Reducing waste going to landfill
- Exploring solutions for soft plastics recycling
- Expanding recycling solutions
- Increasing education
- Address illegal dumping
- Targeting polystyrene
- Increasing FOGO uptake
- Investigating a North Illawarra waste disposal option
- Transitioning to a circular economy, particularly with the idea of repair/circular economy hubs.

What people didn't like

- Moving for a fortnightly red-lid bin service without prior consultation or ability to opt-in
- Current recycling solutions – domestic collection, public recycling bin availability, accessibility to Whytes Gully as only tip option
- Increasing costs
- Lack of soft plastic recycling or polystyrene solution in region
- Continued increase of waste (eg. packaging, commercial waste, textiles) ending up in waste stream and going to landfill.
- Community engagement approach to build Draft Strategy.

Things to consider

- Future consultation on red-lid bin changes so there are not adverse negative consequences/risks for households unable to move to fortnightly service (large families, children in nappies etc.)
- More effective recycling solutions for domestic services (eg. weekly recycling service).
- Increase recycling options for problem waste eg. nappies, textiles, glass, e-waste, bulky items for kerbside collection
- Education that is tailored to what community wants and needs
- Reducing and enforcement on illegal dumping
- Future possibility of energy generation from waste
- Expanding engagement strategy for community on the topic of waste
- Evaluating costs of landfilling in a cost of living crisis
- Incentivising effective waste management in the community
- Creating a summarised version of the draft strategy for improved readability.

Council will consider all the feedback over the exhibition period and make adjustments as necessary to the draft before the final Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034 is put before Council for adoption.

Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy - Engagement Report July 2024

Background

The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034 sets a clear direction towards sustainable waste and resource management for the City of Wollongong moving into the future.

The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034 has been built using feedback from experts in the waste space, but also feedback from the everyday residents in our community.

In early May, Council opened up a conversation with the community called Talking Waste for 2024-2034. Feedback was gathered from over 130 people through in-person conversations, workshops and surveys with the Aboriginal community, Neighbourhood Forums, Resident Action Groups, waste and circular economy leaders, and our broader community who represented Wollongong's diverse population.

An internal team have been working to design this strategic document. Many areas of Council are involved with the development of this Draft Strategy so that it is feasible and achievable. People from the teams in Waste, Environment, Communications, Procurement, Open Spaces, Customer Service and Engagement have been consulted throughout this project.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders identified prior to the start of the engagement period included:



Methods

Communication Methods

Methods	Details of Methods
Our Wollongong website	The project webpage hosted background information and supporting documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online survey Frequently Asked Questions Question and Answer Tool
Email to key stakeholders	An email was sent to key stakeholders identified through an analysis.
Register of Interest	2 144 people registered on the Our Wollongong website with an interest in 'Environment' received an email newsletter on the project
Media release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 July 2024 - Draft strategy sees big ideas tackle waste woes 4 July 2024 - Council statement: Red-lid bin service and our draft waste strategy

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Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook 2 July We need your help to chart our ten-year path... Facebook 4 July - Fact check! Red lid bin waste service update
Sustainability Newsletter	2 700 people received the Sustainability Newsletter with information on the project on Monday 20 May.
Council e-Newsletter	3 379 people received the Council e-newsletter on Friday 5 July
Wollongong City Council Libraries	Background information, an FAQ and hard copy survey were made available at all 7 libraries.

External Media

Information about the Draft Strategy featured in the following media avenues:

Media	Date	Message
ABC Illawarra	3 July	Interview with Gordon Bradbury and statement by Councillor Anne Martin - Illawarra Breakfast - ABC listen News Headline Social Media – Facebook Post "What do you think of a fortnightly red bin service?"
	5 July	Interview with Councillor Cath Blakey - Illawarra Breakfast - ABC listen
	17 July	Interview with Councillor John Dorahy - Illawarra Breakfast - ABC listen
Illawarra Mercury	2 July	Article - Fortnightly red-lid bin collection put on agenda for Wollongong Facebook Post – "Is fortnightly collection something people want?"
		Instagram Post - "Reduced re-lid bin collection put on agenda by Wollongong council"
	4 July	Social Media - Facebook Post "Council unable to say how many people wanted the change"
	5 July	Article - Wollongong red-lid bin collection fortnightly would be unpopular

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	10 July	<p>Letter to editor (Credit: Illawarra Mercury)</p> <h3>Listen to residents on red-lid bin collection</h3> <p>I READ in the <i>Mercury</i>, with great interest, that the Wollongong City Council are considering changing our red garbage bin pick-up system.</p> <p>Reducing our pickup system to every other week is of great concern to my family.</p> <p>We are a family of eight persons and we need the large bin which we fill each week.</p> <p>We also pay \$847.20 for this service.</p> <p>Is the council going to reduce our garbage costs so as I can invest in another bin?</p> <p>If this service starts I can see many more people will just dump garbage all over Wollongong road side, playing fields, beach reserves etc.</p> <p>This looks like it is the last good bye our Lord Mayor has for us in Wollongong.</p> <p>Suggestion: Ask for residents comments. I thought council was elected by rate payers so we need to have a say.</p> <p>Place some big skip bins in local areas for residents to dump excess garbage.</p> <p>Landfill will not get smaller. In our case, packaging is the killer. With eight in our family we would have half a garbage of packaging to dispose of.</p> <p>Council could introduce more kerb side pickups. Every eight weeks would be a great help.</p> <p>Come on, council, talk to the residents.</p> <p>John Quinn, Fairy Meadow</p>
Mirage News	4 July	Article - Wollongong Unveils Red-Lid Bin Service, Draft Waste Plan
Radio station i98	4 July	Headline
	5 July	Headline
Radio station 96.5 Wave FM	3 July	Headline
	4 July	Headline
	5 July	Headline
Region Illawarra	12 July	Article - Wollongong Council is talking rubbish and residents shouldn't waste a chance to comment
Southern Highland News	2 July	Article - Fortnightly red-lid bin collection put on agenda for Wollongong
The National Tribune	4 July	Article - Red-lid bin service and our draft waste strategy – Wollongong
The Bulli and Clifton Times	4 July	Article - Draft strategy proposes big ideas to tackle city's mounting waste woes
Waste Management Review	2 July	Article - Wollongong draft waste strategy eyes innovative solutions
WIN News Illawarra	4 July	News Story

Engagement Methods

Feedback was collected through the following means:

- Our Wollongong website
 - An online survey was used to capture participants' comments.
 - An online Q&A forum was provided for participants to ask questions about the draft plans.

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- Face to face conversations
 - Community drop-in session @ Wollongong Library Theatrette 4 July 2024
 - Waste Education Pop-up stall @ Wollongong Friday Markets 19 July 2024
 - Aboriginal Engagement
- Email
- Hard Copy Surveys
- Phone calls
- Letters

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Participation

Recorded Participation

This section provides details on the participation in engagement activities and feedback received during the exhibition period.

Engagement Activities	Participation
Phone Calls	1
Emails	5
Submission on behalf of group	2
Letter	1
Face to face conversations	20
Online Participation via Our Wollongong	159
Total	188

Statistics from Our Wollongong

Engagement Activities	Participation
Viewed the page	1.55k
Read the Frequently Asked Questions	147
Downloaded the Draft Document	641
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aware – Total number of people who viewed the project webpage. 	1.2k
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed – Total number of people who clicked a hyperlink, e.g. to download the draft plans. 	755
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged – Total number of people who actively contributed to the project, e.g. by submitting comments via the survey or posting a question to the Q&A. 	159

Feedback

Our Wollongong - Survey Results

There were 159 individual responses to the online survey via Our Wollongong.

Not every question was compulsory, therefore responses to each question vary.

Feedback that came through via 5 emails, 1 phone call and 1 letter was also fit into the survey questions where most appropriate. The combined total of responses analysed within this section of the report is 166.

Question 1: What did you like about the Draft Waste Strategy?

142 people outlined what they liked about the draft strategy. It has been summarised below:

Future Planning

People were most appreciative of the future planning Council was undertaking in the waste management space. Many people stated they were grateful for Council managing waste in a sustainable and considered way to reduce negative impacts on the environment. One commenter – “I liked the idea that the Council is planning to follow a strategy to improve waste management.”

It was clear that the community agrees with the priority of reducing waste in the community and landfill for the future. Many respondents outlined that what they liked most about the strategy was its goal to “reduce waste”. Some people linked the opt-in red bin collection service action as an effective way to reduce waste. One person said “I support action 1.3.3 to incentivise a smaller red bin... e.g. give a discount for a fortnightly service or a smaller bin.” Another said the “idea of fortnightly collection of red bins is a good one to reduce the cost of collection and encourage reduction of waste to landfill.”

Several people outlined that were glad to see actions that Council was setting to deliver on, and believe Council was “on the right track”. Some people believe the goals, priorities and actions were achievable and well thought out – “The plan sets clear and reasonable goals, with a reasonable range of strategies to meet them.” Someone else said “I like that multiple avenues are being investigated and not just household rubbish collection.”

Those supportive of the draft strategy supported Council exploring new technologies in the waste stream. A comment included “I particularly liked the idea of expanding gas capture at Whytes Gully for use in electricity generation. Great idea”.

Target areas within the strategy

Many people chose to comment on specific target areas they were happy to see Council actioning over the next ten years. These topics included:

- Exploring solutions for soft plastics recycling
- Expanding recycling
- Increasing education
- Address illegal dumping
- Targeting polystyrene
- Increasing FOGO uptake
- Investigating a North Illawarra waste disposal option
- Transitioning to a circular economy, particularly with the idea of repair hubs.

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Readability of Plan

Some people chose to comment on the readability of the actual strategy, including aesthetics and interpretation. People appreciated the:

- Four goals
- Colour scheme
- Graphics and imagery, particularly the graphic that shows bin contents from data within the 2023 audit.
- Easy reading style
- Well covered and considered information.

Did not support

Several people stated they did not like the plan. Their correlating responses to later questions centred around Council moving towards a fortnightly service as a definite and immediate move by Council. Their feedback has been included as a response to Question 2.

Question 2: What didn't you like about the waste strategy?

There were 151 responses to the question asking what people did not like about the draft strategy. What people were not supportive of has been summarised in the themes below.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Initiatives

- Current frequency of yellow bin collection - Domestic recycling should be changed to weekly as recycling bins are often full at the end of the fortnight. This was highlighted particularly around if red-lid bin collection changed to fortnightly.
- Current inability to recycle materials like soft plastics and polystyrene.
- Lack of financial incentives to encourage proper waste disposal and recycling.
- Lack of regulation and incentives for businesses to reduce waste and increase recycling efforts.
- Council needs to put pressure to reduce waste at the source, including packaging reduction and encouraging businesses to minimise waste.
- Lack of commitment in the strategy to prioritise recycled products in procurement processes.
- Current recycling centres are not user friendly and are inaccessible - more convenient locations are needed for recycling drop-offs to encourage participation.

Community Consultation and Representation

- Dissatisfaction with the consultation process, arguing that 130 participants are not representative of a region with 220,000 people.
- Concerns that only voices supporting fortnightly red bin collection were included, suggesting a biased consultation.

Illegal Dumping and Enforcement

- Lack of effective strategies to combat illegal dumping.
- Council should impose fines and offering rewards for reporting illegal dumpers.
- The current waste system is inaccessible and costly to dispose of large items which increases illegal dumping.

Education and Communication

- Relying solely on education will not be effective in changing behaviours, particularly for illegal dumping.
- Document is too lengthy and complex – a summary one-page documents to convey key points would be more effective.

Specific Program and Policy Suggestions

- Clearer information on pilot programs and specific strategies to be implemented is needed
- Commit and adopt new technologies for waste management, including mechanical heat treatment processes and circular economy initiatives.

Fortnightly red-lid bin collection

Related to the question asking what people did not like about the draft strategy, 95 of 151 commented on the proposed changes to the red-bin collection changing to fortnightly.

Much of the feedback on the red bin changing to fortnightly was that the change would occur without choice or consultation, rather than an "opt-in" as outlined in the draft strategy. There were spikes of feedback given via the Our Wollongong survey that aligned with external media outlets running stories on the draft strategy being on exhibition.

The feedback has been summarised below into key concerns raised by respondents:

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Overflowing bins

Many respondents, especially those with children, large households, or multi-unit dwellings outlined they already struggle with full bins on a weekly basis. Extending the collection period to fortnightly would exacerbate this issue. This feedback included people saying whilst they still used FOGO and recycled, they were still having issues with overflowing bins, along with people who did not use FOGO at all.

Hygiene concerns

Concerns about unpleasant odours, pest infestations, and health hazards, particularly in warm weather, due to waste such as nappies and sanitary products sitting for two weeks.

Illegal Dumping

Fears that less frequent collection will lead to increased illegal dumping and improper waste disposal, which would defeat the purpose of reducing waste to landfill.

Bin Size and Costs

The need for larger bins to accommodate two weeks' worth of waste, which may incur additional costs, and requests for rate reductions if service frequency is reduced. This is also a problem for renters, who do not have input into the size of their provided bin.

Equity Concerns

Recognition that waste generation varies significantly between households, making a one-size-fits-all approach impractical and unfair. This is of particular concern during a cost of living crisis where families cannot afford to increase their bin size to account for a fortnight's worth of waste.

Scepticism

Doubts about the Council's motives, suspecting cost-cutting under the appearance of environmental concern.

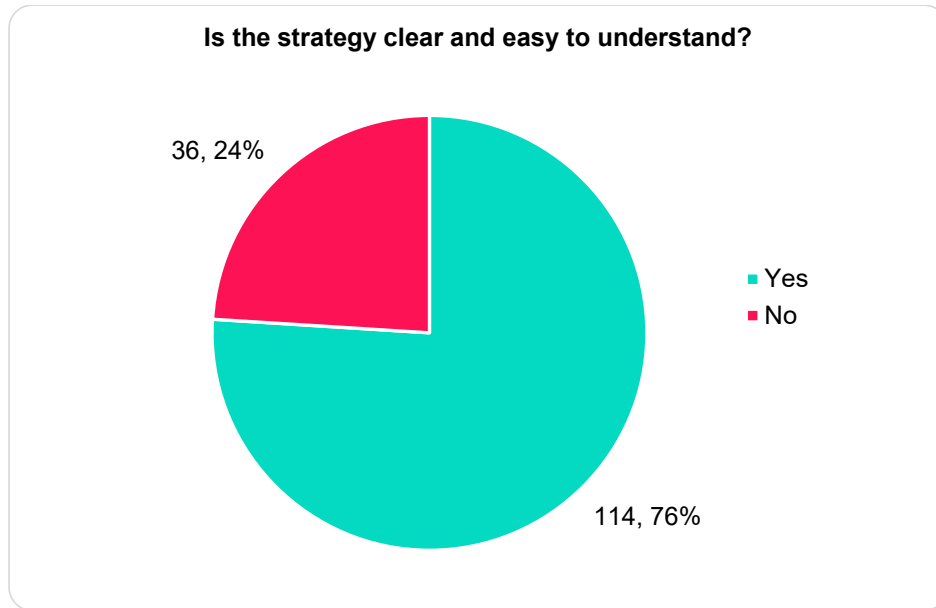
There were some people who gave more mixed commentary on the fortnightly red bin changing. The mixed sentiment has been summarised in the following points that Council will need to consider:

- If red-lid bin collections were reduced to fortnightly, rates should be reduced.
- If changing to fortnightly, Council should increase the bin size to the largest 240L without any additional charge.
- If Council pursues a solution to soft plastics recycling, then some people feel they would be more equipped to reduce their service to fortnightly.
- Future consultation (eg. survey, information packs) should occur so Council understands individual household's experience of their waste collection, and ensure the community feels prepared if moving to fortnightly red-lid bin collections.

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Question 3: Is the strategy clear and easy to understand?

Respondents were asked if they found the draft strategy easy to follow and understand it's contents. This feedback will be used to improve the readability of the document before it is put forward for adoption. The response was:



People who selected 'no' were offered an opportunity to express why they did not find the draft strategy clear and easy to understand. Their feedback has been summarised as:

- Simplify the language and use plain English, avoiding jargon and buzzwords.
- Make the strategy easy to understand with direct actions and clear explanations.
- Provide summaries and straightforward, concise information.
- Increase transparency about the reasoning behind decisions.
- Use simple, clear infographics instead of lengthy, wordy documents.
- Ensure community consultation is evident in the strategy.
- Include practical solutions that consider all household scenarios.
- Clearly state that weekly red bin collection will not be reduced to fortnightly.
- Distribute information through letterbox drops.
- Offer specific details on costs and changes impacting ratepayers.
- Make it accessible for the less educated and elderly.
- Consider separate waste management needs for units and large families.

Question 4: If you have anything else you would like to share, tell us here:

Respondents were offered an opportunity to provide any additional feedback relate to waste. 86 people chose to add additional comments which has been themed below:

Red Bin Collection:

- As in 'Question 2', many again voiced their opposition to a reduction in the red bin collection to fortnightly. The sentiment was similar as what was captured in question 2, with the desire to keep it weekly due to various concerns like increased in illegal dumping, overflowing bins, and hygiene concerns.
- A few respondents stated they felt prepared to "opt-in" to a fortnightly collection, particularly if the change was incentivised.

Recycling services

- A weekly recycling service was wanted as many bins are full by the fortnight. If Council moves to a fortnightly red-lid bin collection, some people said there will likely increase in contamination of the materials in the yellow bin when bins overflow.
- Respondents were encouraged with Council investigating a resource centre in the northern suburbs as Whytes Gully can be inaccessible.
- Many are interested in Council investigating recycling of soft plastics and reducing their presence in the waste stream.
- People wanted additional recycling solutions for textiles, glass, electronics (eg. TVs), nappies and polystyrene.
- Some wanted more frequent recycling collections and kerbside pickups for bulky items.
- There was some interest in energy generation from waste and local breakdown facilities.

Education

- Respondents suggested creating clear, simple educational materials, such as videos, to guide proper recycling practices.
- Engaging schools and youth in waste management education was also recommended to foster long-term sustainable habits.

Consultation and Representation Concerns:

- Several comments criticised the consultation process, suggesting that the sample size was too small and not representative of the broader community's views.
- People wanted more extensive and inclusive community consultation to ensure that diverse perspectives are considered in the final strategy.

Community Education and Engagement:

- Importance of educating the community, particularly youth, about waste management.
- Suggestions for using volunteers and key community members to promote recycling and FOGO.

Infrastructure and Accessibility:

- Need for more recycling centres and facilities, particularly in the northern suburbs.
- Concerns about high tipping fees leading to increased illegal dumping.
- Suggestions for making bins with lockable lids to prevent overflow and littering.

Other Points to Consider:

- Requests for a more straightforward, user-friendly approach in council communications and documents.
- Suggestions to focus on reducing the production of waste at the source, such as packaging and fast fashion.
- Consideration for special needs groups, such as those with medical waste or large households.

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- Calls for improved enforcement against illegal dumping and littering.
- Interest in exploring more innovative waste management solutions, such as bar-coded bins and small electric vehicles for collection.

Submissions

There were submissions received from the following groups:

- Neighbourhood Forum 5
- Circular Plastics Illawarra

The submissions were sent to the project owner in full and was analysed as part of the engagement process.

Face to face Engagements

Several conversations occurred that were face to face about the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034. These included:

- Community drop-in session was held on 4 July at Wollongong Library Theatre.
- Pop-up waste information stand on 19 July at Wollongong Mall
- Aboriginal Engagement

The broader community face to face sessions served more as an opportunity for questions about the draft document. Many of the conversations were giving clarity on the “opt-in” fortnightly red-lid bin proposal, as many people had seen in external media that Council was permanently moving to a fortnightly service. Other questions centred around waste management in the home (eg. what bin does this go in?).

Aboriginal Engagement

Conversations with the Aboriginal community took place across both Phase 1 and Phase 2 on the topic of waste. The conversations were of an informal structure and involved a broader discussion on waste.

Phase 1 feedback centred around prioritising and incorporating Aboriginal values like Caring for Country into everything Council does related to waste. It was about treading lightly on our current environment and land, and being resourceful and innovative with our approach.

During Phase 2, the Aboriginal community was informed of how their feedback had been incorporated into the draft strategy. Some additional areas for Council to consider before the final adoption of the strategy were:

- Council should consider outreach waste services for the Aboriginal Community. Do community waste days/weeks where a skip bin or recycling bin is taken out to places like Coomaditchie or Warrawong Housing complex and give the community an opportunity to drop waste as they probably don't have cars to get to tip. May need to partner with Department of Housing. Could Council look into other Aboriginal communities?
- Consider reduced fees for communities of lower socio economic status
- Recycling hubs like Dunmore, Shellharbour are exciting and effective

Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy - Engagement Report July 2024

Social Media

Council posted to Facebook on 4 July to clear up misunderstanding in the community of Council moving towards a fortnightly red-lid bin service with the adoption of the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

Social media commentary is not considered a submission, however, has been included to capture the feelings towards moving to a fortnightly red-lid bin service.

The sentiment of the Facebook comments is mixed, with a notable lean towards negativity. A summarised breakdown of the sentiment is as follows:

Negative commentary:

- Illegal Dumping Concerns
Multiple comments express worries that reducing bin collection frequency will lead to more illegal dumping.
- Lack of trust
Some comments express a lack of trust in the council's motives and decisions, mentioning it being a "cash-grab". Comments suggest that reducing collection frequency is a cost-cutting measure disguised as an environmental effort.
- Health and Hygiene Issues
Concerns about maggots, bad smells, and issues with nappies indicate worries about hygiene with less frequent collections.

Positive commentary:

- Personal Adaptations
Some users have adapted well to using the green and yellow bins, finding their red bin is less full and supporting the proposed changes.

Mixed commentary:

- Seeking Clarification
Comments asking for explanations or suggesting alternative solutions like "Energy from Waste plants" show a willingness to discuss and understand the changes.
- Conditional Support
Some comments support the changes if certain conditions are met, such as reduced rates or maintaining current service levels for larger households.

Concluding engagement on waste

From May – July 2024, a conversation on waste was held in two phases.

- Phase 1: Building our future Waste Strategy “Talking Waste for 2024-2034”
- Phase 2: Exhibiting our Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034

Over the two phases of engagement, we heard directly from over 300 people on the topic of waste. We invited everyone in the local government area with an interest in waste to join the conversation. We provided opportunities for a range of voices to be heard through conversations, workshops, drop-in sessions, pop-up events, surveys and social media. This was a conversation that heard from our community’s diverse voices, including our local residents, community representative groups, Aboriginal community, local businesses and waste and circular economy leaders.

Phase 1: “Talking Waste for 2024-2034”

The engagement period was from 2 May – 20 May 2024.

Engagement heard from 130 voices – a combination of local residents, experts in waste, businesses in the waste industry, Aboriginal community members and internal staff.

The themes that emerged from engagement with the community under each of the five focus areas have been summarised as:

Goal 1: Reduce Waste to Landfill

- Support for reuse initiatives like libraries of things and repair cafes.
- Improving recycling programs for various materials.
- Support for reuse initiatives like “libraries of things” that store repaired and reusable items, and repair cafes.
- Reducing single-use plastics through local regulations.
- Enhancing waste collection and segregation with incentives.
- Strong focus on community education and engagement.

Goal 2: Transition to a Circular Economy

- Encouraging mindful shopping and reducing waste.
- Promoting recycling, repair, and repurposing at individual and organisational levels.
- Legislative support for sustainable practices and circular economy policies.

Goal 3: Reduce Waste Related Emissions

- Collaboration with other councils and governments.
- Community education on waste management.
- Infrastructure improvements for sorting and recycling.
- Transitioning to electric or hybrid waste collection vehicles.

Goal 4: Improve Waste Management

- Continuous education and community engagement.
- Reducing and recycling soft plastics.
- Expanding waste reduction initiatives, especially FOGO in multi-dwelling units.
- Improving infrastructure at Whytes Gully.
- Advocating for plastic reduction legislation and ensuring accountability.

Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy - Engagement Report July 2024

Improving Education and Communication

- Enhanced communication through real estate, strata, and revamped Council website.
- Interactive learning via sustainability festivals, community events, and workshops.
- School involvement in waste management education.
- Mobilising community volunteers and consistent messaging to reinforce recycling rules.
- Providing clear, accessible information and incentives to encourage proper waste management.

Aboriginal Engagement

Multiple conversations were had with members of the local Aboriginal Community on the topic of waste. Some of the topics discussed included caring for Country, considering impact, education, reuse of existing assets and partnering with other Councils on initiatives.

Phase 2: “Exhibiting our Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034”

The exhibition period was from 25 June – 23 July 2024.

Engagement heard from almost 200 voices - a combination of local residents, experts in waste, businesses in the waste industry, previous participants, commercial businesses, Aboriginal community and more.

The themes that emerged from the exhibition period have been summarised as:

What people liked

- Thinking about waste management in the future for the region
- Reducing waste going to landfill
- Exploring solutions for soft plastics recycling
- Expanding recycling solutions
- Increasing education
- Address illegal dumping
- Targeting polystyrene
- Increasing FOGO uptake
- Investigating a North Illawarra waste disposal option
- Transitioning to a circular economy, particularly with the idea of repair/circular economy hubs.

What people didn't like

- Moving for a fortnightly red-lid bin service without prior consultation or ability to opt-in
- Current recycling solutions – domestic collection, public recycling bin availability, accessibility to Whytes Gully as only tip option
- Increasing costs
- Lack of soft plastic recycling or polystyrene solution in region
- Continued increase of waste (eg. packaging, commercial waste, textiles) ending up in waste stream and going to landfill.
- Community engagement approach to build Draft Strategy.

Things to consider

- Future consultation on red-lid bin changes so there are not adverse negative consequences/risks for households unable to move to fortnightly service (large families, children in nappies etc.)
- More effective recycling solutions for domestic services (eg. weekly recycling service).
- Increase recycling options for problem waste eg. nappies, textiles, glass, e-waste, bulky items for kerbside collection

Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy - Engagement Report July 2024

- Education that is tailored to what community wants and needs
- Reducing and enforcement on illegal dumping
- Future possibility of energy generation from waste
- Expanding engagement strategy for community on the topic of waste
- Evaluating costs of landfilling in a cost of living crisis
- Incentivising effective waste management in the community

Next Steps

Council will consider all the feedback over the exhibition period and make adjustments as necessary to the draft before the final Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034 is put before Council for adoption.

Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024 - 2034 - SUBMISSIONS AND RESPONSES

Item	Theme	Submission/s Summary	Response	Proposed Action/s
1	Red bin collections	<p>A large percentage of submissions received from the community were in relation to the proposed action of investigating a fortnightly red bin collection (action 3.4.2). This action has been misinterpreted by members of the community via various media coverages, e.g social media and the Illawarra Mercury.</p> <p>Most submissions received regarding this action were against the idea of moving to a fortnightly collection of the red bin, however there were several submissions that supported the action.</p>	<p>As this document is a 10 year strategy, it has considered many options to reduce waste to landfill, as well as decreasing waste related emissions. The investigation of a fortnightly red bin collection is just one proposed action to address these issues.</p> <p>Our proposed response is to amend action 3.4.2 to include consideration of the community's needs and expectations, but to continue to investigate methods of reducing waste to landfill, including the piloting of a fortnightly landfill collection.</p> <p>Note - the piloting of a fortnightly landfill collection is an action within Council's Climate Change and Mitigation Plan</p>	<p>Amendment of page 19 'Some key things the community told us' to include feedback received during public exhibition and reflect that a large percentage of submissions were against the idea of moving to a fortnightly collection of the red bin.</p> <p>Amendment of Action 3.4.2 to - Investigate options for increasing the efficiency of our waste services, considering the community's needs and expectations (e.g. pilot opt in fortnightly landfill collection and larger recycling bin)</p>
2	Recycling	<p>Many submissions suggested moving to a weekly collection of the recycling bin. These suggestions were almost always linked to a concern with a change to the red bin collection frequency.</p>	<p>The reduction of waste related emissions is one of the key goals that guide this strategy, as well as other related documents, including the Climate Change Mitigation Plan. Increasing the recycling bin collection to a weekly collection would see more trucks on the road, which would increase emissions and would also see an increase in related service costs.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the fortnightly recycling bin is often full upon collection and that an improved service could have many benefits. As a result, we are proposing to investigate a larger bin, rather than a weekly collection. Due to the weight of recycling tending to be lighter than both the landfill or FOGO bins, an option for a larger bin than the 240L size will be investigated.</p>	<p>Amendment of Action 3.4.2 to investigate options for increasing the efficiency of our waste services, considering the community's needs and expectations (e.g. pilot fortnightly landfill collection and larger recycling bin)</p>

Item	Theme	Submission/s Summary	Response	Proposed Action/s
3	Illegal dumping	Concerns were raised that illegal dumping will increase if the red bin collection was moved to a fortnightly collection. Concerns were also raised about wind blown litter from over full bins.	As this strategy is a high level document, and the change to the frequency of red bin collections is only an action to investigate, the details of potential impacts would be determined and analysed as part of the investigation. Another action within the strategy is to develop a plan to reduce illegal dumping within the LGA. Our proposed response is to include litter within action 4.4.2.	Consider the impacts of illegal dumping as part of the investigation into the frequency of the red bin collection. Benchmark with similar Council's that have a fortnightly red bin collection as to the impacts of illegal dumping. Amendment of action 4.4.2 Develop a plan to reduce illegal dumping and litter within the LGA.
4	Readability	A number of submissions found the draft strategy was too wordy and that it wasn't written in plain English. Alternatively, some submissions mentioned that the draft strategy was well written and easy to follow.	A summarised version of the strategy will be created to be more digestible for the community, noting that the same level of detail will not be within the summarised document. Wording has been included to support the material composition by bin type to make this section easier to understand.	Creation of a summarised version of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 upon it's adoption by Council. Amendment of the material composition by bin type to include further information to support the graphic, as well as the inclusion of arrows to show which bin the material should be going in.
5	Actions	Several submissions were concerned that there were no timeframes or budgets allocated against the proposed actions of the draft strategy.	All of the proposed actions within the draft strategy will be included within an implementation plan that will be developed following the endorsement of the strategy, this will include timeframes, responsibilities and budgets. As the waste industry is constantly evolving, and new technologies are becoming available, it is important to remain flexible over the 10 year period of the strategy. Actions from this Waste Strategy will be prioritised against other community needs for the allocation of resources as part of Council's annual Delivery Program and Operational Plan processes.	No action is proposed, but as per the strategy, an implementation plan will be developed following its adoption by Council. The plan will be reviewed annually to allow for the need to pivot to new technologies and community needs.

Item	Theme	Submission/s Summary	Response	Proposed Action/s
6	Future Planning	Numerous submissions were encouraged by, and supportive of the proposed future planning of the draft strategy.	Noted	No action is proposed.
7	Education	Several submissions suggested that further education be undertaken to assist with the use of FOGO as well as to work with schools and students and to develop local champions.	Education is crucial for the ongoing improvement of waste management, and within the strategy, we have addressed the importance of increasing the use of FOGO as well as undertaking talks and workshops at schools. A change has been made within the strategy to include the development of local champions.	Amendment of page 13, 3.4 Waste Education to include the development of local champions .
8	Engagement	There were some submissions that suggested there hasn't been enough engagement or consultation for the draft strategy. Also consideration of how Council updates the community on the strategy's future implementation.	Engagement has been extensive and wide ranging as can be seen in the engagement report following public exhibition. To deliver this Strategy in a transparent, productive and meaningful way, an adaptable implementation plan will be developed. It will sit beneath this Strategy, and be reported on to the community.	No action is proposed, as the draft strategy has seen extensive community engagement and updates on the strategy's implementation will be provided regularly.
9	Problem waste	Suggestions were made to include further problem wastes into the strategy for collection and recycling, including hard plastics and nappies.	A change has been made within the strategy to reflect the suggestions made by the community in regards to problem waste, though it is not proposed that waste is accepted for recycling without a known end market.	Amendment of action 2.2.1 to include accepting household items with an end market . Amendment of action 2.4.2 to include nappies .
10	Commercial waste	Feedback was received that there should be more focus on commercial waste due to it making up approximately 40% of waste landfilled at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park.	It is believed that review of the fees and charges to encourage separation will have the most impact on commercial waste diversion practices.	No change is proposed, this is addressed within action 1.1.1 Review of WWARRP fees and charges relating to the pre separation of materials, e.g., materials that can be effectively diverted from landfill

Item	Theme	Submission/s Summary	Response	Proposed Action/s
11	Northern Recycling Centre	Several submissions suggested that a recycling centre is required in the Northern suburbs of the LGA.	This has been included within the strategy to allow for greater resource recovery to reduce waste to landfill.	No change is proposed. This has been addressed within action 1.5.2 Explore an alternate transfer station in the northern part of the city to assist with source separation
12	Soft plastics	Many submissions were encouraged by the commitment of Council to investigate a sustainable	Noted	No action is proposed.
13	Advocacy	There were a number of submissions that were focussed on excessive packaging and fast fashion.	Council will advocate to the State and Federal Governments, and this has been included in action 2.3.3 of the draft strategy. Transitioning to a circular economy is crucial for issues relating to packaging and fast fashion, as this looks at the entire life of materials and products from the design phase onwards.	No change is proposed. Action 2.3.3 Advocate to the State and Federal Government for circular economy solutions and legislation
14	Alternatives to landfill	Several submissions suggested we should be focussing on waste to energy solutions.	It is acknowledged that this is important and this has been covered specifically with action 4.5.1 within the strategy.	No change is proposed. This has been covered in priority 4.5 Identify potential Alternate Waste Technology (AWT)

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Proposed Changes and Amendments to the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034				
Amendment Type	Amendment	Section Number	Page/s Number	Link to submission theme
Amend	Amend the 4 graphs to reflect the true data and remove (forecast) for the 2023/24 financial year	3.3 Waste Data	10 & 11	Minor document update
Amend	Amend the title of the kerbside recovery rate graph Current wording: Kerbside recovery rate Amended wording: Kerbside diversion rate	3.3 Waste Data	11	Minor document update
Amend	Current wording: The volume of material within domestic waste collection in each of the red, yellow and green lid bins is tracked weekly and Council's goal is to increase the rate of kerbside recovery. Amended wording: The volume of material within domestic waste collection in each of the red, yellow and green lid bins is tracked and Council's goal is to increase the rate of kerbside diversion.	3.3 Waste Data	11	Minor document update
Addition	Add a paragraph about the details of the kerbside bin audit data. Proposed wording: The material composition by bin type shown below, shows that there is a high percentage of food and garden organics in the red bin which should be going into the FOGO bin. The 11% of recycling in the red bin needs to be recycled, and reducing all contamination will continue to be a focus for waste education and communication moving forward'.	3.3 Waste Data	12	Minor document update
Addition	Add arrows to the bins to show food and garden organics should be going into the FOGO bin and that the recycling in the red bin should be going into the recycling bin.	3.3 Waste Data	12	Minor document update
Amend	Current wording: Bin audits and development of case studies Amended wording: Bin audits, development of case studies and local champions	3.4 Waste Education	13	Education
Amend	Current wording: We gathered feedback and correspondence through conversations, workshops and surveys with the Aboriginal community, Neighbourhood Forums, Resident Action Groups, waste and circular economy leaders, and other community members who represented Wollongong's diverse population. We workshoped with more than 130 people, and the feedback we heard has been incorporated into our priorities and actions in Section 6 of this Strategy. Throughout our engagement process there were several themes that arose from the feedback we gathered. Amended wording: We invited everyone in the local government area with an interest in waste to join the conversation. We provided opportunities for a range of voices to be heard through conversations, workshops, drop-in sessions, pop-up events, surveys and social media. This was a conversation that heard from our community's diverse voices, including our local residents, community representative groups, Aboriginal community, local businesses and waste and circular economy leaders. During our entire conversation on waste, there were over 640 downloads of the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and we directly engaged with more than 300 people. The feedback we heard has been considered and incorporated into our priorities and actions in Section 6 of this Strategy. Throughout our engagement process there were several themes that arose from the feedback we gathered.	4.3 Community Engagement	19	Engagement
Amend + addition	Amendment of some key things the community told us. Amendment to reflect the feedback received across the entire engagement period to include feedback received as part of the public exhibition. The entire red bin collection theme has been amended to show a more accurate representation of the feedback. Addition of one new quote per key theme.	4.3 Community Engagement	19	Engagement + red bin collections + recycling
Amend	Current wording: Waste Hierarchy Avoid and reduce waste, reuse waste, recycle waste, recover energy, treat waste, dispose of waste Amended wording: Waste and Resource Recovery Hierarchy Avoid and reduce resource consumption, reuse and repair products, recycle materials, recover energy, treat waste, dispose of waste	4.5 Waste Hierarchy	21	Minor document update

Amendment Type	Amendment	Section Number	Page/s Number	Link to submission theme
Amend	Current action: 1.3.3 Continue to encourage and incentivise a smaller red bin service Amended action: 1.3.3 Continue to encourage greater use of FOGO and incentivise a smaller red bin service	6.2 Priorities and actions	25	FOGO
Addition	Addition of a new action under priority 1.4 Recover a greater number of recyclable materials through domestic waste collection Proposed action addition: 1.4.3 Review current services to enhance diversion outcomes e.g. larger recycling bins and recycling additional cleanup items	6.2 Priorities and actions	25	Recycling
Addition	Addition of a new action under priority 1.6 Minimise Council's and the community's waste generation through waste education Proposed action addition: 1.6.4 Compare our progress against State and National performance	6.2 Priorities and actions	25	Actions
Amend	Current action: 2.1.1 All waste-related procurement to consider the Circular Economy through Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy Amended action: 2.1.1 All related procurement to consider the Circular Economy through Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy and possible buy back arrangements	6.2 Priorities and actions	26	Circular Economy
Amend	Current action: 2.2.1 Increase the number of accepted materials at the CRC, including polystyrene and textiles Amended action: 2.2.1 Increase the number of accepted materials at the CRC, including polystyrene, textiles and other household items with end markets	6.2 Priorities and actions	26	Problem waste
Amend	Current action: 2.4.2 Continue to pursue recycling solutions for problem waste, e.g. textiles, vapes, solar panels and polystyrene Amended action: 2.4.2 Continue to pursue recycling solutions for problem waste, e.g. textiles, vapes, solar panels, nappies and polystyrene	6.2 Priorities and actions	26	Problem waste
Amend	Current action: 3.2.3 Trial available emerging technologies to reduce waste to landfill Amended action: 3.2.3 Trial available emerging technologies to reduce waste to landfill and collection emissions	6.2 Priorities and actions	29	Minor document update
Amend	Current action: 3.4.2 Investigate options for increasing efficiency of waste service (e.g. pilot opt in fortnightly landfill collection) Amended action: 3.4.2 Investigate options for increasing the efficiency of our waste services, considering the community's needs and expectations (e.g. pilot opt in fortnightly landfill collection and larger recycling bin)	6.2 Priorities and actions	29	Red bin collections + yellow bin collections
Amend	Current action: 4.4.1 Review the state of play of illegal dumping in the LGA across all areas of Council to determine the most effective way to measure it Amended action: 4.4.1 Review the state of play of illegal dumping and litter in the LGA across all areas of Council to determine the most effective way to measure it	6.2 Priorities and actions	30	Illegal dumping
Amend	Current action: 4.4.2 Develop a plan to reduce illegal dumping with the LGA Amended action: 4.4.2 Develop a plan to reduce illegal dumping and litter within the LGA	6.2 Priorities and actions	30	Illegal dumping
Amend	Current action: 4.4.3 Educate the community on the effects and costs of illegal dumping Amended action: 4.4.3 Educate the community on the effects and costs of illegal dumping and litter	6.2 Priorities and actions	30	Illegal dumping



Wollongong City Council

Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land in which our city is built, the Aboriginal people of Dharawal Country. We recognise and appreciate their deep connection to this land, waters and our greater community.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and those emerging and extend our acknowledgement and respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who call our city home.

We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people to live in the area. We respect their living cultures and recognise the positive contribution their voices, traditions and histories make to our city.

In celebration of unity and cultures, both traditional and contemporary, we acknowledge the rich histories of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage.

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Section 1 Introduction

The provision of waste services for the community is a significant function and responsibility for Local Governments, and Wollongong City Council is no different. As part of our role, some of the core services we provide include a domestic waste collection service to more than 88,000 residences across our Local Government Area, a Council-operated landfill facility, public place bin collection and Community Recycling Centre.

Sustainable waste management is a shared responsibility for Wollongong City Council and the community. Our current global rate of consumption of non-renewable resources is not sustainable and it's crucial that as we look at alternatives to non-renewable resources, we're also more efficient at managing and recovering existing resources. We need to do this in a way that minimises environmental impacts and

maximises the value of recovered materials to ensure we are caring for country and protecting our environment.

We know the community cares about waste. Our biannual Community Satisfaction Surveys consistently show that the domestic waste service, including red bin collection, recycling and now Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) are important to the community and consistently score high in terms of the community's satisfaction with this service.

The Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034 sets a clear direction towards sustainable

waste and resource management for the City of Wollongong moving into the future.

This Strategy is based on four key goals which will drive waste management actions by Council on behalf of the community. It builds on the work already completed in our previous Strategy and has been developed to ensure we can be agile and respond to an ever-changing and evolving waste industry. This forward-focusing document also allows us to continue to prioritise a sustainable and cost-effective service delivery for our community.





Section 2 A Review of the 2014-22 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

We're proud of the goals met in the 2014-2022 Strategy. There were many successes throughout its implementation including the city-wide roll-out of FOGO collections and a weekly green bin service, sustainable waste management for Council events, the addition of community recycling stations at libraries, improvements to our on-call household cleanup service, and continued waste education.

Away from the public eye, the Strategy also delivered site and operational improvements at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park (known locally as Whyte's Gully). These improvements included increasing our landfill gas capture and reducing our Greenhouse Gas emissions and the construction and opening of the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) which provides our community the opportunity to drop approved recyclable and problem waste for free.

The previous waste and resource recovery strategy was in place from 2014 and it had four focus areas with indicators. Following a review, it has been determined that we met or exceeded the majority of these indicators, although issues such as illegal dumping were considered more difficult to assess success. We have taken the learnings from this review, through this updated Strategy, looked to refocus and address the current needs of the community and priorities for waste management in Wollongong.

There were some unfinished actions from the previous Strategy's action plan, and these have been considered within the new document to ensure we continue to build on the work and positive achievements of the past decade. These unfinished actions include an update of the waste chapter of our Development Control Plan (DCP), the rehabilitation of the former Helensburgh waste facility, a plan for emergency waste management, pricing incentives for separated materials, and continued improvements into illegal dumping and public place recycling.

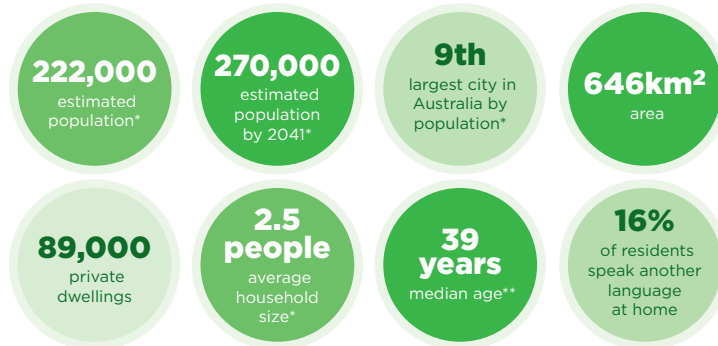
Section 3 Waste in Wollongong in 2024

3.1 Our City

The Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) is located 80km south of Sydney on Dharawal Country.

Wollongong is a city with diverse natural environments and is home to many unique ecosystems, endangered species and communities, as well as more than 222,000 residents.

As our population grows, so does our need for a more sustainable approach to our management of waste.



*Data sourced from Informed Decision 2023. ** Data sourced from ABS 2021 Census

3.2 Our Current Services

Domestic Waste Collection Services

There are approximately 88,974 properties within the LGA that receive a domestic waste collection. 83% of properties are single unit dwellings (SUDS). 17% of properties are multi-unit dwellings (MUDS).

We currently provide:

- A weekly FOGO and waste to landfill collection
- A fortnightly recycling collection
- Two on-call household cleanup services per year
- Cardboard and green waste drop off events

Each year, we empty each household's combination of red, yellow, and green lid bins a total of
130 times



Public Place Waste Collection

Council provides and services more than 1200 public place waste and recycling bins. These are located across the Local Government Area in our streets, parks, reserves and sporting facilities, as well as within the CBD.

There are also numerous Return and Earn return points in the LGA for the public to recycle eligible bottles, cans and containers.

Supporting Services

- **Household Chemical CleanOut**
(In partnership with the NSW Environment Protection Authority)
- Household Chemical CleanOut's provide a free, safe and convenient drop off for household chemicals.
- **Community Recycling Centre (CRC)**
(In partnership with the NSW EPA)
- The CRC offers a free and easy solution for Wollongong residents to recycle a broad range of household problem items.

Community Recycling Stations (CRS)

- CRS at five locations across the city to provide convenient drop off points for select problem items.

Waste Education

- Dedicated waste education staff that provide a wide range of services, information, and engagement to the community.

Wollongong Waste and Council websites

- Detailed waste information, education, updates, announcements, opening hours, videos, resources and more.

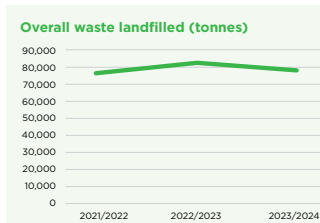
Waste App

- The Wollongong Waste app offers residents a range of waste related information, including a calendar of events, news and alerts, bin day information and access to various bookings and services.

3.3 Waste Data

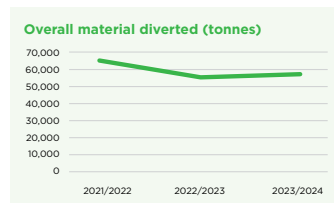
When we look at the waste that goes into our landfill site, there is a mix of both domestic and commercial materials. Approximately 40 percent of the waste received at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park (WWRRP) is commercial waste. This does not include construction and demolition waste which is collected at other privately-run waste facilities.

The following graph illustrates the tonnes of overall waste landfilled in the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.



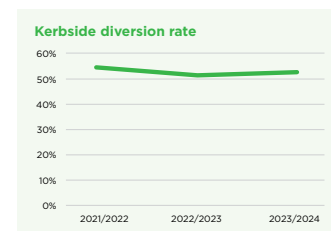
One of Council's key focusses continues to be waste diversion and the use of landfill as a place of last resort. As an ongoing measure of success, we want to see the amount of material being diverted from landfill to increase over the next 10 years.

The overall material diverted graph below shows the tonnes of material that has been kept out of landfill. It shows the totals for the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.



The volume of material within domestic waste collections in each of the red, yellow and green lid bins is tracked, and Council's goal is to increase the rate of kerbside diversion.

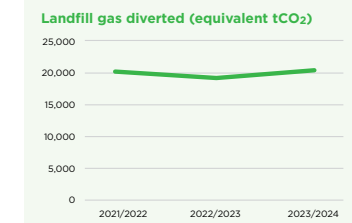
The graph below shows the percentage of waste that has been diverted from landfill through effective use of kerbside collections, including FOGO, recycling and On-call household collections. The graph captures data for the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.



Landfill sites generate methane as organic waste decomposes. Methane has a negative impact on the environment and effective management of the gas is key to reducing our waste-related emissions.

Council renewed its landfill gas program at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park in 2019 and improved its capture and management of methane to reduce equivalent CO2 that is released to the atmosphere. The graph below shows the equivalent tonnes of CO2 that have been diverted for the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.

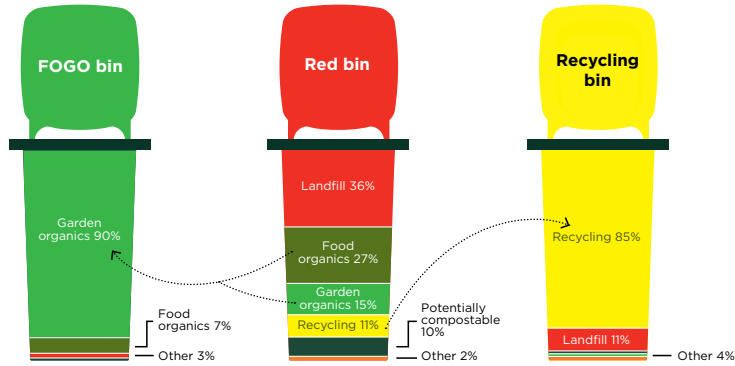
We're focussed on increasing the amount of landfill gas that is effectively diverted through this program, as well as reducing the volume of organic waste entering the site through the ongoing implementation and support of FOGO in the city.



Material composition by bin type

The material composition by bin type shown below, shows that there is a high percentage of food and garden organics in the red bin which should be going into the FOGO bin.

The 11% of recycling in the red bin needs to be recycled, and reducing all contamination will continue to be a focus for waste education and communication moving forward.



Data sourced from the Household Kerbside Bin Audit 2023



3.4 Waste Education

Waste education is a crucial component of waste management. Our waste education teams provide learning opportunities for the community that encourage reducing plastic use, participating in FOGO and recycling, utilising the Community Recycling Centre and Community Recycling Stations, promoting services and events, and providing a range of engagement on waste related activities.

The team works closely with Council's Communications & Marketing team on content that can be shared through targeted channels to build community awareness and understanding of waste management, and foster community support and participation.

Moving forward, Council's waste education focus for community will continue to be encouraging behaviour change through learning, highlighting opportunities to reduce waste and be more sustainable, and to support our community to work alongside Council as we seek to align with the four goals of this Strategy.

The ongoing delivery of waste education will include a wide range of methods including:

- Online resources on Council's website such as video workshops and an online tour of the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park
- Social media and targeted e-newsletters
- Pop-up engagement stalls
- Workshops and educational talks
- Bin audits, development of case studies and local champions
- Direct mail outs, printed resources and signage
- Talks and workshops at schools, multilingual communities and other community groups
- Targeted media advertisements and campaigns
- Promotion of the Wollongong Waste app
- Collaboration with regional councils through the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO).

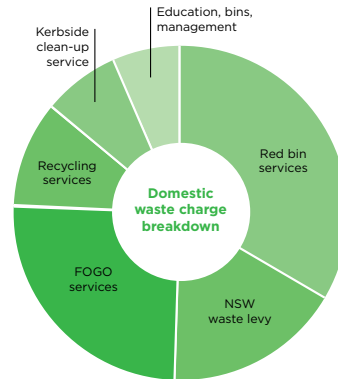
3.5 Waste Fee Components

Providing waste management services comes at a significant cost to the community, with the NSW EPA Waste Levy applied to each tonne of waste sent to landfill.

The two types of fees associated with waste for the community of Wollongong are the Domestic Waste Management fee (DWM), and the waste disposal fee at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park. These fees are used to fund multiple waste services and functions.

The Domestic Waste Management fee is broken down into approximately 6 different areas of funding, as can be seen in the following pie chart.

- 35% towards the red bin service, which includes collection and disposal to landfill.
- 17% towards the NSW EPA Waste Levy which is a mandatory fee for materials going to landfill.
- 25% towards the collection and processing of FOGO.
- 11% towards providing the collection and processing of recycling.
- 7% towards the collection and processing of the kerbside cleanup service.
- 5% towards education, bins and caddy liners and management.



The waste disposal fee at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park is broken down into three major components, these include:

- The mandatory NSW EPA Waste Levy.
- Operational costs, which include equipment, materials and labour.
- Capital costs, which are associated with the management of the site, including cell construction and the future rehabilitation of the site once landfilling has ceased.

Given the rising costs of construction and materials, Council monitors and adjusts charges annually to ensure the sustainability of these critical services. By doing so, Council can continue to provide services for our community that balance effective waste management and sustainable practices.

While all residents support Council's provision of waste services through their rates, there are some steps people can take to help keep waste costs down.

- Downsizing the red bin to a smaller size.
- Embrace FOGO, processing FOGO is more cost effective than sending food waste to landfill.
- Keep recycling materials out of the red lid bin and use the community recycling facility and centres.







Section 4 Developing the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2034

4.1 Strategic Alignment

Council's integrated strategic framework is led by the Our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan. The table below shows the key aligning documents and the actions related to our Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

The key actions from the aligning documents will be addressed within this Strategy and will be situated under each of the relevant key goals within our priorities and actions in section 6.

Aligning Document	Key Actions
Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 	Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment 1.4 Work together to achieve net zero carbon emissions and reduce waste going to landfill
Delivery Program and Operational Plan 	Goal 1 - We value and protect our environment Environmental Programs Waste services
Climate Change Mitigation Plan (CCMP) 	Empowering Community Actions 12. Support development of circular economy opportunities within the region 13. Increase diversion rates and reduce waste to landfill Priority Actions 1. Integrate emissions reduction priorities into strategic planning framework for waste 2. Develop new waste diversion streams, practices and infrastructure as opportunities become available 3. Expand gas capture infrastructure at Whyte's Gully towards electricity generation 4. Review waste contracts to include emissions reduction priorities
Sustainable Wollongong 2030 	Priority Area 3: A low emissions city • Reduced emissions from Whyte's Gully Landfill Priority Area 5: A low waste city • Reduced amount of waste sent to landfill • Reduced use of single use plastics in the city • Decreased litter and illegal dumping • Increased amount of material recovered for re-use and recycling • Reduced waste produced from events across the city

Aligning Document	Key Actions
NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 	5 Year Targets • Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025 • Plastic litter reduction target of 30% by 2025 10 Year Targets • Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030 • Have an 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030 • Introduce a new overall litter reduction target of 60% by 2030 Relevant Sub Targets • Triple the plastics recycling rate by 2030 • Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030 • Net zero emissions from organic waste by 2030
Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2022 - 2027 	Theme 1: Avoid, reuse and recovery of resources Theme 2: Protect the environment Theme 3: Strategic leadership and collaboration for sustainable material management

There are also other relevant aligning documents including The National Waste Policy and Action Plan, and the NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement, which focusses on waste avoidance,

improved resource recovery, increased use of recycled material and the importance of the circular economy.

Council's Integrated Planning Framework



4.2 Strategy Development

This Strategy has been developed as a high order document to plan for the future of waste management in Wollongong. It has been informed by advice and feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, both internally and externally. As it is a 10-year document, it has been written with flexibility in mind, allowing Council to respond to this changing environment and redirect focusses as the industry and technology evolves.

To deliver this Strategy in a transparent, productive and meaningful way, an adaptable implementation plan will be developed. It will sit beneath this Strategy, and be reported on annually to the community. More information about the development of the implementation plan can be found in section 6 of this Strategy.



4.3 Community Engagement

We value the passion, knowledge and perspectives of our community, and we have engaged with them in a range of ways throughout the development of this document.

We invited everyone in the local government area with an interest in waste to join the conversation. We provided opportunities for a range of voices to be heard through conversations, workshops, drop-in sessions, pop-up events, surveys and social media. This was a conversation that heard from our community's diverse voices, including our local residents, community representative

groups, Aboriginal community, local businesses and waste and circular economy leaders.

During our entire conversation on waste, there were over 640 downloads of the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and we directly engaged with more than 300 people. The feedback we heard has been considered and incorporated into our priorities and actions in Section 6 of this Strategy.

Throughout our engagement process there were several themes that arose from the feedback we gathered.

Some key things the community told us

Soft plastic recycling	FOGO	Education	Caring for Country	Red bin collection	Advocacy	Recycling
"Introduce soft plastic recycling"	"Not enough people using FOGO"	"Education for households to sort waste into FOGO and recycling"	"Always consider the impact to the environment when making decisions in waste"	"Do not agree with fortnightly red bin pick up"	"Advocate against fast fashion"	"A weekly recycling service would encourage more recycling"
"Recycling soft plastics will greatly reduce landfill"	"Continuation of the FOGO program"	"Educating the community and giving them more feedback"	"Make sustainable decisions to care for country"	"Do not stop weekly red bin collection"	"Persuade politicians to make bans mandatory rather than voluntary"	"Recycling bins should be considered as a weekly pick up"
"Introduce kerbside recycling of soft plastics"	"Reduce organic waste going to landfill"	"To educate people to know what belongs in the right bin"	"We don't want another tip in the area"	"Large households with babies using disposable nappies would need a weekly collection"	"Push for legislation to eliminate plastic packaging"	"Provide more recycling facilities"
"More emphasis on soft plastic recycling"	"Increased focus on FOGO"	"Education of school age children is key"	"We need to think about the planet"	"The idea of fortnightly collection of red bins is a good one to reduce the cost of collection and encourage reduction of waste to landfill"	"The production of goods that later become waste (e.g. packaging, fast fashion) needs to be reduced"	"We need a recycling site in the northern suburbs"

4.4 Circular Economy

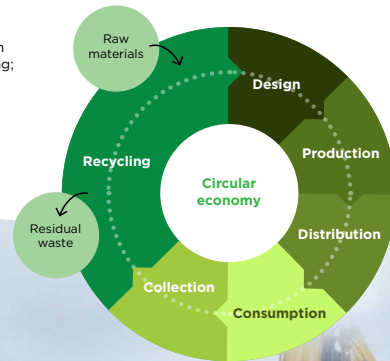
The Circular Economy is a more sustainable and conscious alternative to the standard linear economy, which is based on the model of taking resources, making products, and discarding these products as waste.

In a circular economy, products are kept within an ongoing system where they have been designed to be reused over and over for as long as possible to reduce the reliance on raw materials.

Council acknowledges the importance of this model, and will assist the community transition to a circular economy through actions including; education, future procurement, partnerships, benchmarking and improved resource management.

Maximising the use and value of resources brings major economic, social and environmental benefits. It also contributes to innovation, growth, job creation and prosperity, while reducing our impact on the environment.

The image below shows the stages and considerations that are crucial for a circular economy.



4.5 Waste and Resource Recovery Hierarchy

The waste and resource recovery hierarchy draws on the principle of causing less harm by avoiding and reducing resource consumption, followed by reuse, recycling and recovery before treatment and finally disposal.

The hierarchy is recognised as providing important guidance on environmental impacts of different management options. It is not intended as a stand-alone tool, but rather can be considered alongside other tools and systems such as the circular economy.

Waste and resource recovery hierarchy pyramid



Section 5 Our Four Goals

Our four key goals were developed through stakeholder consultation, with the aim of defining our waste-related requirements and aspirations, and aligning goals that will guide us for the next 10 years.

Our goals are far reaching, but they are also connected. This combination allows this Strategy to build upon its actions, and remain adaptive over a long period.

Goal 1 Reduce Waste to Landfill

Landfill is a last resort for waste

The most effective way of managing waste, is to avoid creating it in the first place. This, in turn, reduces the impacts associated with production, consumption, transportation, processing and disposal. Council and the community need to ensure landfill is a last resort for resources.

It is essential that the life of our landfill is preserved for as long as possible. Like our raw materials, landfills are finite, and we are unlikely to see another landfill in the Illawarra.

Goal 2 Transition to a Circular Economy

A circular economy provides the best use of resources

A transition to a circular economy is a crucial step for the City of Wollongong to ensure resources are not going to waste. This is a transition we cannot do alone, and one that requires the involvement and input of Council, the community and the State and Federal Governments.

Legislation and design improvements are important factors in a successful transition to a circular economy, but they aren't the only factors. There are things that we can do now including reusing items when avoiding or reducing waste is not possible.

Council and the community must work together to see the value in our resources and ensure they are reused, repaired, or recycled before they are considered waste. Our current contracts for both FOGO and mattress recycling utilise local processing, with materials collected then entering the circular economy.

As technology, products and suppliers continue to emerge, we will look to incorporate circular economy practices into future Council operations and contracts to ensure potentially recyclable items are diverted from landfill.

Goal 3 Reduce our Waste Related Emissions

When it comes to emissions, less is best

Landfill waste, particularly organic content, emits greenhouse gas as it decomposes. As we're a Local Government that owns and operates a waste facility, landfilling operations make up a significant proportion of our operational emissions.

We have a responsibility to lead the way when it comes to reducing waste, managing our city's waste and building a circular economy. As new technologies evolve, particularly with the transition to clean energy we will see new waste challenges and opportunities emerge. Council will seek to explore innovative solutions to partner with industry to reduce waste across the community.

As the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park takes in waste from the wider community, Council does not have full control over the volume that enters the site each year. This makes it difficult to mitigate the variation in landfill emissions each year. However, we can have a positive impact by encouraging and supporting waste minimisation, the circular economy and recycling in the community, as well as increasing the site's landfill gas capture infrastructure.

In 2023 we saw the introduction of Australia's first zero emission waste collection vehicle in Wollongong. The Hydrogen Truck, which is now in service in our city is a great example of innovation through partnership and is a model that can be built upon to help reduce collection related emissions.

Goal 4 Improve our Waste Management

Getting waste management right is key

Effective waste management is essential to minimise our impact on the environment.

While a lot was achieved during the implementation of our last Strategy, it is time to build upon these successes and continue toward better practice improvements.

The Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park (WWARRP) is the city's hub of waste management and improvements can be made to see this facility operate and function more efficiently and effectively into the future.

It is important in the lifetime of this Strategy we investigate and understand the city's broader waste profile, including waste that doesn't come into Council's facility. That way, as we review the master plan for the Park, we're able to maximise its use and potential into the future.

It is critical that we meet our legislative and licencing requirements while also operating in a sustainable and cost-effective way, so that the landfill is available to the community for as long as possible.

This goal includes all our waste-related activities, including public place waste and recycling, illegal dumping, regional partnerships and investment in waste technologies.



Section 6 Implementing the Strategy

6.1 Planning

Following the adoption of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2034, an implementation plan will be developed which will outline timeframes and budgets for the completion of the actions outlined below.

These actions have been created to address our four goals, the key actions of aligning documents as well as the needs and concerns of the community. There are some actions that can be achieved now, but there are also some actions that will be implemented in the future.

The actions will be tracked for progress and reviewed regularly. Actions from this Waste Strategy will be prioritised against other community needs for the allocation of resources as part of Council's annual Delivery Program and Operational Plan process. Funding and resourcing the implementation of individual actions will need to be embedded in Council's Resourcing Strategy.



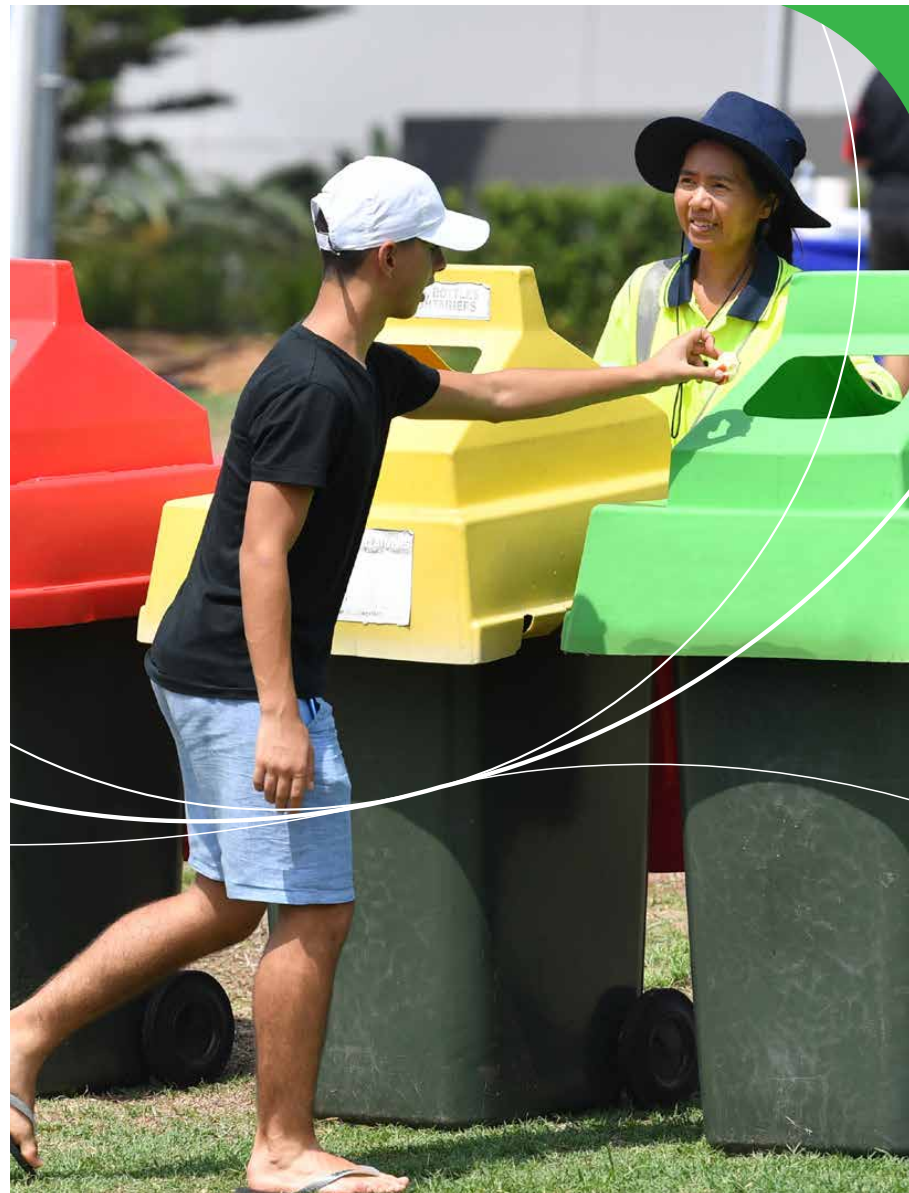
6.2 Priorities and actions

Goal 1 - Reduce Waste to Landfill

Priorities	Actions
1.1 Continue pricing incentives to encourage source separation at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park (WWARRP)	1.1.1 Review of WWARRP fees and charges relating to the pre separation of materials, e.g., materials that can be effectively diverted from landfill
1.2 Investigate technologies and partnerships for increased diversion of waste	1.2.1 Continue to seek partnerships and explore the market for emerging technology to increase waste diversion
1.3 Increase the FOGO service	1.3.1 Increase the participation rate of FOGO in multi-unit dwellings
	1.3.2 Continue to focus our education approach on domestic waste organic contamination in the red bin stream
	1.3.3 Continue to encourage greater use of FOGO and incentivise a smaller red bin service
1.4 Recover a greater number of recyclable materials through domestic waste collection	1.4.1 Research nationally and benchmark regionally to find sustainable and cost-effective end markets for a greater number of recyclable materials, including soft plastics.
	1.4.2 Investigate options to implement soft plastic collection through the domestic recycling collection service
	1.4.3 Review current services to enhance diversion outcomes e.g. larger recycling bins and recycling additional cleanup items
1.5 Identify and deliver greater opportunities to increase resource recovery at the WWARRP	1.5.1 Design and construct a new transfer station area that allows for greater source separation and diversion
	1.5.2 Explore an alternate transfer station in the northern part of the city to assist with source separation
1.6 Minimise Council's and the community's waste generation through waste education	1.6.1 Develop a Council Waste Minimisation Plan which aligns with Council's sustainability goals
	1.6.2 Undertake bin audits to guide education and develop programs to encourage the appropriate use of the 3-bin system and the importance of the waste hierarchy
	1.6.3 Review our waste education methods to align with our four goals
	1.6.4 Compare our progress against State and National performance
1.7 Take advantage of grant opportunities as they arise	1.7.1 Apply for suitable grant projects that will support the reduction of waste to landfill

Goal 2 - Transition to a Circular Economy

Priorities	Actions
2.1 Support the Circular Economy through WCC procurement and WCC operations	2.1.1 All procurement to consider the Circular Economy through Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy and possible buy back arrangements
	2.1.2 Continue the phase out of single use plastic through Council's Single Use Plastics Policy
	2.1.3 Educate the community on the importance of the circular economy
2.2 Improve the functionality and appeal of the Community Recycling Centre (CRC)	2.2.1 Increase the number of accepted materials at the CRC, including polystyrene, textiles and other household items with end markets
	2.2.2 Investigate the introduction of a circular economy repair/repurposing hub within the CRC
	2.2.3 Invest in key infrastructure and partnerships within the CRC to improve functionality and appeal to the community
2.3 Strengthen regional council alliances to encourage greater investment of circular economy initiatives into the region	2.3.1 Work with regional councils to utilise the total combined resources to attract circular economy investment into the region
	2.3.2 Partner with businesses e.g., manufacturing companies, tertiary education and social enterprises to develop and support circular economy initiatives
	2.3.3 Advocate to the State and Federal Government for circular economy solutions and legislation
2.4 Investigate and determine a cost effective and sustainable solution for problematic waste in the region	2.4.1 Partner with regional councils, Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO), and local community action groups to determine a sustainable solution for soft plastic recycling
	2.4.2 Continue to pursue recycling solutions for problem waste, e.g. textiles, vapes, solar panels, nappies and polystyrene





Goal 3 - Reduce Waste Related Emissions

Priorities	Actions
3.1 Integrate emissions reductions priorities into strategic planning framework for waste	3.1.1 Review the master plan for the WWARRP to maximise the utilisation of Council's waste assets
	3.1.2 Update WWARRP Greenhouse Gas Management Plan
	3.1.3 Investigate the footprint of the Wollongong waste profile, including waste that doesn't come to the WWARRP
3.2 Develop new waste diversion streams, practices and infrastructure as opportunities and technology become available	3.2.1 Consider increased screening options and future recycling opportunities to increase diversion at the WWARRP
	3.2.2 Consider options to increase waste diversion and reduction from commercial businesses (DCP Chapter)
	3.2.3 Trial available emerging technologies to reduce waste to landfill and collection emissions
3.3 Expand gas capture infrastructure at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park (WWARRP) towards electricity generation	3.3.1 Continue to expand infrastructure as practically possible
	3.3.2 Develop future cell design with consideration for maximum gas capture efficiency
3.4 Review waste contracts to include emissions reduction priorities	3.4.1 Include sustainability and efficiency principles in future waste contract tenders to reduce Scope 3 emissions and encourage circular economy
	3.4.2 Investigate options for increasing the efficiency of our waste services considering the community's needs and expectations (e.g. pilot opt in fortnightly landfill collection and larger recycling bin)

Goal 4 - Improve our Waste Management

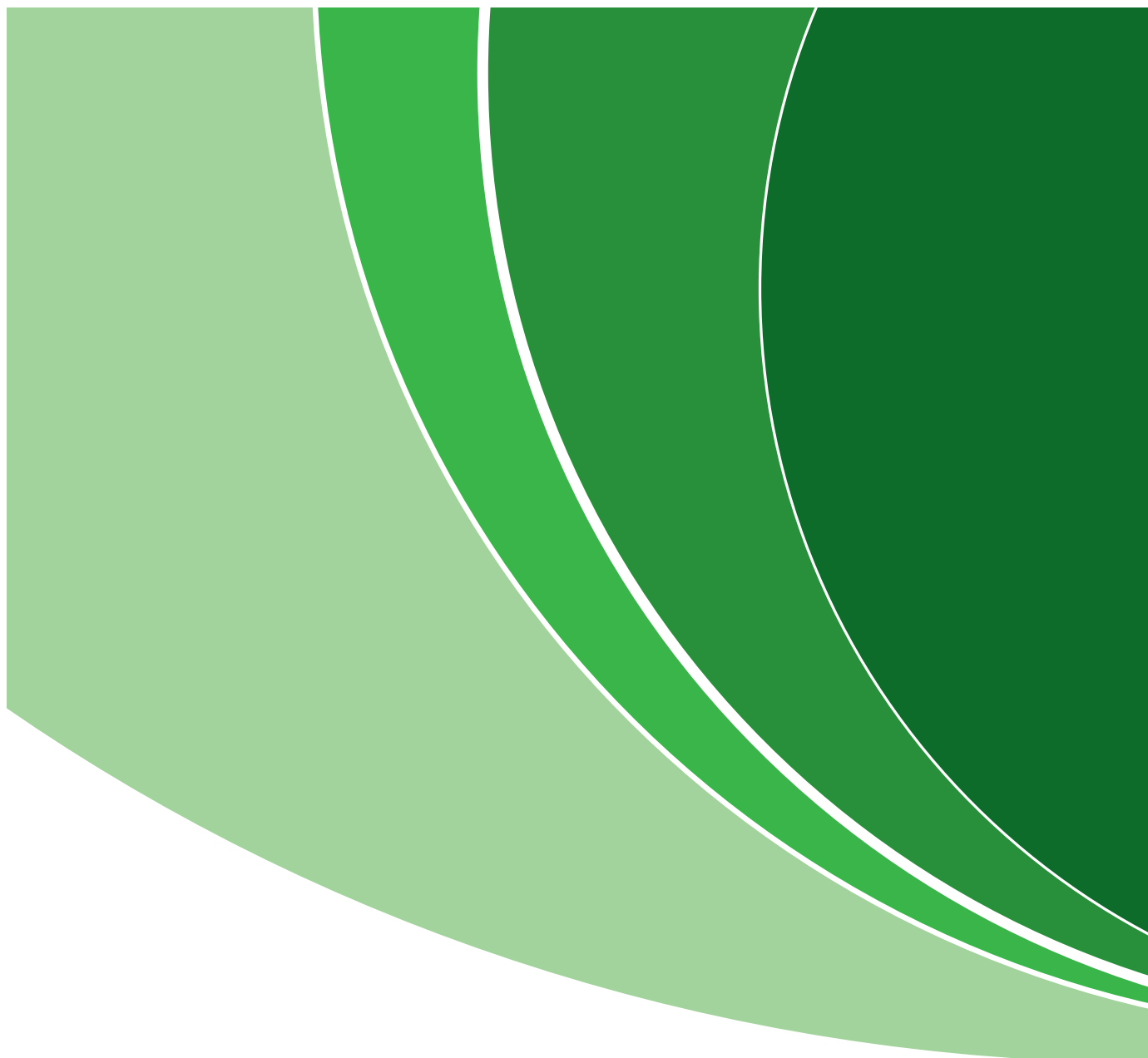
Priorities	Actions
4.1 Update the Waste Management Chapter of Council's Development Control Plan (DCP)	4.1.1 Update the waste management chapter of the DCP to include FOGO
	4.1.2 Update the waste management chapter of the DCP to include the best practice construction and demolition waste management
4.2 Rehabilitate the former Helensburgh Waste Disposal Depot site	4.2.1 Effectively rehabilitate the former Helensburgh Waste Disposal site
4.3 Review of public place recycling and waste bins to increase resource recovery and reduce litter	4.3.1 Continue innovations for public place recycling e.g. baskets for container deposit collection
	4.3.2 Investigate emerging technologies for separation in public place bins
4.4 Measure and reduce illegal dumping within the Local Government Area (LGA)	4.4.1 Review the state of play of illegal dumping and litter in the LGA across all areas of Council to determine the most effective way to measure it
	4.4.2 Develop a plan to reduce illegal dumping and litter within the LGA
	4.4.3 Educate the community on the effects and costs of illegal dumping and litter
4.5 Identify potential Alternate Waste Technology (AWT) opportunities	4.5.1 Explore innovative waste processing technologies, e.g., alternative waste treatment systems and waste to energy
	4.5.2 Seek out funding opportunities and partnerships for innovative technologies and processes
4.6 Improvements to the Wollongong Waste & Resource Recovery Park (WWARRP)	4.6.1 Continued improvement of our leachate management
	4.6.2 Continued improvement of our stormwater management
	4.6.3 Continued improvement of capping of landfill areas
	4.6.4 Upgrade Council's waste management facilities to be user friendly to the community and promote diversion
4.7 Develop an emergency waste management plan	4.7.1 Support the community with an emergency waste management plan



6.3 Measures







From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and will be leaders in building an educated, creative, sustainable and connected community.

We value and protect our environment

We have an innovative and sustainable economy

Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city

We are a connected and engaged community

We have a healthy community in a liveable city

We have affordable and accessible transport