

Waste Management Strategy 2016 - 2020





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Waste Management Strategy 2016 - 2020

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1. Introduction

The Waste Management Strategy has been developed to address how waste services, activities, and disposal are provided, and to improve the management of waste resources within the Meander Valley Council local government area.

Council is part of the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group and this strategy outlines our role in this region and within Tasmania. The strategy aims to outline the changes needed to provide best practice management of our waste. The strategy will be delivered by acknowledging our current situation, building on our strengths, and listening to the aspirations of our community.

Council's landfill sites at Cluan (near Westbury) and Deloraine will reach their capacity within the next ten years. A key goal of this strategy is to develop

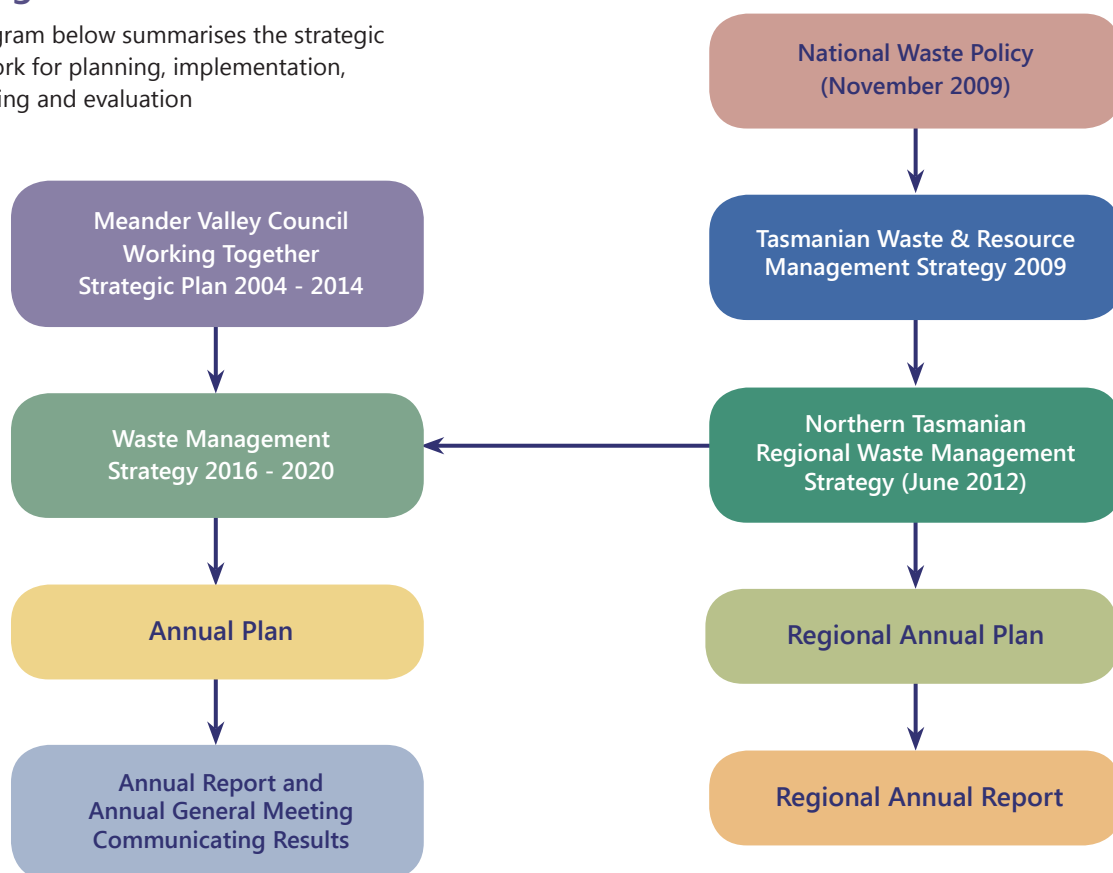
and implement a plan for the move from landfill to a resource recovery centre.

This strategy will help Council determine how we will provide our residents with services and how we will work with our community to manage our waste in terms of both financial and environmental cost. We need to continue to champion an innovative approach for both the region and the state.

Meander Valley Council has taken a progressive approach to sustainability practices. By introducing the Waste Management Strategy, Council aims to reach a position of self-reliance and environmental sustainability in its waste processes.

Strategic Framework

The diagram below summarises the strategic framework for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation



2. Vision - Meander Valley

The Vision - where we are going

Majestic landscape and rural splendour

The backdrop of the Great Western Tiers, the unique rural countryside of fields, hedges and villages, give Meander Valley its unique look and feel.

Growing for generations to come

Growth will be sustainable and respect our special environment and lifestyle.

Working Together

Council and community, township and township, everyone with each other, for the benefit of all.

Values

What will guide our choices and behaviour

- Respect, listen and care for one another
- Work together
- Be positive and receptive to new ideas
- Be creative and learn
- Take a fair, balanced, long term approach.

Future Directions

Natural and Built Environment

Sustainable management that protects our natural heritage including karst management and water quality.

Economic Growth

Support and development, attract investment, and encourage business co-operation.

Working Together

Culture of communication, consultation and listening. Being responsive to everyone's responsibility.

Infrastructure and Services

Developed in a sustainable way to meet the future needs of our community.

Maintenance of existing assets and the development of long term innovation solutions to respond to waste management.

Specifically working with other councils in the region on the implementation of a Regional Waste Management Strategy.

3. Background

The Meander Valley Council carries out the following waste management activities:

- collection of kerbside waste and recyclables from approximately 6500 customers within the major urban areas, and 450 Blackstone Heights residents with kerbside organics collection
- contracts for the operation of two landfills at Deloraine and Cluan and a small transfer station for the Mole Creek area
- contribution towards the operation of a community operated transfer station at Meander
- waste collection services at Council's parks, halls, main streets, and other facilities and reserves
- annual hard waste collection.

In 2013 the municipality generated 17,800 tonnes of waste from kerbside collections, council street and facility bins, general domestic, industrial, and construction activities. This was deposited to the following facilities:

- 1800 tonnes of waste to the Launceston Waste Facility at Remount Road
- 10,000 tonnes of waste material to the Deloraine landfill
- 6000 tonnes at Cluan landfill.

Council currently recycles an extensive range of materials and participates in various programs to reduce and divert waste from landfill. This has the potential for opening up new markets for waste resources.

Council is meeting the requirements of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) through strong investment in the landfills at Deloraine and Cluan through:

- lining of future cells
- security fencing and fire access roads
- environmental contents including leachate filter.

Council engages in best practice waste management at facilities through:

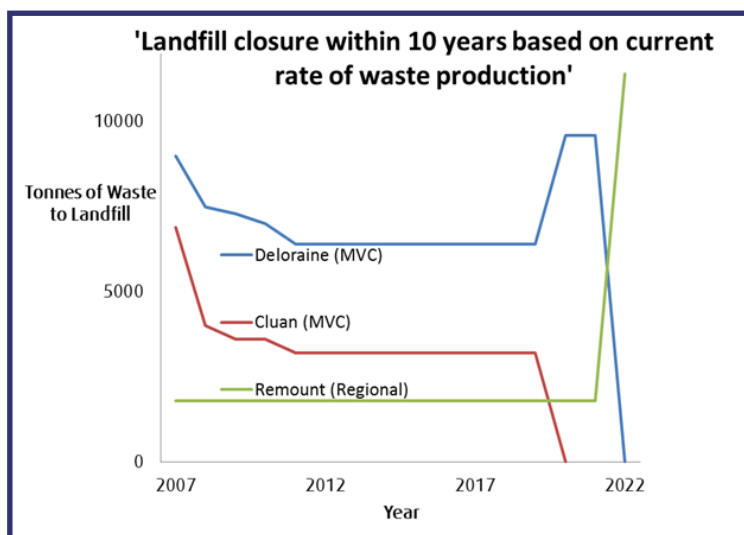
- separation of recyclables and reusables
- operation of a tip shop
- monitoring of ground water.

Council is a partner to the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group and actively participates in initiatives that benefit the region. This includes:

- kerbside recycling assessments
- public place recycling
- trial of kerbside organics collection
- strategic studies
- garage sale trail.

The following activities are conducted by Council:

- rural dual bin station at Felmingham Road
- bailing and sale of recyclables
- fortnightly kerbside collection system into Blackstone Heights for waste, recycling and organics
- public place recycling at events including Deloraine Craft Fair.

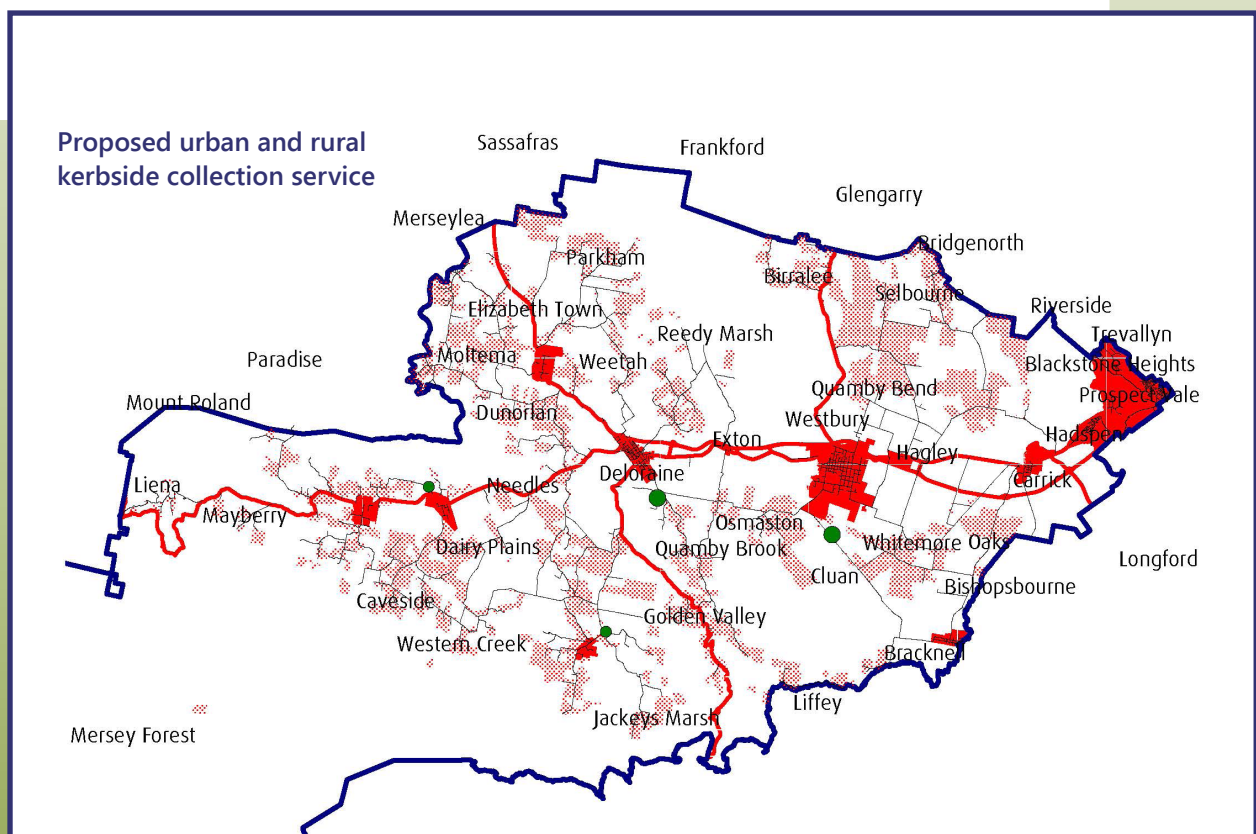


4. Waste Management Goals

The Waste Management Strategy has identified five goals:

- Goal A** - Provide effective and efficient kerbside services
- Goal B** - Provide high quality landfill and resource recovery infrastructure
- Goal C** - Develop regional and strategic partnerships
- Goal D** - Ensure services are sustainable through review, monitoring, innovation and improvement
- Goal E** - Be a community leader in waste management.

Each of these Goals is briefly discussed with some key issues identified. Each Goal consists of objectives and associated actions.



Goal A

Provide effective and efficient kerbside services

Overview

Council is committed to providing its residents with effective waste management services. These services include sustainable and community accepted kerbside collection for waste, recyclables, and organics and Waste Transfer Facilities at locations that are convenient and viable.

Blackstone Heights currently has a successful fortnightly kerbside collection program. This program is delivered at no additional cost and is proven to be sustainable. To ensure waste management services are effective and efficient, Council is looking at introducing this program to other areas.

Waste management services will be reviewed for service delivery and efficiency. This will involve internal assessments, monitoring, reviews, and benchmarking processes.

It will also be necessary to review provider processes to increase effectiveness of contracted services. Meander Valley Council will actively seek new technologies, ideas, efficiencies and best practices for all of its current operations and kerbside collection services.

Service Delivery Plans will be developed for operations at the waste transfer facilities and kerbside collection services in consultation with stakeholders.

Council will also investigate the requirements of, and implement strategies for, recycling in public places.



Objectives & Actions

Objective A.1

Provide effective and efficient collection services

- A.1.1 Expansion of kerbside collection services to Chudleigh, Mole Creek and Meander
- A.1.2 Expansion of fortnightly kerbside collection system of waste, recycling and organics into Prospect Vale
- A.1.3 Review the service delivery of Council's Hard Waste Collection including a 'by appointment' model and integration with the Garage Sale Trail initiative
- A.1.4 Develop a Service Delivery Plan in rural and urban communities for kerbside collection and rural dual bin stations.
- A.1.5 Review Council's internal waste management processes, with regard to service delivery and accountability.



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Goal B

Provide high quality land fill and resource recovery infrastructure

Overview

Meander Valley Council currently maintains two landfill sites at Cluan and Deloraine, and a network of three waste transfer facilities. The transfer facilities include a contractor operated transfer station, a community run transfer station, and a rural dual bin station.

Council has an obligation to ensure that it has an equitable system of waste disposal. This will ensure that waste is managed fairly and appropriately from domestic, commercial and industrial sectors.

The objectives will ensure the current system is reviewed and look at how best to manage waste into the future. This may include new facilities, changes to current facilities, additional rural dual bin stations, and closures of some facilities.

Council's two landfill sites, under current practices, will reach their capacity within the current decade. Council will investigate the expansion of the Cluan Road Landfill Site and the viability of a new Resource Recovery Centre.

The construction of a Resource Recovery Centre within the municipality, together with the rehabilitation of the Deloraine and Cluan Road landfill sites will be the single largest development for Meander Valley Council in the next 10 years.

A Resource Recovery Centres will play a key role in waste management as reducing the amount of waste to landfill. A new facility would improve material handling and separation, and the safety and amenity for customers and staff.

Meander Valley Council will investigate the requirements of an environmentally and economically viable Resource Recovery Centre.

Objectives & Actions

Objective B.1

Progressively rehabilitate both the Deloraine and Cluan Road landfill sites

- B1.1 Prepare comprehensive rehabilitation plans for approval by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).
- B1.2 Progressively rehabilitate the sites in accordance with the rehabilitation plan and EPA requirements.



Objective B.2

To develop an effective and efficient network of waste transfer facilities

- B.2.1 Consult with stakeholders and interested parties regarding the viability of existing waste transfer facilities incorporating other service delivery options
- B.2.2 Undertake a feasibility study into the construction of a Resource Recovery Centre.

Objective B.3

Improved utilisation of the Cluan Road landfill site

- B.3.1 Commence disposal of kerbside waste and Commercial and Industrial material to Cluan Road landfill site
- B.3.2 Obtain approval from EPA for expansion of the Cluan Road landfill site
- B.3.3 Pending EPA approval, removal of inert material and lining of new cell to better utilise air space
- B.3.4 Investigate cost benefits for the closure of the Cluan Road landfill site to the public in association with Objective B.2.

Objective B.4

Improve operation of transfer facilities

- B.4.1 Undertake operation and WHS audit to identify gaps in processes
- B.4.2 Introduce electronic data collection
- B.4.3 Introduce regular auditing of WHS and recovery processes, and EPA permit requirements at all facilities.



Goal C

Develop regional and strategic partnerships

Overview

Meander Valley Council will continue to support the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group (NTWMG). This group is central to combining efforts from eight northern councils as well as those in the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group. Many programs that relate to its four main goals of waste diversion, regional planning & efficiencies, partnerships and community engagement, have been funded through the \$5/tonne voluntary levy collected by councils through the landfill gates.

Council encourages regional discussion and partnership and will continue to identify potential partners in the management of solid waste through periodic review of its programs, participation in state sponsored waste industry development programs, and ongoing membership of the NTWMG.

Council is developing markets for recyclable materials deposited at Council's waste disposal facilities and materials that are currently processed using non-environmentally friendly methods at industry or agricultural locations. Council will also investigate the promotion of a regional or local resource exchange register. The NTWMG will be integral to this proposal.

Council will seek partnerships with areas such as the building industry through the promotion of the re-use of commercial and domestic materials. This may involve fee incentives at Council's waste disposal facilities.

The development of educational materials and campaign strategies at a regional and/or state level to maximise available expertise and resources and to encourage full participation in solid waste initiatives is crucial. Council will continue to support the Northern Tasmanian Waste management Group, levels of government and industry associations to ensure consistency, wherever possible, of educational messages and to take advantage of expertise and resources.

Objectives & Actions

Objective C.1

To promote cooperative waste planning and implementation of strategies and activities throughout the northern region

- C.1.1 Trial regional collection points for Chem Clear, batteries, paint and fluorescent tubes
- C.1.2 Development of standard data collection
- C.1.3 Assist with the investigation of a regional organics facility
- C.1.4 Alignment of service delivery standards and implementation of joint kerbside collection contracts
- C.1.5 Develop regional waste programs - timber, mattresses, cardboard
- C.1.6 Support the legislation of a \$10/tonne state levy
- C.1.7 Participate in the 'public place recycling' initiative
- C.1.8 Identify partnerships for the facilitation of education to all member councils on the NTWMG
- C.1.9 Develop education programs and resources.



Objective C.2

Support the NTWMG strategy

- C.2.1 Attend quarterly NTWMG meetings
- C.2.2 Development and action of Annual Plan
- C.2.3 Collection and payment of voluntary \$5/tonne levy on waste
- C.2.4 Support the 50% reduction in waste to landfill
- C.2.5 Implement the four goals of the strategy:
 - waste diversion
 - regional planning and efficiencies
 - partnerships
 - community engagement.
- C.2.6 Support and participate in study tours.

Objective C.3

Develop and participate in strategic partnerships

- C.3.1 Participate in Federal television and computer stewardship program
- C.3.2 Identify potential partnerships to facilitate the introduction of procedures for the treatment of white goods and electronic equipment
- C.3.3 To investigate and implement, where possible, recycling market strategies and partnerships in the field
- C.3.4 To encourage the re-use/exchange of recyclable materials and goods.



Overview

The need for accurate and timely data collection will require the development of both internal data capturing processes and suitable requirements within all of Council tenders that relate to the processing of Council's waste materials.

D.2.1	Development and review of data collection systems
D.2.2	Undertake audits of all facets of Council's waste management
D.2.4	Balance of financial cost with acceptable levels of service.



Objective D.3

To promote waste minimisation and provide incentives to business, through partnerships and trials

- D.3.1 Investigate the availability of grant funding through the NTWMG and industry alliances
- D.3.2 Undertake trials and conduct cost analysis of results.

Objective D.4

To be seen as incentivising waste minimisation throughout the municipality and provide funds for waste management via a user pays system

- D.4.1 Undertake benchmarking of current waste management practices against best practice
- D.4.2 Investigate incentive through fee structuring to increase source separation
- D.4.3 Undertake community and industry consultation.



Goal E

Be a community leader in waste management

Overview

Council understands that waste collection and disposal are important subjects for many members of the community. As a result Council will keep the community informed and involved, where possible, in all aspects of Council's direction for waste management.

Council Officers will be crucial to the successful implementation, monitoring and review of the Waste Strategy. It is essential that officers have a thorough understanding of resource conservation and recovery concepts and industry practices. It is also crucial that Council encourages the purchase of environmentally responsible goods where possible.

There will be an education program for initiatives such as a regional approach to the introduction of a composting facility, and subsequent kerbside organics and green waste collection systems within the region. Council aims will also seek to reduce the costs per capita of rural waste management with regards to transfer station operation. Council aims to create ownership by the rural community of their waste management and processing.

In 2013 Grade 7 Deloraine High School children visited the Deloraine Landfill site and saw how waste was managed and processed. Council wants to expand the engagement of schools and community groups.

Meander Valley community events or public venues can create significant quantities of packaging and food waste. These events currently have little or no recycling.

In the future Council will provide more support to events such as the Deloraine Craft Fair and Agfest that are visited by state wide, national and international visitors. These events are a great opportunity to inform the community around the need to improve our waste management. In order to attain community and industry support for reforms in waste management throughout the municipality, Council must strive to lead by example in instigating sustainable waste management and reduction practices.

The first initiative for the project team will need to be the identification of all these waste streams and then the recommendation of appropriate Action Plans. This will be the basis of Council's Waste Management Plan.



Objectives & Actions

Objective E.1

To minimise waste generated and increase recycling of appropriate material at community events

- E.1.1 Produce generic waste management plans for events and have them included in Council's Events Package
- E.1.2 Conduct trials with event organisers to implement specific strategies in association with industry.

Objective E.2

Become a leader in Education to the residents and council officers of the municipality and the northern region

- E.2.1 Identify partnerships to educate Council Officers
- E.2.2 Investigate possible community education strategies and resources within Council
- E.2.3 Identify possible partnerships for facilitating and providing information to the public.

Objective E.3

To minimise the impacts of litter and illegal dumping on the community

- E.3.1 Participate in current and new initiatives of the NTWMG
- E.3.2 Identify local hot spots for illegal dumping activity
- E.3.3 Undertake cost analysis of reduction strategies.

Objective E.4

To encourage the purchase of goods that can be shown to viably produce a smaller environmental impact on society

- E.4.1 Review and benchmarking of existing practices
- E.4.2 Investigate viable alternative products such as:
 - recycled plastic bollards
 - crushed glass bedding for pipes
 - recycled materials in asphalt.



