

# Meander Valley Council Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2033

Prepared for Meander Valley Council by  
Blue Environment Pty Ltd



## Document Information

Document:	Meander Valley Council Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024-2033
Reference:	P1361/1209.00.3.5154
Contract Date:	18 January 2022
Issue Date:	3 May 2024
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### Revision History

Rev	Revision Date	Details	Authorised by	
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A	15 December 2023	For Client Review	Lisa McLeod, Principal Environmental Scientist	
B	8 March 2024	For Client Review	Lisa McLeod, Principal Environmental Scientist	
C	3 May 2024	For Council Approval	John Chrispijn, Project Manager	

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## Abbreviations and glossary

C&D	Construction and Demolition Waste
C&I	Commercial and Industrial Waste
Circular North	Former Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program
CRS	Container Refund Scheme
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
FOGO	Food Organics and Garden Organics
MRF	Material Recovery Facility
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measures
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
NRM	Natural Resource Management
WRRS	Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
WTS	Waste Transfer Station
Landfill	A facility or place at which waste is lawfully disposed of into or onto land.
Resource Recovery Facility	A facility or place at which resource recovery occurs. This includes the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) reuse of the waste; or</li> <li>(b) recycling of the waste; or</li> <li>(c) recovery of energy or other resources from the waste; or</li> <li>(d) sorting or preparation of the waste for the purposes of (a), (b), (c)</li> </ul>
Waste Depot	A landfill for the reception, storage, treatment, or disposal of waste, which is designed to receive, or are likely to receive, 100 tonnes or more of waste per year.
Waste Transfer Station	A facility or place at which waste is transferred from one vehicle to another, either directly or indirectly, and often involves the aggregation of waste to improve the efficiency of transport logistics.

# 1. Introduction

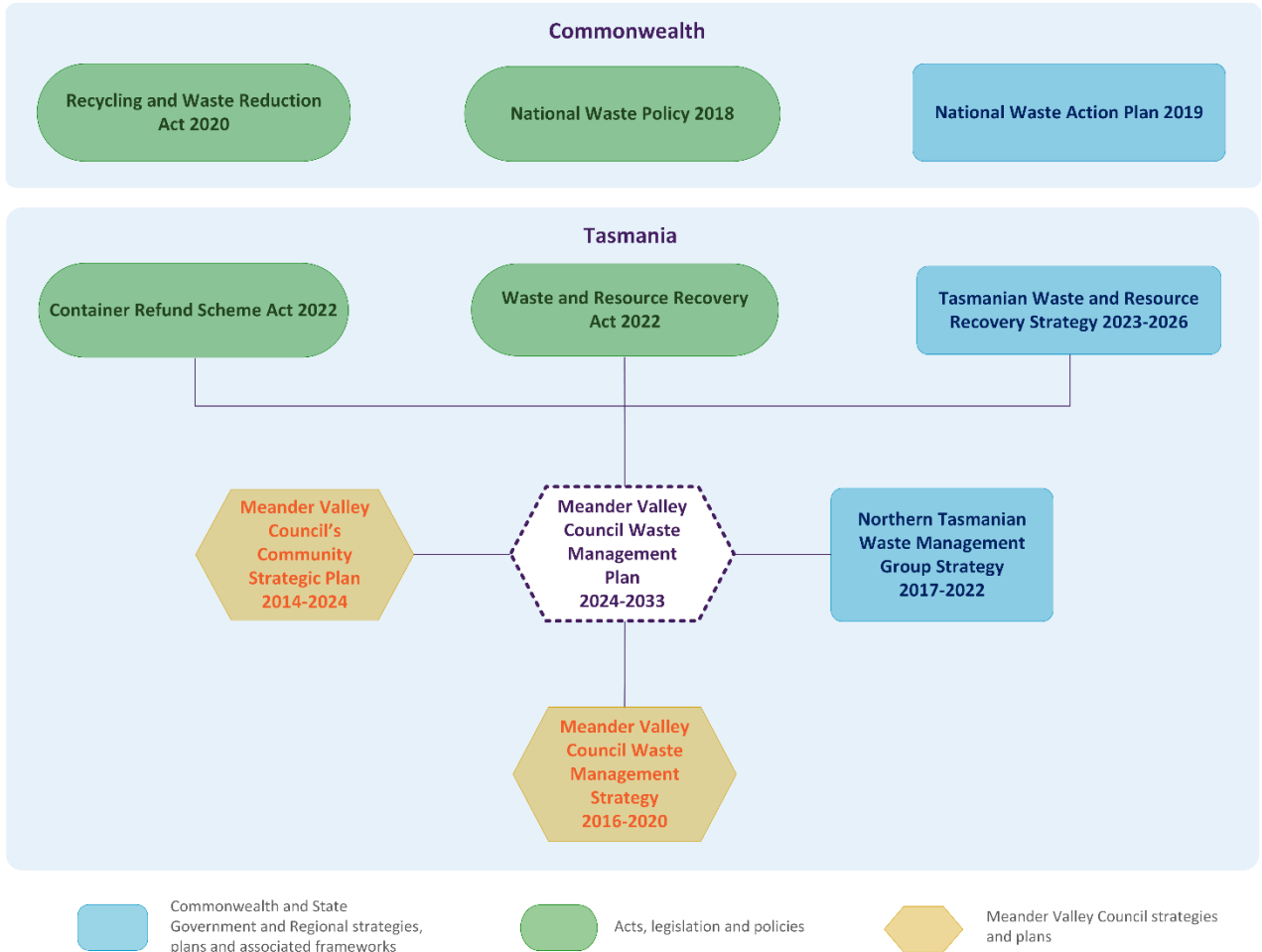
Meander Valley Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy (WRRS) provides direction on delivering effective and sustainable waste management in the municipality over the next ten years. Meander Valley Council (Council) has been operating under the Waste Management Strategy 2016-2020; however, this is now out of date and does not reflect principles of circular economy, zero waste pathways and other sustainability targets recently introduced at National, State, and regional levels.

Council has demonstrated its commitment to a sustainable future by being the first municipality in Tasmania to use recycled materials in road resurfacing, an early implementer of kerbside FOGO collection with a service trialled in Blackstone Heights in 2011-2012, increased budget expenditure of \$2.6 million for waste management in 2022-2023 and continual support of Circular North, previously known as the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program.

The scope of the strategy focuses on key areas that are within Council's direct control including kerbside collection services, waste disposal and waste transfer station facilities, public litter bins and waste education, but also identifies some areas for advocacy.

## 2. Policy and regulatory framework

Council’s WRRS is influenced by national, state, and local government acts, legislation and policies, as well as state and regional initiatives. An overview of the strategic framework for the WRRS, depicted in the figure below, is provided in this section.



**Figure 1: Policy and regulatory framework**

## 2.1 Commonwealth

The Australian Government is responsible for the implementation of national legislation, policies and programs, which also includes obligations under international agreements. National frameworks also set the basis for collaboration by environment ministers on national waste issues.

The *National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources 2018* provides the framework for waste management and resource recovery in Australia. The policy incorporates strategies addressing:

- waste minimisation and avoidance
- designing systems and products to maximise value and avoid wastage
- facilitating knowledge-sharing and education initiatives
- product stewardship
- implementing a common approach to waste policy and regulation
- improving access for regional, remote and indigenous communities
- increasing industry capacity
- sustainable procurement by governments
- sustainable procurement by businesses and individuals
- reducing negative impacts of plastics and packaging on the environment
- management of chemicals and hazardous waste
- reducing organic waste
- improving national waste data and reporting
- supporting and maintaining domestic and international markets for recycled materials.

Targets and actions to implement these strategies are defined in the National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019, which includes national targets to:

- ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres
- reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030
- 80% average resource recovery rate from all waste streams following the waste hierarchy by 2030
- significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry
- phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025
- halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030
- make comprehensive, economy-wide and timely data publicly available to support better consumer, investment and policy decisions.

The *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* establishes a national framework to regulate the export of waste materials and manage the impacts of products, including through voluntary, co-regulatory and mandatory product stewardship schemes.

The Act sets out a phased approach to regulate the export of specified waste glass, plastic, tyres and paper as follows:

- unprocessed glass in a whole or broken state – from 1 January 2021
- mixed plastics that are not of a single resin or polymer type or where further sorting, cleaning and/or processing is required before re-use – from 1 July 2021
- whole used tyres including baled tyres, excluding bus, truck and aviation tyres exported for re-treading to a verified facility – from 1 December 2021
- single resin or polymer plastics that have not been reprocessed – from 1 July 2022
- mixed and unsorted paper and cardboard – from 1 July 2024.

The Recycling Modernisation Fund is a national funding scheme set to boost Australia's capacity to recycle key materials. The fund will work in conjunction with waste export regulations, so we have the required additional onshore reprocessing capacity to manage local supply. The fund will distribute over \$1 billion of investment in recycling infrastructure.

National product stewardship arrangements (between government and industry), regulated under the *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020*, are in place for certain products, including televisions and computers, end-of-life tyres, packaging, waste oil, mobile phones and household batteries. Coverage of other products (such as solar panels and other e-waste) is being planned.

The Australian Government also establishes National Environment Protection Measures (NEPMs) that set the basis for agreed national objectives for protecting or managing particular aspects of the environment. Current waste related NEPMs address used packaging materials and the movement of hazardous waste between states/territories.

## 2.2 Tasmania

The Tasmanian Government recently passed the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* (the WRR Act) and the *Container Refund Scheme Act 2022* (the CRS Act), which significantly reformed how waste is managed in the state. These new acts put key actions stated in the Tasmanian Government's *2019 Draft Waste Action Plan* into legislation.

The Tasmanian Government released the *2019 Draft Waste Action Plan*, which provided a framework for waste management in Tasmania and moving towards a circular economy. The plan set out the following goals:

- ensure 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025
- reduce waste generated in Tasmania by 5% per person by 2025 and 10% by 2030
- achieve a 40% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2025 and 80% by 2030
- have the lowest incident of littering in the country by 2023
- phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2030
- reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 25% by 2025 and 50% by 2030.

These goals are in line with the *2018 National Waste Policy* and *2019 National Waste Action Plan*.

Two years after the release of the plan, the Tasmanian Government published progress on key actions in the *Waste Initiatives Progress Report*. All relevant key tasks were on track or complete, including through the establishment of new legislation.

## Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

The Tasmanian Government recently released its first legislated waste strategy, the *Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2026*. The strategy is the first part of a two-stage response that aims to achieve structural shift over the next six to seven years. The second part, intended to be a strategy for 2027-2030, will be based on the foundational work in the first part.

The strategy is based on four pillars:

- integrated planning and action
- strategic investment
- prioritise circularity
- engagement and partnerships.

The Strategy provides a commitment to several actions, including infrastructure investment, resource recovery and circular economy grants and other programs, landfill levy rebates, education and awareness, and skills development.

The Tasmanian government has noted that the national target of 50% recovery across all waste streams by 2025 was ambitious for some materials, particularly for smaller jurisdictions without landfill levies and policies in place to improve recycling rates. Studies commissioned in recent years have provided waste and material flows in Tasmania, and further data will be collected under the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* (described below). The improved understanding of waste and material data baselines will inform actions and the development of Tasmanian-based targets.

## Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022

The *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022* came into effect on 1 July 2022 and brought major changes to the way waste has previously been managed in Tasmania. Key elements of the new legislation include:

- establishment of a Waste and Resource Recovery Board, with responsibilities which include:
  - development and implementation of a state-wide waste strategy that will set long and short-term goals for waste minimisation
  - oversight and management of landfill levy funds
  - community, business and industry engagement and education on waste reduction and resource recovery
  - supporting access of waste services in remote areas
- the introduction of a state-wide landfill levy (to replace voluntary levies which previously applied in some regions).

The WRR Act is supported by the Waste and Resource Recovery Regulations 2022. Key components of the regulations include definition of landfills and resource recovery facilities captured under the regulations, landfill levy rates, operational requirements and systems for records and reporting.

The landfill levy commenced on 1 July 2022 at a starting rate of \$20 per tonne. It will double to \$40 per tonne on 1 July 2024, and then increase to \$60 per tonne on 1 July 2026.

The introduction of the landfill levy aims to divert 210,000 tonnes per year of waste from landfill by 2030-2031. Landfill operators are entitled to a rebate for waste that is removed from the landfill site and received by a resource recovery facility. The landfill levy is expected to be returned to regional organisations of councils, as well as other groups involved in waste management and minimisation<sup>1</sup>.

The WRR Act also sets out several requirements for landfill and resource recovery facility operators, namely:

- preparation and submission of a monthly and annual 'levy return' to report on the amount and type of waste received and removed from a landfill and resource recovery facility
- compliance with operational requirements
- annual volumetric surveys of a landfill
- retainment of landfill and resource recovery records and documents for at least five years.

To assist in compliance of WRR Act, the Tasmanian Government introduced the Landfill Levy Readiness Grant Scheme in 2022 and Waste Data Readiness Grant Program in 2023. These programs provide financial support to update infrastructure and systems and upskill staff to be able to comply with the levy requirements for landfills and resource recovery facilities. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) regulates the collection of the landfill levy and enforcement of levy obligations. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) maintains responsibility for oversight and compliance with environmental protection regulations.

### **Container Refund Scheme Act 2022**

The *Container Refund Scheme Act 2022* passed through Parliament in 2022. The Act establishes a container refund scheme (CRS), titled *Recycle Rewards*, which provides a refund for residents and businesses for any eligible beverage container they return to dedicated collection locations. The intent of the CRS is to incentivise recycling, empower communities and minimise litter.

In 2023 the Tasmanian Government published the *Draft Container Refund Scheme Regulations 2023*, which outlines the design of the forthcoming scheme, as summarised below:

- The refund amount per returned eligible container will be 10 cents.
- The CRS will be funded by the beverage industry as an extended producer responsibility program.
- Like existing schemes around the nation, the CRS will focus on beverage containers that most commonly contribute to litter. Non-eligible containers include containers of less than 150 millilitres; containers of more than 3 litres; unflavoured milk containers; concentrated juice and cordial bottles; medical containers; wine bottles; and spirit bottles.

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<sup>1</sup> Some landfill levy funds will also be allocated to cover EPA operations.

- Material recovery facilities will be eligible for claiming refunds for containers collected in commingled recycling bins.
- The CRS will run under a split-governance model, where the Scheme Coordinator manages administration and finances, and the Network Operator manages container collections.

The CRS was slated to commence in 2023 but has been delayed. It is likely to commence in 2024.

The impacts of the CRS on Meander Valley are likely to be focused mostly on beverage containers, including the amount of glass presented in future kerbside recycling collections (possibly lower) and the potential for Council to establish refund points at various locations in the municipality.

### **Council and regional strategies**

Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2014-2024* sets out a vision for Meander Valley, incorporating six future directions:

- a sustainable natural and built environment
- a thriving local economy
- vibrant and engaged communities
- a healthy and safe community
- innovative leadership and community governance
- planned infrastructure services.

One of the Plan's strategic outcomes acknowledges that *'public health and the environment is protected by the responsible management of liquid and solid waste at a local and regional level'*.

Meander Valley Council (together with seven other councils, viz. Break O'Day, Dorset, Flinders Island, George Town, Launceston, Northern Midlands and West Tamar) is a member of Circular North, formerly known as the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program. Circular North provides advice, funding and education on better managing waste and recycling within northern Tasmanian communities, businesses and local governments. Circular North is hosted by Natural Resource Management (NRM) North, one of three regional committees, established under State legislation, to develop and manage a natural resource management strategy for the region.

Circular North was previously funded through a voluntary levy on waste disposed at the region's participating landfills. With the introduction of the state-wide landfill levy, Circular North has a revised governance structure and is funded by the Waste and Resource Recovery Board.

Prior to 2022 this program was hosted by the City of Launceston and was called the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group (NTWMG).

NTWVG developed a five-year strategy for 2017-2022, which included goals and targets around:

- improving resource recovery
- improving council waste and recycling infrastructure, operations and data systems to meet best practice
- facilitating education, engagement and partnerships about waste, recycling and reuse.

The change in governance structure in 2022, has delayed the development of a new five-year waste strategy, which is expected in 2024.

### 3. Current situation

The current status of waste management within Meander Valley has been reviewed to determine the baseline for future improvements. This includes a review of waste generation and diversion, kerbside collection services, waste disposal and waste transfer station facilities.

#### 3.1 Waste and recycling services

Council provides different kerbside collection services within the municipality. In the townships of Bracknell, Carrick, Deloraine, Exton, Hagley, and Westbury, kerbside collection services are provided for waste (weekly) and recyclables (fortnightly).

While Blackstone Heights, Prospect Vale, Hadspen and Travellers Rest have waste and recycling kerbside collection services fortnightly, these suburbs also receive a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection fortnightly. The kerbside FOGO collection service was first introduced in Blackstone Heights as a trial in 2011-2012 before being expanded to these other areas in July 2022. Council has also recently commenced offering residents in select rural townships the opportunity to opt-in to a kerbside collection service.

Council's contractor for kerbside collections is JJ Richards, who collects waste and recycling from 7,199 households; FOGO is also collected for residents in the eastern end of the municipality.

Residents in areas not serviced by kerbside collections can take their waste and recyclables to a Council waste disposal or waste transfer station facility. Domestic waste disposal vouchers are issued to all owners of rateable properties in Meander Valley annually. Vouchers are designed to assist residents to manage their general domestic waste responsibly and provide access to Council waste disposal and waste transfer facilities. A hard waste collection service is provided annually to residents who register for the service with Council.

#### 3.2 Infrastructure

Council currently operates two waste disposal facilities: Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots as well as a Waste Transfer Station at Mole Creek. All sites are operated by contractor, JustWaste Consulting, with the contract set to expire on 30 June 2028. Both waste depots are reaching capacity and Council is exploring long-term landfilling solutions within the municipality.

Landfill cells at existing waste depots or new long-term sites should be designed and operated accordingly to the *Landfill Sustainability Guide 2004*, which provides guidance to landfill operators to achieve good environmental practices. The guide outlines acceptable standards, that provides minimum requirements and recommendation on various aspects of the landfill, which are:

- landfill siting and planning
- landfill design
- operations
- rehabilitation and after-care.

Landfill licences approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are based on the standards and recommendations outlined in the guide. Environmental issues that may arise at different stages of the landfill lifespan are included in the guide, along with managing solutions and effective waste management principles. Environmental impacts of major concerns are expressed over water and air quality, land management, resource conservation, health impacts and other impacts that may affect not only the landfill site but also its surroundings, namely fire, dust, noise, pest, and litter. The guide also invites landfill owners and operators to adopt effective waste management procedures according to the waste hierarchy, which outlines the importance of waste avoidance and reuse over energy recovery and disposal.

It is noted that the *Landfill Sustainability Guide 2004* was developed almost 20 years ago. With the passing of the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act* in March 2022, introduction of the *Waste and Resource Recovery Regulations 2022* and increased attention to waste management in Tasmania, it is likely that the guide will be updated with more recent (and potentially more stringent) requirements.

The following sections provide data collected for the Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots since 2017-2018. It is understood that different reporting methods and/or different data collation and waste conversion methods may have contributed to over-reporting of recyclables prior to 2021-2022.

### **Deloraine Waste Depot**

The Deloraine Waste Depot is located at 54 Tip Road, Deloraine on Council-owned land, and is the most centralised of the three sites, being situated immediately south of the township of Deloraine. The facility is open from 10am-5pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Deloraine Waste Depot includes a resource recovery centre for the sorting and processing of recyclables. Other infrastructure at the site includes:

- a site office and reuse shop
- utilities including power and water
- a leachate management system, including a leachate pond and sand filter
- a dedicated resource recovery area, incorporating various recycling bins, storage, sheds and a baler.

Deloraine Waste Depot is a Category B putrescible landfill, classified in accordance with the *Landfill Sustainability Guide 2004*, and it is licensed to receive 8,000 tonnes of waste per year (excluding materials for recycling) for landfill deposition (according to the 2024 Environmental Permit Conditions 11281). Based on recent data provided by Council the site receives approximately 5,000 tonnes of waste per year, summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1 Quantities of waste received at the Deloraine Waste Depot, 2017-2018 to 2022-23 (tonnes/year)**

Financial year	Waste	Recycling	Garden Organics	Clean Fill	Total
2017-2018	7,004	4,044	621	378	12,047
2018-2019	5,888	4,131	731	144	10,894
2019-2020	4,705	3,083	921	203	8,912
2020-2021	4,735	2,516	787	201	8,234
2021-2022	2,604	1,892	682	143	5,321
2022-2023	2,588	645	680	312	4,226

Several site improvements are planned for Deloraine Waste Depot, including, introduction of a weighbridge by July 2024, and new waste transfer station in 2024-2025. The waste transfer station will eliminate the need for the public to access the active tip face. Landfill airspace at Deloraine Waste Depot is expected to be depleted around June 2028.

Council will continue to analyse landfill, weighbridge and volumetric survey data to manage Deloraine Waste Depot and predict landfill closure timeframes. Should the landfill reach capacity earlier than expected Council plans to send waste to Westbury for disposal, subject to EPA approval, or transport waste to Launceston or Dulverton landfills. Council is reviewing options for future landfill services including the development of a new landfill at a neighbouring Deloraine or Westbury site and transport of waste to alternative regional landfills.

### Westbury Waste Depot

Westbury Waste Depot is located at 179 Cluan Road, Westbury. Opening hours are from 10am-5pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Since the beginning of 2022 Westbury Waste Depot received most of Councils kerbside collection waste.

Westbury Waste Depot includes a resource recovery centre. The existing landfill cell is reaching capacity; however, there is available footprint to construct an additional cell, which assuming it is approved and constructed, is set to expand the landfill lifespan until 2029 at current disposal rates. It is intended that the Westbury Waste Depot will be closed to the public in June 2025, with the landfill continuing to operate accepting municipal kerbside collection waste.

The site is licensed as a Category B putrescible landfill to accept up to 4,500 tonnes of waste per year (according to the 2022 Westbury Waste Depot Environmental Protection Notice 7635/2). Based on recent data provided by Council the site receives about 3,000 tonnes of waste per year, summarised in Table 2.

**Table 2 Quantities of waste received at the Westbury Waste Depot, 2017-2018 to 2022-2023 (tonnes/year)**

Financial year	Waste	Recycling	Garden Organics	Clean Fill	Total
2017-2018	3,951	3,877	485	249	8,562
2018-2019	3,287	3,359	533	105	7,284
2019-2020	2,942	2,619	647	133	6,341
2020-2021	2,993	2,048	509	111	5,662
2021-2022	2,081	1,312	394	131	3,918
2022-2023	2,643	445	281	144	3,513

Despite some concerns raised in previous years regarding the correct disposal and management of waste, operations at the site appear now to be in line with the *Landfill Sustainability Guide 2004*.

#### **Mole Creek and Meander Waste Transfer Stations**

The Mole Creek Waste Transfer Station is located at 64 Mersey Hill Road, Chudleigh. It is open on Wednesdays from 1pm-4pm and on Sundays from 10am-3pm. The site mainly services properties in the western end of the municipality and receives on average 274 tonnes of waste per year. Waste that cannot be recycled is transferred by JustWaste Consulting to the Deloraine Waste Depot for disposal. When the Deloraine Waste Depot reaches capacity, waste will be redirected to the Westbury Waste Depot.

An independent waste transfer station is located at East Meander Road, Meander and operated by the Meander Progress Association. Opening hours are Tuesdays from 8.30am-10.30am and Saturdays from 2pm-4pm. The site is privately owned but Council subsidised, and it provides waste transfer services to communities south of Deloraine, which would otherwise need to travel a considerable distance to access Councils waste disposal and waste transfer station facilities.

## Disposal fees

**Table 3 Waste disposal fees at Council Waste Depots and Mole Creek Transfer Station**

Category	Volume/Item	Fees 2022-2023	Fees 2023-2024
General waste to landfill	Bags up to 60 litres	\$2.00	\$2.20
	240 litre bins	\$5.00	\$5.40
	Car or wagon	\$18.00	\$19.50
	Ute or trailer (up to 1.5m <sup>3</sup> )	\$32.00	\$34.60
	Other vehicles (over 1.5m <sup>3</sup> but lower than 5m <sup>3</sup> )	\$21 per m <sup>3</sup>	\$27 per m <sup>3</sup>
	Vehicles over 5m <sup>3</sup>	Subject to Council approval	Subject to Council approval
Green waste, unsorted recyclables and salvageable timber	Bags up to 60 litres	\$1.00	\$1.10
	240 litre bins	\$2.50	\$2.70
	Car or wagon	\$9.00	\$9.75
	Ute or trailer (up to 1.5m <sup>3</sup> )	\$16.00	\$17.30
	Other vehicles (over 1.5m <sup>3</sup> but lower than 5m <sup>3</sup> )	\$10.50 per m <sup>3</sup>	\$13.50 per m <sup>3</sup>
	Vehicles over 5m <sup>3</sup>	Subject to Council approval	Subject to Council approval
Other items	Car & light truck tyres	\$14.00	\$15.00
	Truck tyres	\$43.00	\$46.00
	Motor vehicle bodies	\$22.00	\$23.00
	Mattresses	\$10.50	\$11.00
	Refrigerators & freezers	\$7.00	\$7.50
	Empty waste oil containers	\$1.50	\$1.60

Recyclable materials that are free to dispose of include:

- separated & sorted recyclables
- batteries
- drumMUSTER
- polystyrene
- clean fill
- motor & cooking oils
- light scrap steel & non-ferrous metal
- fluorescent tubes & light bulbs
- e-waste
- items suitable for reuse shop.

### Circular North recycling services

Circular North facilitates recycling services for certain materials and household items that are hard to recycle at the Deloraine Waste Depot. This includes hazardous wastes and items that may not be safely or easily disposed of. These materials are listed in the table below.

**Table 4 Materials collected by programs facilitated by Circular North in Meander Valley, 2022-2023**

Material	Collection rate	Comments
Paint	6,907 kg of waste paint collected	Through a partnership with Cleanaway, and with the use of the Paintback scheme. After collection, paint is processed and treated, while tins are crushed and recycled.
Fluorescent lights	4,300 kg collected This figure is from all NRM North councils in 2020-21.	Collection of fluorescent bulbs and tubes is available with dedicated stillages provided on site. Mercury within the lights is recovered and recycled.
Batteries	3,770 kg collected	Dedicated wheelie bins for batteries provided on site.
Polystyrene	750 kg collected	Polystyrene is collected at Deloraine Waste Depot and transported to Launceston Waste Centre. A polystyrene recycling machine was installed at the Launceston Waste Centre in 2016, which condenses polystyrene into bricks to be recycled.
E-waste	7,227 kg collected	TechCollect a co-regulator under the national stewardship scheme for electronic waste, provide e-waste drop off at Deloraine Waste Depot. Circular North's partnership with TechCollect facilitates free processing and transport of e-waste from Tasmania to a processing facility in Victoria.

### 3.3 Generation and diversion

Waste received at Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots is reported from various waste streams as shown in Table 5. The waste is either disposed of onsite or diverted to garden organics and recycling areas. Since July 2022 all garden organics are mulched and transported to Dulverton Waste Management for composting. Clean fill is received and used for daily cover. Waste generated from public drop offs and from Council's kerbside collection service contributed the highest tonnage. There is a high level of diversion with green organics, recycling and clean fill representing between 32-49% of all materials received.

**Table 5 Waste tonnages received at Cluan and Deloraine Waste Depots 2017-2018 to 2022-2023 (tonnes/ per year)**

Financial Year	Waste Kerbside collection	Waste Public drop offs	Recycling	Garden Organics	Clean fill	Total
2017-2018	4,138	6,817	7,921	1,106	627	20,609
2018-2019	3,264	5,911	7,489	1,264	249	18,177
2019-2020	2,762	4,884	5,702	1,568	336	15,252
2020-2021	2,875	4,853	4,564	1,296	312	13,900
2021-2022	2,144	2,541	3,203	1,076	274	9,238
2022-2023	2,461	2,770	1,090	961	456	7,738

**Waste to landfill**

Total annual waste disposed to landfill has decreased significantly from 2018-2019 as shown in Figure 2. Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots both estimate tonnage of waste disposed to landfill based on calculations of volumetric conversions, therefore changes in compaction density would affect the estimated tonnage of waste to landfill unless the conversion factors are updated. Some of the decrease in total waste landfilled may be attributed to an increase in compaction density from about 1.5 to 2.6 from September 2018 to September 2019.



**Figure 2: Total waste landfilled at Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots, 2014-2015 to 2022-2023 (tonnes per year)**

A further decrease between 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 can mostly be attributed to a drop in domestic vehicle waste deliveries received at Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots.

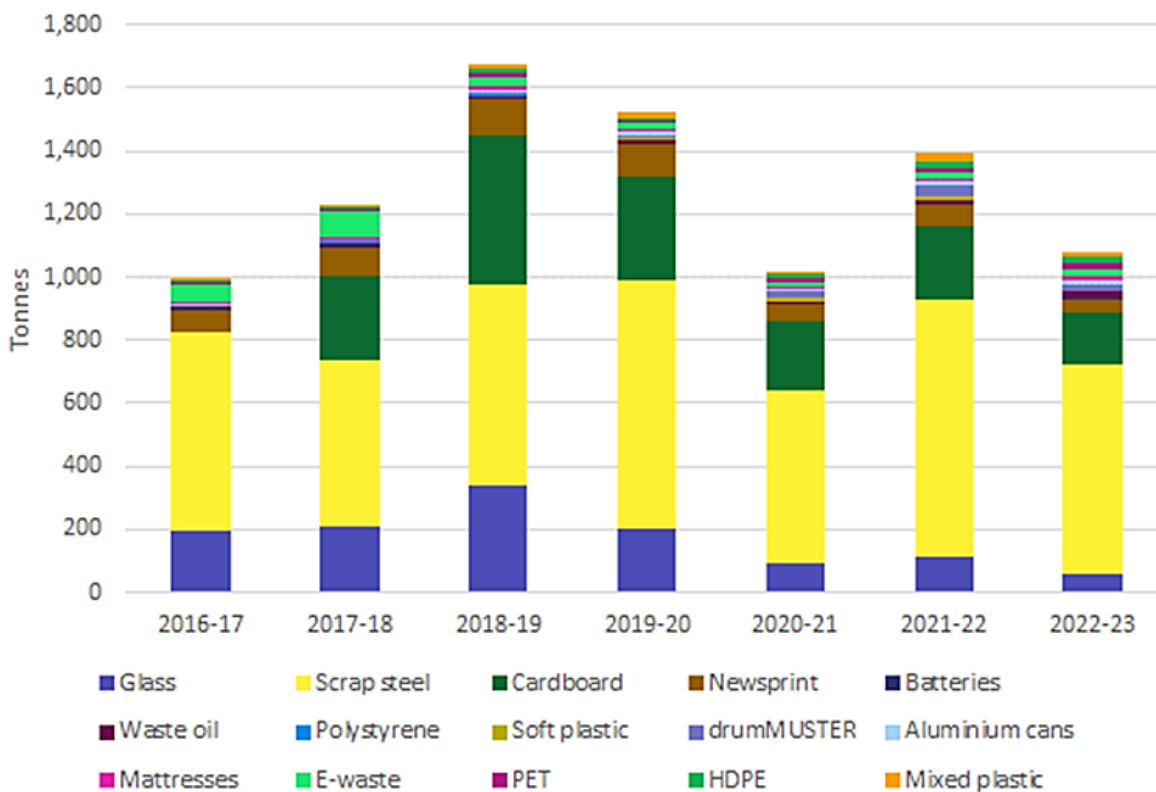
The quantity of waste to landfill reported in 2022-2023 was 5,231 tonnes of which 2,461 tonnes originated from kerbside collection. This represents a 12% increase from the quantity reported in 2021-2022.

**Recycled waste**

Kerbside recycling is collected fortnightly and includes paper, cardboard, steel, aluminium cans, glass jars and bottles, and plastics numbered 1, 2 and 5 (Polyethylene terephthalate, High density polyethylene and Polypropylene). This comingled material is currently taken to the JJ Richards material recovery facility (MRF) in Mowbray, Launceston for sorting.

Approximately 1,119 tonnes of recycling and 1,213 tonnes of FOGO were collected for 2022-2023 financial year, accounting for 49% of the total material collected from the kerbside collection service.

Additionally, 1,090 tonnes of recyclable waste were received at Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots. Steel and cardboard comprised most of the recovered material, as shown in Figure 3. An additional 961 tonnes of garden organics were recycled through mulching and composting.



**Figure 3: Recyclables received at Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots, 2016-2017 to 2022-2023 (tonnes/year)**

There are some discrepancies in recycling data between the six-monthly data reports (from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020) for Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots and the annual landfill reports (2020-2021 onwards). They may be attributed to different reporting methods and/or different data collation and waste conversion methods.

It is important to note that Figure 3 does not include all recovered material due to the historical reporting framework. Material categories that are missing include:

- salvageable timber
- tyres
- building material
- flares
- books
- reuse shop items
- gas bottles (empty)
- paint tins (full and empty)
- fluorescent tubes and light bulbs.

The overall recycling data is expected to improve with increased mandatory reporting of recovered materials at Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots, which is required from July 2024.

### **Hard waste**

A hard waste collection service is provided annually for Meander Valley residents and is serviced by an external contractor. To receive this service residents must register with Council before the collection period and meet the guidelines. The aim of hard waste collection is diversion of waste from landfill. At sorting hubs, material is separated into waste, scrap steel, e-waste or items suitable for resale. Scrap steel recovered by this initiative increased significantly from 180 m<sup>3</sup> in 2020 to 425 m<sup>3</sup> in 2022.

The proportion of hard waste that was diverted from landfill improved from 2020 to 2021, increasing from 54% to 62% (JustWaste Consulting 2020, 2021), and decreased from 2021 to 2022, from 62% to 53% (Blue Environment calculation).

## 4. Key challenges and opportunities

The challenges facing waste management and resource recovery for Council are discussed below, as well as opportunities to address them and improve outcomes.

### 4.1 Regulatory changes

The WRR Act introduced increased requirements for data collection, reporting and maintenance for Tasmania's waste and resource recovery sector. Council's processes need to meet these new statutory obligations, which include:

- preparation and submission of a monthly and annual reports on the amount and type of waste received and removed from a landfill facility
- from 1 July 2024 preparation and submission of annual reports on the amount and type of waste received and removed from a "Class B" resource recovery facility
- compliance with operational requirements
- annual volumetric surveys of landfill cells
- retainment of landfill and resource recovery facility records and documents for at least five years.

High quality data reporting will also improve opportunities to monitor Council performance that can be reviewed against state targets on a regular basis.

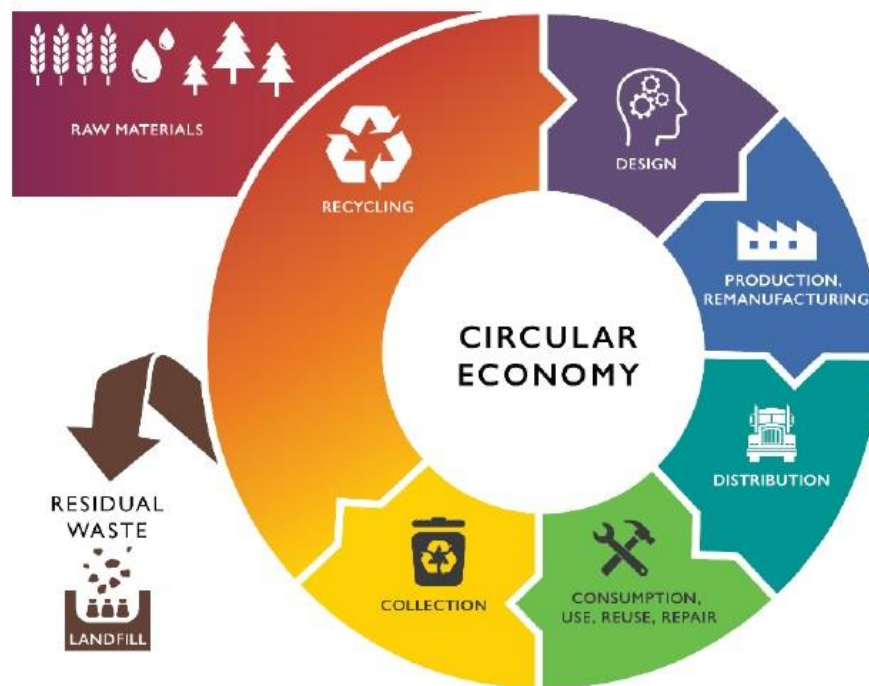
Funding has been provided through the Landfill Levy Readiness Grant and Waste Data Readiness Grant Program to improve data collection systems and address staff training needs. There may be future funding opportunities through the landfill levy which could support Council's resource recovery and waste education.

### 4.2 Leadership and education

Council can advocate for waste minimisation through supporting behaviour change in Meander Valley residents by undertaking initiatives in collaboration with community groups. This could include supporting reuse and repair initiatives, encouraging participation in national and local environmental events such as National Garage Sale Trail, Clean Up Australia Day and working with local business groups on waste minimisation activities. The support for Rethink Waste as part of Circular North represents an existing opportunity where Council endorses education as a strategy to foster a well-informed community in Meander Valley.

Regular audits of waste and recycling streams are a useful way to accurately track behaviour changes. The results of audits can improve understanding of causes of contamination and help Council tailor educational materials and opportunities to the needs of its residents.

The circular economy model of waste management is becoming more embedded in national and state conversations surrounding waste. See Figure 5 for a schematic representation of the circular economy. The model aims to reduce the quantity of valuable resources being lost as waste to landfill and move away from the unsustainable linear take-make-waste model. Council policies are progressively engaging with this model and commitments should be made in all new projects to engage with the circular economy concept.



**Figure 4 The circular economy (source-Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2026)**

Australians are becoming increasingly more engaged with what happens to their waste. Driven by programs such as ABC's War on Waste, waste management is escalating in the hierarchy of important issues to voters. Local governments have an expanding obligation to engage with voter concerns surrounding waste management and pursue support and improvement in these issue areas. While waste and resource recovery has historically been a non-engaging issue, these changed ideas about waste will continue to be an issue that is at the forefront of future regional strategies and will require ongoing commitment to best practice in the future.

In addition to advocating for behaviour change at the personal level for Meander Valley residents, Council could pursue opportunities for engagement and collaboration between regional businesses and Circular North for improved waste management outcomes on initiatives aimed at waste avoidance, such as product stewardship programs. This could further be expanded to advocate for local businesses at the state government level for improved support mechanisms to improve resource recovery rates.

Integration of sustainable procurement within Council's procurement policy could be a strategy for Council to further its community leadership. This could include preferential purchase of environmentally conscious products, especially products made using recycled content. Sustainable procurement accounts for the full life cycle of goods and services to ensure purchasing decisions account for broader environmental and social considerations. The incorporation of sustainability-related targets in Council's purchasing process could be an impactful way for Council to drive the circular economy.

### 4.3 Kerbside collection services

#### FOGO

Households are one of the largest contributors to food waste. A FOGO kerbside collection service is not currently available for some Meander Valley residents and by expanding the service Council has a significant opportunity to reduce food waste. Blackstone Heights was the first area in the Meander Valley municipality to receive FOGO collection, after being subject to a successful trial in 2011-2012. Council has expanded its kerbside FOGO collection network across the eastern end of the municipality, with services now also available for Prospect Vale, Travellers Rest and Hadspen. Since the expansion of the FOGO collection network, organic material collected has increased significantly from 133 tonnes in 2021-2022 to 1,213 tonnes in 2022-2023. FOGO collection allows organic material to be composted, turning food waste into a useable material. Diversion from landfill will reduce methane emissions from landfills and prolong landfill lifespan.

Council has previously considered additional FOGO services and are recommended to continue measures in implementing an expanded FOGO service. Information could be provided by Council for residents to encourage the correct use of the new service during expansion.

#### Kerbside performance

Council is interested in expanding their existing kerbside collection services to more residents in rural areas, and now offers opt-in collections for some rural townships. To facilitate this opportunity and highlight areas for improvement, a kerbside collection performance comparison between similar councils is shown in Table 6. Tasmania does not mandate collection of kerbside collection data, so comparisons are made with Victorian councils, Indigo Shire, Swan Hill and Golden Plains. These councils were chosen based on their similar population, land size and industry performance.

Each council provides different levels of kerbside collection service for different rates. Similar annual rates were chosen to easily compare cost effectiveness of each council's service. Table 6 provides a comparison of kerbside collection services at similar costs in 2023-2024.

Indigo Shire displays a higher rate of kerbside material diversion from landfill compared to the other councils listed. At a similar cost to households, Golden Plains does not provide FOGO collection, Swan Hill offers garden organics service only (does not include food organics) to the Swan Hill city area and Meander Valley offers some FOGO services, these councils also have lower diversion performance compared to Indigo Shire.

Meander Valley expanded its FOGO collection service to further areas in 2022-2023, and in the same year observed an 18% increase of kerbside diversion from landfill. There is opportunity for Meander Valley to continue to increase material diversion from landfill by expanding the kerbside collection network as well as introducing more specific bins for recyclable materials. Community education and awareness to improve the usage of kerbside collection system, including correct sorting of materials and lower bin contamination, could be implemented to achieve higher landfill diversion rates.

**Table 6 Kerbside collection services in Meander Valley, Indigo Shire, Swan Hill and Golden Plains**

Council/shire	Cost to household per year <sup>1</sup>	Bins provided <sup>2</sup>	Kerbside collection diverted from landfill <sup>3</sup>
Meander Valley Council	\$434 <sup>4</sup>	140L waste <sup>5</sup> 240L recyclables 240L FOGO	49% <sup>6</sup>
Indigo Shire Council	\$406	120L waste 240L recycling 240L FOGO <sup>7</sup>	66%
Swan Hill Rural City Council	\$370 \$470 <sup>8</sup>	120L waste 240L recycling 240L FOGO <sup>8</sup>	29%
Golden Plains Council	\$427	240L waste 240L recyclables	35%

<sup>1</sup> Cost may vary depending on location and level of service. Presented are 2023-2024 figures.

<sup>2</sup> Size and types of bins provided may vary depending on level of service.

<sup>3</sup> Diversion rates presented are 2022-2023 figures.

<sup>4</sup> Includes \$162 waste management contribution (2023-2024 budget figure).

<sup>5</sup> 140L is the standard mobile garbage bin size. Mobile recycling bins can be multiple sizes without an additional charge. A 240L FOGO bin is also included only for residents in Blackstone Heights, Prospect Vale, Travellers Rest and Hadspen.

<sup>6</sup> Kerbside collection material diverted from landfill for Meander Valley was calculated by analysing the total amount of waste, FOGO and recycling collected for 2022-23.

<sup>7</sup> 240L organics service is only available, and mandatory, in urban regions of Indigo Shire.

<sup>8</sup> Includes a \$100 charge for Garden Organics (does not include Food Organics) kerbside collection, service only available for residents in Swan Hill city.

## 4.4 Infrastructure

The active landfill cells at Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots are nearing capacity. A new weighbridge and waste transfer station at Deloraine Waste Depot is scheduled for 2024-2025, while a new landfill cell will be constructed at the Westbury Waste Depot. Detailed feasibility work to assess and decide on the future landfilling approach will be critical in the next two years. The Mole Creek Waste Transfer Station is viable in the short to medium term, with a review recently completed. Further review for the potential closure of the facility to be undertaken before 30 June 2028.

The Tasmanian waste sector produced 288 kt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2018 from solid waste disposal according to the Tasmanian Climate Change Office's Emissions Pathway Review (2021). This accounted for 73% of greenhouse gas emissions from the waste sector. The waste sector accounted for 5% of Tasmania's emissions inventory excluding land use, land use change and forestry. Carbon emissions from waste are projected to decrease to 87 kt CO<sub>2</sub>-e by 2050 according to a medium emission scenario using the reference case emission for Tasmania. The key drivers of lower carbon emissions from waste will be less organic waste decaying in landfill and less waste overall being landfilled following the implementation of the state-wide levy incentive.

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office suggests landfill gas capture technology as an opportunity to decrease carbon emissions from the waste sector with a high achievability rating. While this technology may not be appropriate for the existing Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots, the technology may be viable infrastructure to account for in planning any new landfill site.

The Valley Central Bioenergy Project consisting of a 10MWe bioenergy hub proposed for the Valley Central Industrial Precinct offers significant energy recovery opportunities for Council. The bioenergy hub will use anaerobic digestion and combustion plants to generate energy from biomass feedstock, providing energy to multiple businesses at Valley Central and potentially more extensively. The feedstock offers a sustainable end-of-life alternative for wastes originating from the industrial precinct and surrounding region. This project will have significant impacts on the progress towards circular economy.

### Case study 1

A road resurfacing project in Meander Valley through the partnership between Fulton Hogan and Tyre Stewardship Australia has demonstrated the opportunities available to include recycled material in active projects close to home.

In 2020, the partnership resurfaced roads in Meander Valley using 1,240 end-of-life truck tyres diverted from landfill and equivalent 40,000 recycled glass bottles to produce crumb rubber asphalt (Johnston 2020).

### Case study 2

A \$10 million expanded polystyrene manufacturing facility is proposed for Valley Central Westbury. The plant will utilise recycled polystyrene to produce boxes for agriculture and aquaculture as well as the manufacture polystyrene construction blocks.

## 4.5 Market trends

Historically there have been limited opportunities for a vibrant recycling market for Tasmania attributed to a variety of reasons including a lack of infrastructure and prohibitively high transport costs to reprocessing facilities based on the mainland. The introduction of national bans on the export of recyclable materials is a turning point in the Australian recycling industry. In Meander Valley there is an existing, although currently limited, demand for recycled materials for local projects driven by the circular economy. These are discussed in the case studies.

There are unprecedented pools of funding currently available from the Australian and Tasmanian Government through the Recycling Modernisation Fund. This in response to the limited downstream opportunities for recycling and will stimulate a local market for recycled material which will drive the circular economy. The local market for recycled material is currently in a period of transition and is expected to expand over the next ten years. This may include the growth in infrastructure and recycling facilities availability in the region.

Proposed projects from Tasmanian recipients of the Recycling Modernisation Fund to date include a timber recycling facility and a plastics reprocessing and manufacturing plant as well as improving recycling infrastructure for three remote councils.

## 5. Next steps

This section outlines actions needed to achieve state, national and regional targets, and provides an indicative time frame for the implementation of those actions.

There are several external variables that impact on Council's approach which remain uncertain. In particular, the ability to secure land if needed for landfilling and associated environmental approvals, a recycling market in flux, and the number of providers in the Northern Tasmanian market mean that a staged approach to transitioning and implementing a waste and resource recovery strategy is necessary.

It is noted that the state-wide landfill levy will also contribute to the implementation of additional recycling and diversion processes to help councils achieve the intended objectives.

### 5.1 Actions

The following table of actions are recommended based on the challenges and opportunities.

**Table 7 2024-33 action implementation plan**

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
1.	Adoption of a common level of service for the kerbside collection (type and frequency).	Feasibility study of fortnightly collection of each kerbside bin.	Monitor kerbside collection frequency and bin fullness.	Provide	H	F-OPEX	Kerbside Collection Services
2.	Investigate expansion of FOGO services to other areas that have kerbside collection inc. Carrick, Westbury, Bracknell, Deloraine.	Survey residents from each township and roll out expansion each year. It is intended FOGO services are provided to all areas that have kerbside collection.	-	Provide	M	F-OPEX	Kerbside Collection Services
3.	Expand rural kerbside collection for both waste and recycling services to improve waste management practices in Meander Valley where possible.	Assessment on the possible expansion of the kerbside waste and recycling collection service to rural areas, with further expansions made.	Kerbside collection service expanded to rural areas where appropriate.	Provide	H	F-OPEX	Kerbside Collection Services
4.	Continue to operate Mole Creek Transfer Waste Station with a review for potential closure of the facility to be undertaken before June 2029.	Management and operation of the Mole Creek Waste Transfer Station with review of closure.	Dependent upon review outcomes.	Provide	L	F-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
5.	Continue to provide financial support to the Meander Progress Association towards operation of the Meander Valley Waste Transfer Station and review a potential cessation of the financial support to be undertaken by 30 June 2025.	Review financial support to Meander Progress Association.	-	Facilitate	L	F-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services
6.	FOGO collection services are expanded to commercial food premises, cafes restaurants within kerbside collection service area.	Provide a FOGO kerbside collection service to all commercial food premises.	FOGO services are provided to all areas that have kerbside collection.	Provide	H	F-OPEX	Kerbside Collection Services
7.	Invest in Waste and Resource Recovery Education.	Have regular waste and recycling education for residents to create awareness and improve resource recovery include mailouts, website, Facebook, kerbside bin audits.	Further programs targeting specific items/issues e.g. kerbside contamination.	Provide	H	F-OPEX	Kerbside Collection Services Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services Waste Strategy
8.	Establish composting facility at Deloraine Waste Transfer Station.	Obtain approval to conduct open windrow composting to process garden organics deliveries.	Majority of organic waste in the municipality is composted.	Provide	H	F-OPEX CAPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
9.	Establish construction and demolition (C&D) waste processing facility at Deloraine Waste Transfer Station.	Obtain approval for a C&D waste facility to process a wide variety of material from construction waste deliveries.	Majority of C&D waste in the municipality is recycled.	Provide	M	F-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services
10.	Expand participation in product stewardship programs.	Regularly review current product stewardship programs, determine if others can be provided and if drop off/collection points can be established at Council facilities including the Deloraine Waste Transfer Station.	Expand product stewardship programs at Council facilities in adherence to current schemes.	Facilitate	M	A-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services Waste Strategy
11.	Expand Deloraine Waste Transfer Station to include Reuse/Repair Centre.	Invest in resource recovery infrastructure creating increased waste diversion including for difficult waste streams.	Majority of materials received at Deloraine Waste Transfer Station are recycled, reused.	Provide	M	F-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services Waste Strategy
12.	Reduce waste by 10% per person by 2030 in line with the national targets and 5% by 2025 in line with the state targets.	Reduced waste by 5% per person.	Reduced waste by 10% per person.	Advocate (N)	L	F-OPEX CAPEX	Waste Strategy

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
13.	Ensure 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.	100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable.	Maintain that all packaging is made from either reusable, recyclable or compostable materials.	Advocate (N)	H	CAPEX	Waste Strategy
14.	Achieve a 40% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2025 and 80% by 2030.	40% recovery from all waste streams.	80% recovery from all waste streams.	Advocate (N)	L	CAPEX	Waste Strategy
15.	Have the lowest incidence of littering in the country by 2023.	The lowest incidence of littering in the country.	Maintain this low littering level.	Advocate (S)	M	F-OPEX	Waste Strategy
16.	Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2030.	Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics.	Continue not to use problematic and unnecessary plastics.	Advocate (N)	M	F-OPEX	Waste Strategy
17.	Continue to advocate for development of Valley Central Bioenergy Facility to improve energy recovery rates and provide alternative pathways for organic waste.	Feasibility study for the development of the Valley Central Bioenergy Facility.	Implementation and construction of the Valley Central Bioenergy Facility.	Advocate	H	F-OPEX	Waste Strategy
18.	Better manage controlled waste in the municipality.	Participate in product stewardship programs for controlled waste, organise household hazardous waste collections.	Controlled waste is managed and significantly reduced in the municipality.	Provide	M	A-OPEX	Waste Strategy

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
19.	Expand recycling opportunities beyond the current kerbside collection service and recycling drop-off points at waste depots and waste transfer stations.	Create recycling hubs at Council buildings and Deloraine Waste Transfer Station for recycling items that are not able to be recycled through the kerbside collection service.	Majority of waste in the municipality is recycled.	Provide	M	CAPEX	Waste Strategy
20.	Develop Council procurement policies for products that have a high percentage of recycled content.	Include asphalt with recycled glass/rubber content for road construction projects, wheelie bins made from recycled plastics when procuring new bins.	Majority of products that council purchases has recycled content.	Provide	M	A-OPEX	Waste Strategy
21.	Support the Recycle Rewards - Tasmania's upcoming container refund scheme (CRS).	Work with government to have multiple refund points in the municipality.	Ensure that Recycle Rewards is operating effectively and implement improvements to the scheme.	Facilitate (S)	H	CAPEX	Waste Strategy
<b>Waste governance</b>							
22.	Construction of a waste transfer station and weighbridge at the Deloraine Waste Depot. Expected completion date of weighbridge by July 2024.	Implementation of the Deloraine Waste Transfer Station Project.	Review Deloraine Waste Transfer Station performance.	Provide	H	CAPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
23.	Conduct further assessment on the existing and long-term capacity of the Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots and assess options for future waste management.	Feasibility study for the management of waste in the municipality.	Implementation of feasibility study outcomes.	Provide	H	A-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services
24.	Conduct annual audits of kerbside collection services to determine causes of contamination and understand compositions of wastes. This could also be used to inform product stewardship programs.	Conduct audits on kerbside collection services throughout the municipality.	Address issues arising from audits, if any.	Provide	M	F-OPEX	Kerbside Collection Services
25.	Improve data collection systems to monitor recycling rates and performance against targets.	Improve data collection systems and monitor performance.	Monitor performance against targets.	Provide	H	F-OPEX	Kerbside Collection Services Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services Waste Strategy

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
26.	Ongoing provision of waste disposal vouchers, community engagement to increase awareness and use.	Monitor use and performance.	Review the provision of waste disposal vouchers.	Provide	M	A-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services  Waste Strategy
27.	Address carbon emissions at Waste Depots through increased diversion.	Assessment of carbon emissions at Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots with mitigation strategies conducted.	Monitor landfill carbon emissions at Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots	Provide	M	A-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services
28.	Effectively manage heavy plant, facility upgrades and employee resource requirements to manage operations of all Council owned Waste Depots and Waste Transfer Stations.	First review of the heavy plant, facility upgrades and employee resource requirements.	Second review of the heavy plant, facility upgrades and employee resource requirements.	Provide	M	A-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services
29.	Ongoing implementation of Tasmanian Landfill Levy. Including levy increases to meet the Australian Regional Landfill Levy average of \$60 per tonne by 2026.	Implementation of Tasmanian Landfill Levy and review charges and fees.	Review charges and fees.	Facilitate (S)	H	A-OPEX	Waste Depot & Transfer Station Services

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
30.	Develop of a communications plan, consultation plan and implementation plan for the approved Waste Strategy Principles.	Development of a communications plan, consultation plan and implementation plan.	Review and update the communications plan, consultation plan and implementation plan.	Provide	H	F-OPEX	Waste Strategy
31.	Explore regional procurement opportunities.	Where beneficial, work with other councils on the development of regional contracts for kerbside collection services, recycling processing, FOGO composting and waste management services.	Ensure that Council has long term contracts with a high level of service for managing recycling, FOGO and waste.	Facilitate	M	A-OPEX	Waste Strategy
32.	Encourage opportunities in commercial and industrial (C&I) and C&D waste sectors.	Develop a regional contract for key C&D and C&I waste products (concrete crushing & plaster recovery and recycling) with other councils at their Waste Transfer Stations.	Increased diversion of C&D and C&I waste away from landfill.	Facilitate	L	A-OPEX	Waste Strategy

No.	Action	2024-29	2029-33	Council role <sup>1</sup>	Priority <sup>2</sup>	Resources <sup>3</sup>	Responsible group
<b>Waste reduction and improvement of recycling practices</b>							
33.	Support Circular North.	Implement the Circular North Annual Plan for 23-24 and contribute to the development of the 5-year strategic plan.	Contribute and develop to future Circular North strategic plans.	Facilitate (S)	H	A-OPEX	Waste Strategy

<sup>1</sup> Council role (S) indicates state-based actions. (N) indicates national based action.

<sup>2</sup> The Council determined priority of high, medium and low is based on assessment of two criteria, which are community benefit and ease of implementation. Community benefit considers contribution to filling service gaps and improving customer service. Ease of implementation considers the time, resources and complexity for delivery.

<sup>3</sup> The financial resources required:

- A-OPEX: existing annual/ongoing operating cost that is unlikely to require significant consideration in annual resourcing and budget allocation.
- F-OPEX: future annual/operating cost that may increase and will require consideration in annual resourcing and budget allocation.
- CAPEX: capital expenditure will be required to implement action.

## 5.2 Implementation plan

Several deliverables have been achieved since the completion of the 2016-2020 waste strategy and during the development this strategy, including:

- a new kerbside collection service contract established in July 2022 with JJ Richards for seven years
- waste disposal voucher systems for households >25 minutes (applied as a 30km radius) from Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots and Mole Creek Waste Transfer Station
- a service agreement with City of Launceston for waste disposal vouchers
- a new contract with JustWaste Consulting for the operation of Mole Creek Waste Transfer Station, Deloraine and Westbury Waste Depots.

Implementation of the action plan should follow a staged approach, as proposed below.

**Table 8 Staged implementation plan**

Deliverables by stage	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
<b>Stage 1: Landfill and alternative waste disposal options investigation</b>										
Deliverable 1 - Construction of a new five-year capacity landfill cell at Westbury Waste Depot.										
Deliverable 2 - Closure of existing cells that are at capacity first Westbury Waste Depot 2025 -2026 and then Deloraine Waste Depot 2027-2028.										
Deliverable 3 - Introduction of a weighbridge at Deloraine Waste Depot.										
Deliverable 4 - Options for development of future landfilling capacity (expansion and closure options for Westbury and Deloraine Waste Depots or a new landfill site).										
Deliverable 5 - Construction of a waste transfer station at Deloraine Waste Depot.										

Deliverables by stage	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Deliverable 6 - Optimised operating arrangements at waste depots and waste transfer stations including purchase of plant-machinery & equipment (in-house vs outsource delivery model to be further analysed).										
<b>Stage 2: Renewal of kerbside collection service arrangements</b>										
Deliverable 1 - Standard kerbside collection service specification (charge, type and frequency) for current service areas.										
Deliverable 2 - Expanded FOGO kerbside collection service (subject to community consultation).										
Deliverable 3 - Reviewed kerbside collection approach including comingled recycling processing/FOGO management & waste disposal (potential future in-house operating model, regional model etc.).										
<b>Stage 3: Waste depot and waste transfer station services</b>										
Deliverable 1 - Extension of existing agreements with Meander Progress Association (annual).										
Deliverable 2 - Public consultation on preferred service (waste transfer station vs kerbside collection).										
Deliverable 3 - Introduction (subject to consultation and financial viability) of kerbside collection service to Meander, Mole Creek, and Chudleigh service catchments or improved waste transfer station service.										
Deliverable 4 - Decision paper on the future of the Mole Creek Waste Transfer Station.										

Deliverables by stage	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
<b>Stage 4: Waste depot and waste transfer station operating models</b>										
<p>The preferred waste infrastructure operating model (whether it is Council owned waste depots and waste transfer stations, or transport to regional waste management facilities, or in house versus external operations) will be determined once decisions are made regarding the future of Council’s waste depots, and continued reliance in the medium term on transfer waste stations.</p>										
<b>Stage 5: Recycling and composting</b>										
<p>Council will commission a report to determine the best overall strategy to address recycling, including the management of garden organics and composting. This will require consideration of investment in new infrastructure to sort, process and remanufacture materials such as mixed plastic, paper, tyres and glass.</p>										
<p>Other items that could be included in the recycling strategy include:</p>										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• diversion target of waste to landfill</li> <li>• sustainable procurement by Council</li> <li>• alternatives to landfill (anaerobic digesters, pyrolysis, gasification)</li> <li>• soft plastic recycling</li> <li>• participation in the National product stewardship schemes</li> <li>• FOGO kerbside collection service both domestic and commercial</li> <li>• waste cooking oil collection</li> <li>• cardboard collection</li> <li>• public recycling bins, event waste management, Tidy Towns, Garage Sale Trail, Clean Up Australia, waste education</li> <li>• C&amp;D and C&amp;I waste</li> <li>• better storage of recyclables at waste depots and waste transfer stations.</li> </ul>										

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