# The Faces of Waste

## WASTE TO RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN
## 2018–2025

# Message from the Mayor

I am very proud of our community's strong commitment to waste reduction and recycling. However, if we are truly serious about creating a sustainable environment for future generations, we must review our waste management services now and into the future.

We are developing a plan to foster a strong focus on shared responsibility for improving waste and resource recovery performance. Our vision is to establish our region as a leading example of sustainable waste management.

This plan provides a high-level direction for waste management and resource recovery over the next 7 years - broadly focusing on waste management within our district. It will help us respond more effectively to the increasing demand for resources as our residential, worker and visitor populations continue to grow.

The plan sets clear targets and recommendations to maximise diversion from landfill, focusing on 3 focus areas:

1. **Education**
2. **Service Provision**
3. **Future Needs**

This plan focuses on how we can achieve these targets up to 2025. It sets out priority areas for the district so we can integrate sustainable resource management within a growing regional area.

Managing waste and resources from residences, parks, public spaces, neighbourhood centres and our own operations is one of our core services. This plan includes priority actions to assist us in achieving landfill diversion targets for our residents and own operations.

But we cannot act alone. It is important we adopt innovative resource recovery approaches and focus on implementing education and behaviour change programs as our population continues to grow. By working together we can help everyone become even more resource efficient, whilst at the same time protecting our beautiful environment.

**Mayor Ann Ferguson**

**WE WANT TO:**

- **Establish the Mount Barker District Council in partnership with the community as a leading example of sustainable waste management in the region**
- **Be resource efficient – optimise our capture of the unrecovered resource potential in waste instead of sending it to landfill**
- **Establish programs and services for our community that will support:**
  - reduced waste generation
  - increased reuse of materials, and
  - the creation of new products from recyclable waste materials

# Contents

# Executive Summary

**The Mount Barker District Council (Council) Waste to Resources Management Plan (Plan) provides direction for our solid waste and resources management to 2025. This Plan aims to address waste and recycling related matters facing our district as our population continues to grow. It provides actions to improve sustainability outcomes with a key emphasis on engaging the community as an active partner on our journey to a more sustainable waste management future.**

Our challenge is to provide cost efficient services and programmes to help reduce waste to landfill and increase resource efficiency in our district in the context of a growing population and increasing consumerism in our society. We need to be proactive, adaptable and flexible to foresee and react to changes over time as new issues and opportunities emerge.

This Plan has been developed in the context of national, state and regional legislation, strategies, objectives based on local community needs and desires for a more sustainable future. Some key reference documents that provide a framework to this Plan include South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020 (Green Industries SA) that sets state resource recovery targets and the Mount Barker 2035 District Strategic Plan which sets out objectives and strategies for waste management under the Natural Environment and Sustainable Living area for the district. The Mount Barker Environmental Strategy is another key document that provides environmental and sustainability goals relating to waste.

This Plan examines our performance to date, proposes waste targets for reducing our waste disposal to landfill and increased diversion of recoverable resources. It sets out an Action Plan under three key themes: Education, Future Needs and Service Provision with benchmarks and key performance indicators (KPIs) against which to measure and monitor our performance. The Action Plan is provided in Section 9.5. Progress against this Plan will be tracked and emerging trends will be taken in to account to inform reviews and future planning. Figure 1 provides an overview of the Plan.

**The Plan will provide direction for the various areas of waste management within the district including:**

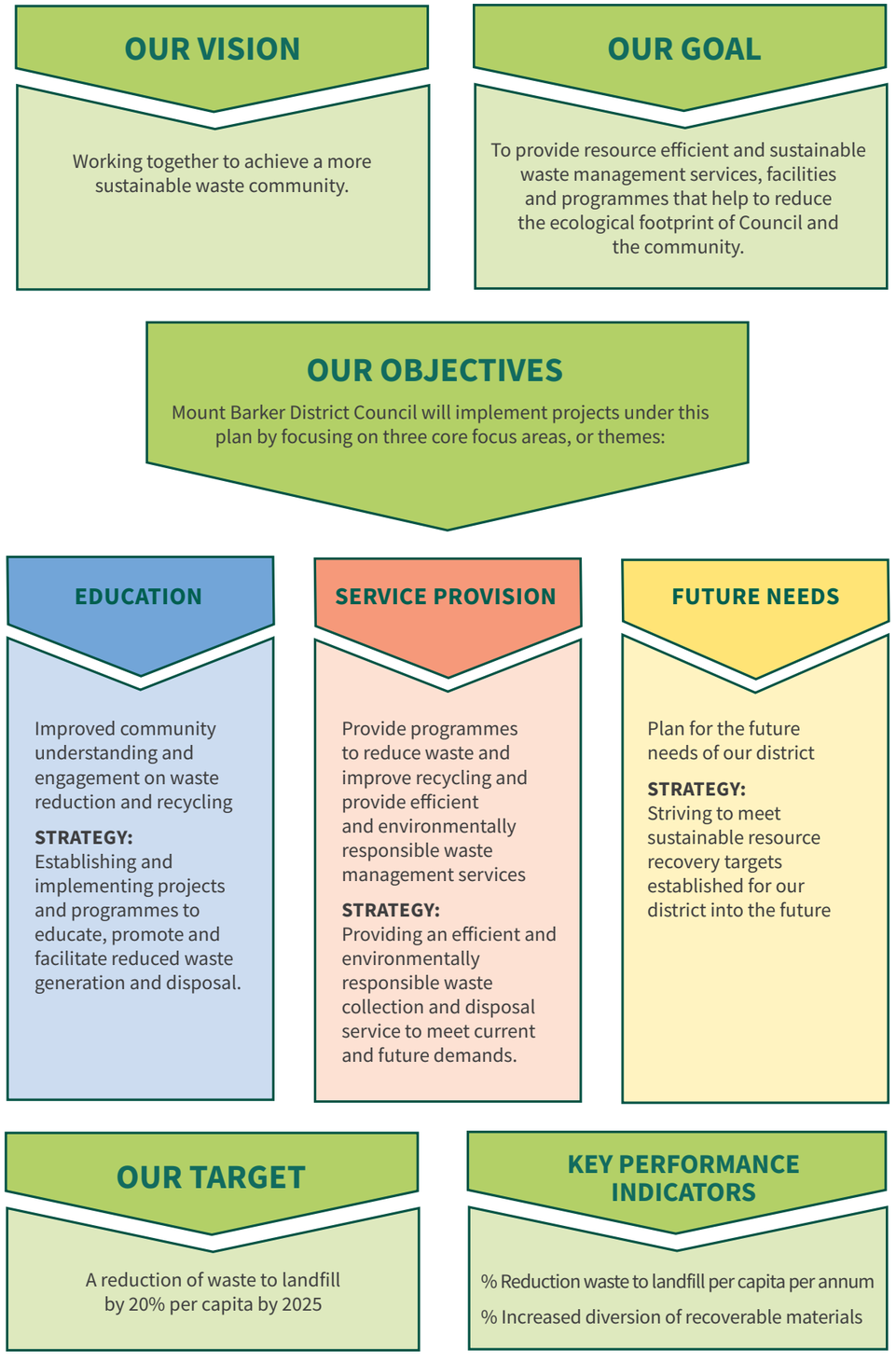
- Kerbside waste, organics and recycling collection
- Hard waste
- Public/street litter bins
- Education/promotion
- Commercial and Industrial waste and recycling
- Municipal waste and recycling
- Hazardous and difficult waste (waste that is difficult and/or costly to recycle)

Council will focus on implementing education and behaviour change programs and reviewing its waste management services that it provides now and into the future.



Figure 1

**Overview of the Waste to Resources Management Plan 2018–2025**



# 1. About this Plan

**The purpose of this Plan is to provide a framework and focus for solid waste[1] and resources management for the Council's growing population to achieve our waste reduction targets and work towards resource recovery targets in South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020 (Green Industries SA, refer to Section 4.2.2). It aims to take us further on our journey to sustainable waste management and resource recovery within a 'circular economy' future – where resources are managed so that they can circulate in our economy for as long as possible, rather than the linear model of production use and disposal.**

The Plan builds on the previous waste management strategy (The District Council of Mount Barker New Waste Management Strategy 2009 – 2014) as well as Council's broader planning and policy framework, detailed below.

Waste management is considered under one of five key goal areas of the Mount Barker 2035 District Strategic Plan (Goal 4: The Natural Environment and Sustainable Living), which articulates Council's approach to the planning and development for the district over the next 20 years (refer to Section 4.2.4). Waste management is also addressed under the Mount Barker Environment Strategy 2018- 2023, identifying environmental pressures, opportunities and options for enhancing and protecting our environment. These documents set objectives and strategies for the future, which will assist Council to work toward shared aspirations of residents, workers, businesses and visitors on issues that the district will face.

The overarching goal is to become more resource efficient. This is a very important concept where we aim to use less of the earth's limited resources and ensure we use those resources in a sustainable way throughout their life cycle. Part of this involves producing less waste and increasing reuse and recycling efforts instead of disposal. We aim to achieve this through setting objectives and projects in three focus areas of Education, Service Provision and assessing and planning for our Future Needs.

1. Liquid wastes and biosolids are covered under separate state policies and legislation.



# 2. Developing this Plan

**Council's first waste management strategy was developed in June 2003 which collated waste management information and provided an overview of key issues within the district. This document was subsequently updated with the District Council of Mount Barker New Waste Management Strategy 2009 – 2014 which was aligned with the State Waste Strategy 2005. This Plan provides for waste management from 2018 to 2025.**

To create the Plan and build upon the achievements of the previous waste strategies, a review process was undertaken including evaluation of our past performance (refer to Sections 7 and 8), by conducting a kerbside bin audit and community survey and consideration of key challenges and opportunities to develop our strategic direction over the next 7 years.

Waste management is also one of the five key focus areas for the Mount Barker District Council Environment Strategy 2018-2023 which outlines its objectives to achieve resource efficiency, to collaborate with partners to raise awareness about waste, recycling and composting, and to promote reduction of waste, with a target of 10% reduction in waste disposed to landfill (per capita).

This Plan has been developed in the context of national, state and regional strategies, objectives and legislation. It provides benchmarks and key performance indicators (KPIs) against which to measure current conditions, monitor trends and track performance. Our progress will be monitored annually and a review of this Plan along with emerging trends will be taken into account to inform future priorities and actions.

**This Plan has been developed through a process summarised as follows:**

Public consultation during workshops with Elected Members and Council staff during development of the draft Environment Strategy including waste management in mid-late 2017;

Consultation with the community on the draft Environment Strategy including public open houses and online consultation in mid-late 2017;

A residential and commercial bin audit in addition to a community telephone survey conducted in late 2017;

Community consultation in mid 2018;

Internal consultation and workshops held with Elected Members and Council staff on the draft Waste to Resources Management Plan throughout 2018 and early 2019;

An online survey seeking feedback on the draft Waste to Resources Management Plan between October 2018 and January 2019;

Research data from the State of the Environment Mount Barker 2017 report and the Mount Barker Environment Strategy in mid-2017;

Review of policy, legislation context;

Review of services and infrastructure and related technical matters;

Consultation and workshops with Council staff (internal); and

Development of strategies and actions.

**SERVICE PROVISION**

**We recognise the benefits of providing waste management services to reduce environmental impacts and increase resource efficiency for the benefit of the community and our environment.**

# 3. Our district

**Mount Barker District Council is situated 25 km east of Adelaide and covers an area of 597 km$^2$, including several villages, townships and rural areas in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Our neighbours are the Adelaide Hills Council and Mid Murray District Council to the north, the Rural City of Murray Bridge to the east, the Alexandrina Council to the south and the City of Onkaparinga to the west (Figure 2). The district has significant rural and residential areas, characterised by historic townships and farming areas.**

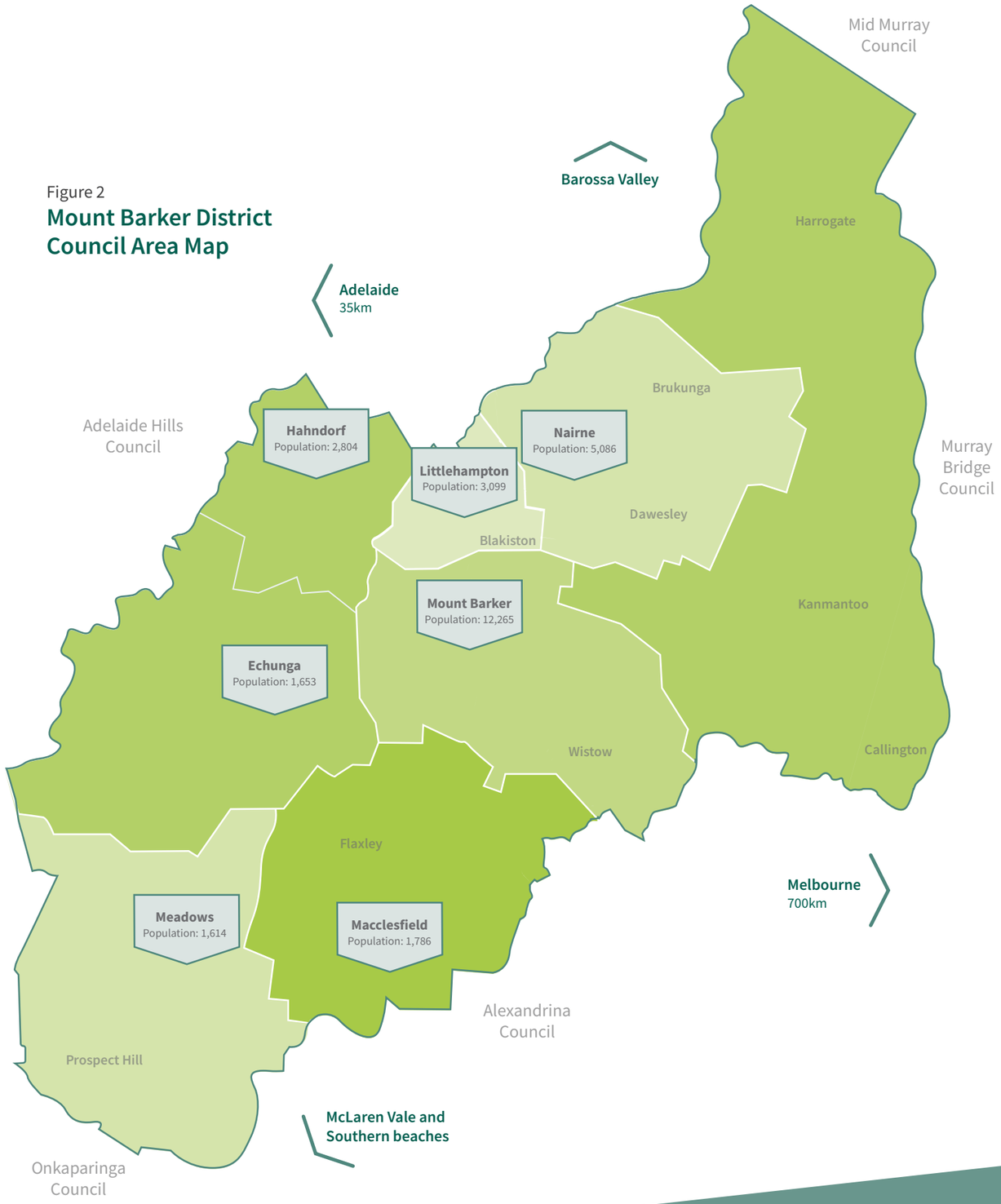
The Council is responsible for providing services for the management of waste on behalf of the community in the Mount Barker district. This requires significant financial and human resources. The population of the Mount Barker district is projected to grow from around 35,000 to 50,000 by 2035. Ever-increasing demands for our limited natural resources, growing consumerism and other pressures on the environment such as climate change, sustainable waste management is a challenge facing the district. Council recognises the benefits of implementing waste management measures to reduce environmental impacts and increase resource efficiency for the benefit of the community and the environment.

## 2035 DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN – VISION FOR OUR DISTRICT

**The Mount Barker district will be recognised as being highly livable, prosperous and safe, and built from a foundation of community spirit and energy, quality of lifestyle and unique heritage, environment and landscape**


Figure 2

**Mount Barker District Council Area Map**



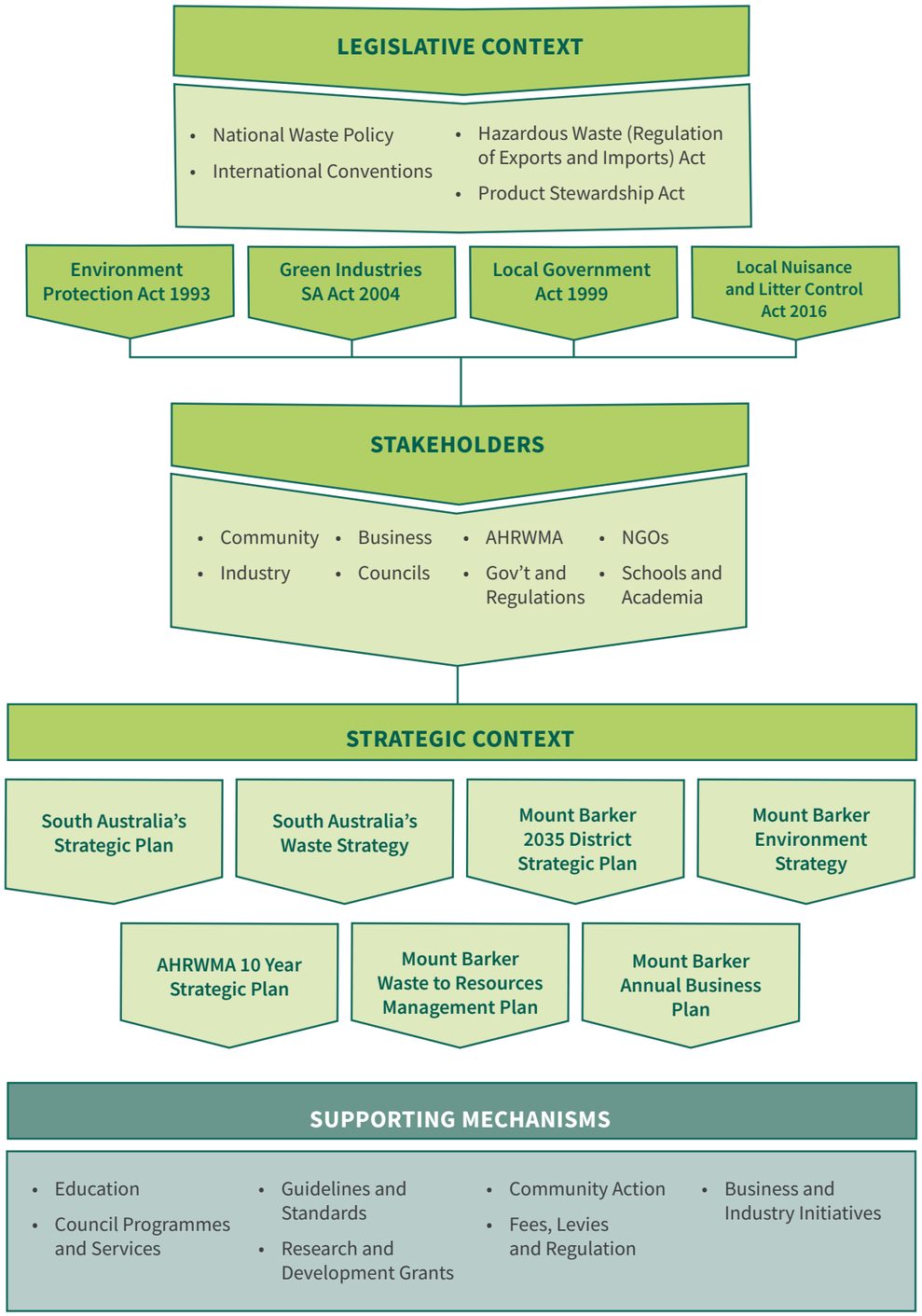
# 4. Legislative and Strategic Context

## 4.1 Overview

The figure (Figure 3) opposite provides a conceptual overview of how this Plan relates to the legislative and strategic framework for waste and recycling. It does not comprehensively address all National or State legislation, programmes or International Conventions relating to waste, but provides a general context for reference.



Figure 3
**Strategic Framework**



# 4.2 Summary of Key Legislation

This section outlines the strategic framework of how waste management is conducted in local government as it relates to the actions and outcomes put forward in this Plan.

Whilst Council manages waste in their local government area (LGA), they are not limited to the local policies and guidelines. Council's domestic waste management is undertaken within national, state and local policies, planning strategies and relevant guidelines.

The district is required to plan and manage its waste responsibilities in accordance with increasing levels of compliance. The complexity and vastness of waste legislation and regulation continues to reflect the importance that the community is placing on environmental, economic and social considerations. This Plan has been developed in the context of Council meeting its legislative requirements, supporting national, state and regional waste strategies and meeting its community expectations.

There are a number of South Australian (SA) and Commonwealth statutory environmental requirements, policies and guidelines that have to be taken into consideration in order to develop appropriate waste management initiatives for this Plan and to identify incentives for the reduction and recycling of waste material.

### These legislative and policy drivers include:

- National legislation and policy:
- SA legislation and policy:
- Regional initiatives;
- Council plans and policies.

## 4.2.1 National Legislation and Policy

### National Waste Policy[2]:

The Commonwealth National Waste Policy sets Australia's waste management and resource recovery direction to 2020. The aims and objectives of this Plan support those of the National Waste Policy which include avoiding waste, managing waste as a resource, safe, scientific and environmentally sound treatment and disposal and contributing to sustainability (reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, energy conservation and production, water efficiency and productivity of the land).

### Product Stewardship Act 2011:

The Product Stewardship Act provides a framework to effectively manage the environmental, health and safety impacts associated with the disposal of products. Existing National Product Stewardship Schemes[3] that are in place include Television and Computer Recycling Scheme, Tyre Product Stewardship and the Product Stewardship for Oil. The Australian Packaging Covenant aims to reduce and better manage waste from packaging.

2. www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-waste-policy

## 4.2.2 SA Legislation and Policy

### Green Industries Act 2004:

The Green Industries Act 2004 (formerly the Zero Waste SA Act 2004) references the waste hierarchy for the sustainable management of waste, the principles of ecologically sustainable development as identified in the Environment Protection Act 1993 and best practice methods and standards in the waste management sector.

### Environment Protection Act 1993[4]:

The General Environmental Duty under the Act states that a person must take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm when they undertake activities that might pollute. This helps to support the objects of the Act which includes to promote principles of ecologically sustainable development and requiring progressive environmental improvements including reducing pollution and waste at the source. The Act also defines waste requires a licence for operating a waste or recycling depot.

3. www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/product-stewardship/legislation
4. www.legislation.sa.gov.au/lz/c/a/environment%20protection%20act%201993/current/1993.76.auth.pdf

### Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010[5]:

The Policy promotes the waste management hierarchy and includes landfill bans (for various hazardous and recoverable materials) and requirements for waste to undergo resource recovery before disposal. Examples include oil, hazardous waste, liquid waste, medical waste, e-waste, whole tyres and aggregated recyclables (e.g. plastics, glass, paper and cardboard, metals and green waste). The Policy also provides further definition for when a waste can be considered as transformed into a product.

### South Australia's Strategic Plan

South Australia's Strategic Plan[6] identifies the aspirations for the success of SA, providing long term visions and directions for the State Government, business and community. A priority under the Strategic Plan is 'Our Environment' which includes a goal of Zero Waste - recycling, reusing and reducing consumption all we can and Target 67 to reduce waste to landfill by 35% by 2020 (baseline: 2002-03).

### South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020

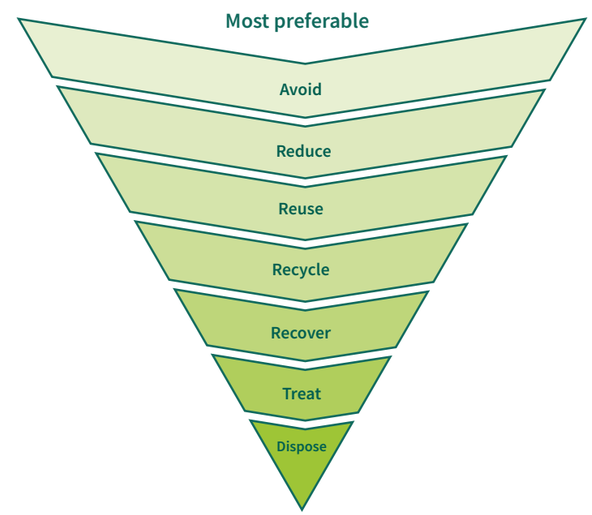
On 1 July 2015, the Office of Zero Waste SA was changed to the Office of Green Industries SA. Green Industries promotes the more efficient use of resources and the conservation and recovery of scarce resources. South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020[7] released by Green Industries in 2015 quotes the United Nations Environment Program's Waste and Climate Change report, highlighting the climate benefits of recovery of resources from waste such as avoided landfill emissions, reduced raw materials and manufacturing, and reduced energy and carbon consumption. Green Industries SA promotes the 'circular economy' concept which is a self-sustaining system driven by renewable energy with an imperative to keep material resources in use, or 'circulating' for as long as possible. It extracts the maximum value from these resources while in use, then recovers and regenerates products and materials[8].

5. www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/POL/ENVIRONMENT%20PROTECTION%20(WASTE%20TO%20RESOURCES)%20POLICY%202010/CURRENT/2010.-.UN.PDF
6. www.premier.sa.gov.au/

The Waste Management Hierarchy is also one of the guiding principles of the Green Industries SA Act 2004 and is embedded in the Waste Management Objective stated in the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010. It guides waste management practices in South Australia as reflected in South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020. It sets out the preferred order of waste management practices that help achieve waste diversion, from most to least preferred as shown below.

Figure 4

### Waste Management Hierarchy

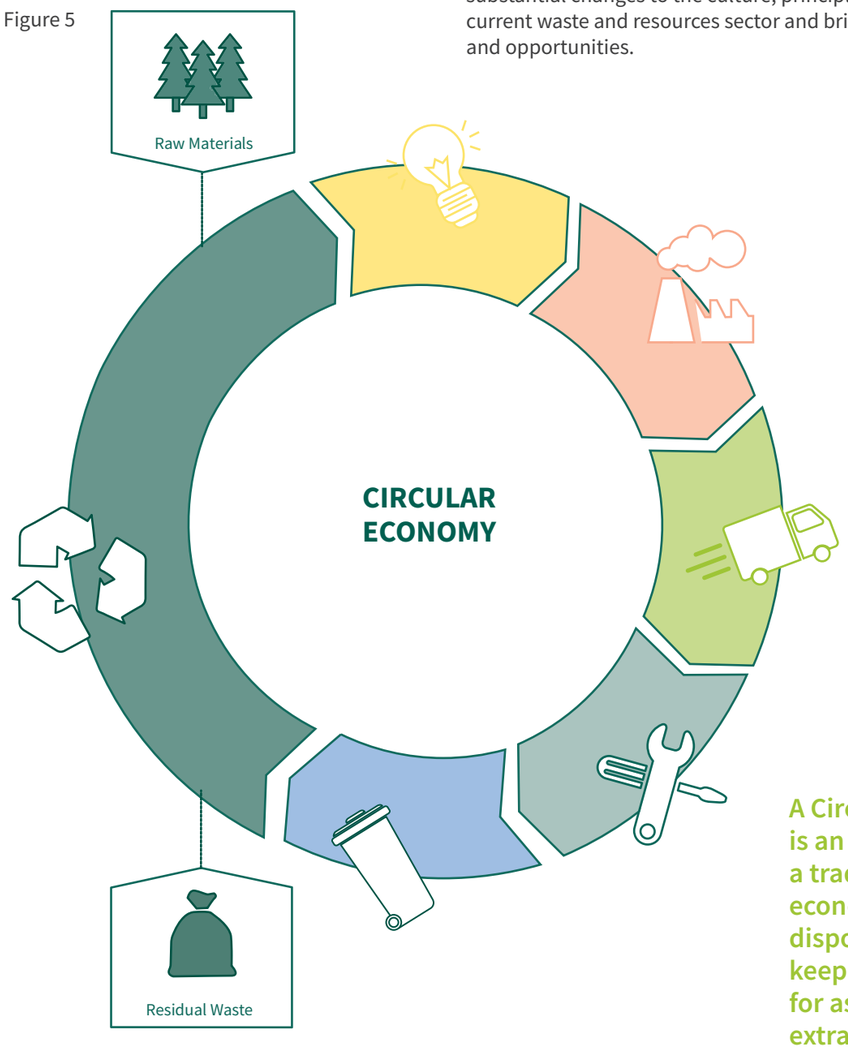



7. www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/sa-waste-strategy
8. www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/circular-economy

### A Circular Economy

The emphasis of the waste and resource management sector has moved from landfill to recycling, and there is now a growing and increasingly powerful argument that the Circular Economy will increasingly dominate over the next decades. This will involve substantial changes to the culture, principles and practice of the current waste and resources sector and bring new challenges and opportunities.

Figure 5




**A Circular Economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.**

## 4.2.3 Regional Initiatives

### Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016[9]:

This Act gives councils increased powers to deal with issues in their areas, such illegal dumping. Dumping of waste and littering is an unsightly and costly issue in the Mount Barker district and can present a hazard to the environment and the community.

### Local Government Act 1999[10]:

One of the functions of local council under this Act is to provide waste collection and management services and facilities that benefit the area, its ratepayers, residents, and visitors. The cost of providing waste management services for our ratepayers for the 2017/18 year was $3.1M. Part of this cost is the levy on waste disposal to landfill. The Mount Barker District Council includes service rates and charges pursuant to Section 155 to help cover the cost of waste collection, recycling, treatment or disposal services for the community.

## 4.2.4 Council Plans and Policies

### Mount Barker 2035 District Strategic Plan

The Mount Barker 2035 District Strategic Plan (District Strategic Plan) provides a vision for the district that reflects community issues and needs. It has goals and strategies in five areas, and waste management falls under the Natural Environment (NE) and Sustainable Living area. The District Strategic Plan acknowledges that waste management is core business for Council and there are opportunities to increase the emphasis on resource use generally. One of the objectives of the District Strategic Plan that relates to waste is stated as “there is a committed and sustained effort to reduce the ecological footprint of Council and community”.

This Plan sets specific goals for the Mount Barker District Council in the short to medium term to 2025. It aims to address Strategies NE 2.5 and NE 2.6 in the District Strategic Plan which is described in greater detail in Table 1 below.

Table 1
Waste Management Objectives as per the Mount Barker 2035 District Strategic Plan

| Goal Area: | Natural Environment and Sustainable Living |
|---|---|
| Desired Outcome: | The natural environment is celebrated, promoted and protected. Conflicts between development and the environment are managed to minimise impacts and to compensate where significant impacts are unavoidable. The district is known for the commitment of its community to live within sustainable limits. |
| Objective NE2: | Ecological footprint and waste management<br>There is a committed and sustained effort to reduce the ecological footprint of Council and community. |
| Strategy NE 2.5: | Promote, practice and enable best practice waste minimisation, waste reduction and recycling systems. |
| Strategy NE 2.6: | Increase recycling rates |

9. www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/LOCAL%20NUISANCE%20AND%20LITTER%20CONTROL%20ACT%202016.aspx
10. www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/Local%20Government%20Act%201999.aspx

### Mount Barker District Council Environment Strategy

The Mount Barker Environment Strategy (Environment Strategy) is one of several lead strategies to guide and inform the implementation of the Mount Barker 2035 District Strategic Plan. This Plan supports the Environment Strategy and will help to maintain consistency and connectivity across existing and future supporting plans and to coordinate them with strategic policy.

The Environment Strategy provides goals and actions to address waste management for the district, with a focus on resource efficiency.

### The goals set out in this Environment Strategy are:

- To reduce waste disposal to landfill by 10% per capita
- To improve the waste diversion rate

### The Environment Strategy actions include:

- to collaborate with partners to raise awareness about waste, recycling and composting, and to promote reduction (of waste to landfill); and
- to explore the options in the theme areas of Education, Waste Reduction, Service Provisions and Future Needs.

A summary of the key objectives and targets for the District Strategic Plan and Environment Strategy as they relate to the SA Waste Strategy are provided in Table 2.

Table 2

| 2035 District Strategic Plan | Environment Strategy | SA Waste Strategy 2015–2020 |
|---|---|---|
| **Objective**<br>There is a committed and sustained effort to reduce the ecological footprint of Council and community | **Objective**<br>Promote resource efficiency | **Vision**<br>Achieving a resource efficient economy |
| • **Strategy NE 2.5 –**<br>Promote, practice and enable best practice waste minimisation, waste reduction and recycling systems<br>• **Strategy NE 2.6 –**<br>Increase recycling rates | **Environmental Goal**<br>• To reduce waste disposal to landfill by 10% per capita<br>• To improve the waste diversion rate | **Municipal solid waste target**<br>• 70% diversion by 2020 (Adelaide metropolitan only)<br>• Non-metro: Maximise diversion to the extent practically and economically achievable |

### Mount Barker District Council Annual Business Plan

The Mount Barker District Council Annual Business Plan 2019/2020[11] specifies aims and targets for each year including kerbside collected waste. Subsequent Annual Business Plans will be aligned with the implementation of this Plan.

**RESOURCE EFFICIENT**

The less waste that we all generate and dispose to the blue bin which goes to landfill, the lower the cost to Council and the community.

Council will continue to implement measures to promote the recovery of recyclables and encourage waste reduction in the community, reduce costs, increase resource efficiency and conserve landfill space.

11. https://www.mountbarker.sa.gov.au/finance



# 4.3 Additional Regulatory Considerations

## 4.3.1 Licencing Fees and Levies

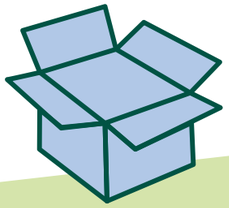
The SA Environment Protection Authority (EPA) charges annual licence fees for licenced waste depots and landfills. In addition, the State Government also charges a levy for every tonne of waste[12] disposed to landfill. The levy is intended to be an economic incentive to reduce waste sent to landfill in favour of resource recovery. Some of the levy is transferred to the Green Industries Fund[13] which Green Industries SA draws on to achieve its objectives and some is also used to help fund the activities of the EPA. In 2006/2007, the levy was $5.25 per tonne for non-metropolitan Adelaide councils which increased to $43.50 per tonne in 2017/2018. In future years, the Government has announced that solid waste levy is intended to rise to the following rates per tonne:

Table 3

| Future levy rates | 2018–2019 | | 2019–2020 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metropolitan | $100 | from 1 July 2019 | $110 |
| | | from 1 January 2020 | $140 |
| Non–metropolitan | $50 | from 1 July 2019 | $55 |
| | | from 1 January 2020 | $70 |

## 4.3.2 Waste Reform Initiatives

South Australia has introduced several waste management reform initiatives over the past decade to improve waste management and promote resource recovery. Further waste reform is planned and developed with consideration of local issues and approaches interstate[14]. The EPA released a Discussion Paper, Reforming waste management – creating certainty for an industry to grow in 2015 and produced the Waste Reform Bill in 2017[13]. It is also developing a position on waste to energy. Council will continue to review and comment on waste reform initiatives with consideration of potential opportunities and costs for Council of planned reforms.



12. Some wastes have different levies: e.g. floc from vehicles; asbestos waste
13. www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/wastelevy
14. www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/waste_management/reforming-waste-management-2015

**EDUCATION: E-WASTE**

**Electrical waste is not permitted to be disposed to landfill. It is also not suitable for the facilities that process the contents of the recyclables bin (e.g. cans and bottles, paper and cardboard). Instead, electrical waste should be dropped off to Council's Windmill Hill waste transfer facility to enable the materials to be sent to specialised facilities for resource recovery.**

### 4.3.3 Household Hazardous Wastes

Under the SA State Government's Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy a number of landfill bans have been progressively introduced since 2010, including hazardous wastes, e-waste, medical waste, liquid waste and lead acid batteries[15]. In cooperation with the State Government, Council runs household hazardous waste collection days and will continue to assess the options for household hazardous waste collection at other nearby facilities that may be able be utilised by Mount Barker district residents. For example, a Household Chemical and Paint Drop off Facility at Adelaide Hills Council's Heathfield Resource Centre (HRCC) will be operational in mid 2019 for the safe and responsible disposal of household hazardous waste[16].

### 4.3.4 Illegal Dumping and Litter

Illegal dumping takes significant time and money to clean up. In 2017/2018, there were around 209 illegal dumping incidents reported to Council, including mattresses, furniture, electrical appliances, as well as tyres, green organics, construction and demolition waste, cars and general rubbish. Some illegal dumpers may come from outside our district however it falls to the Council to clean up. Dumped items can also be found in places that are extremely difficult and costly to retrieve such as creeks and steep embankments.

Council will investigate measures to encourage the community to do the right thing. Council supports follow up enforcement action to illegal dumps, as this poses a health and safety risk to the environment and community and undercuts the efforts Local Government and other legal operators make in providing responsible waste management services and facilities.

**ILLEGAL DUMPING COSTS US ALL**



# 5. Partnerships

## 5.1 The Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA)

Council is a member of the Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA). The AHRWMA is a Local Government Regional Subsidiary established under the Local Government Act 1999. It was established to coordinate waste management and recycling on behalf of the member Councils: Mount Barker District Council, Adelaide Hills Council, Rural City of Murray Bridge and Alexandrina Council.

The AHRWMA plays an active role providing waste management and advisory services for member Councils, supported by its 10 Year Strategic Plan and annual business plans. It seeks opportunities for shared services and management expertise between member Councils and other Regional Subsidiaries to share knowledge, improve services and increase efficiencies, giving due weight to economic, social and environmental considerations. Council will continue to work in collaboration with our neighbours through the AHRWMA for opportunities to achieve efficiencies and improved outcomes for our district. As a member of the AHRWMA, Council shares the services of a Waste Strategy Coordinator who will assist to implement this Plan and provide waste management advice.

Waste from the district is disposed at the Brinkley landfill (located near Murray Bridge) which is operated by the AHRWMA (in line with its EPA licence) on behalf of member Councils (including Mount Barker District Council).

## 5.2 External Agencies and Partnerships

Council has an important advocacy role to play in relation to external agencies and fostering relationships with relevant departments and organisations. This includes advocating or commenting on proposed legislation, policy development, new standards and guidelines or other factors that may impact on our district. This may occur independently or via other regional groups that Council is a member of such as the AHRWMA or the Southern and Hills Local Government Association. It also includes the potential for new partnerships with organisations with similar goals such as Green Industries SA, Natural Resource Management Boards, Regional Development Board and non-government organisations such as KESAB and Planet Ark. Council will also adopt state wide initiatives such as the recent launch of the Which Bin campaign released by Green Industries SA[17].

Council will endeavour to seek external cooperation and funding arrangements for new programmes and initiatives and will engage with and review proposed regulatory reform in the waste sector to assess the impacts and opportunities for our district.

15. Visit the EPA website for a full list of banned wastes to landfill www.epa.sa.gov.au/data_and_publications/standards_and_laws/waste_to_resources_policy/landfill_bans
16. Visit Green Industries SA for further details www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/hazwaste
17. www.whichbin.sa.gov.au




# 6. Services

## 6.1 What We Do

Council provides kerbside waste collection services for residents and commercial premises. Council also operates the Windmill Hill Transfer Station located on Nixon Road, just outside of Hahndorf. The AHRWMA also operates the Brinkley landfill for member councils. There are processes at each of these sites to recover materials for reuse or recycling.

### 6.1.1 Kerbside Collections

**In April 2008, Council introduced district-wide kerbside waste and recycling collection:**

Townships and residents in designated green waste collection areas have a three-bin collection system with weekly 140L landfill waste (blue) bin collection and alternate fortnightly 240L kerbside organic (green) waste bin and recycling (yellow) bin collection for residents. Commercial premises are provided with recycling and waste collections.

Rural areas receive weekly kerbside waste and fortnightly recycling collection services.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Council crushes construction and demolition materials received and uses it internally to replace virgin materials, for example on fire tracks and as road base.**

### 6.1.2 Windmill Hill Transfer Station

The Windmill Hill Transfer Station is a former landfill site and is located on Nixon Rd, Hahndorf (Windmill Hill). It operates under EPA licence 1914.

**Waste types that are received and removed from the site for further resource recovery include:**

- Scrap metal and gas cylinders
- Green waste for mulching
- Green organics for composting
- Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) 10c containers
- E-waste
- Paint
- Waste oil and containers
- Mattresses
- Construction and demolition waste

Items that cannot be recycled are placed into the residual waste skip bins at the Windmill Hill Transfer Station and transported to Brinkley landfill at the Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility located near Murray Bridge. This facility is operated by the AHRWMA. In 2017/2018, the transfer station received a total of 18,750 tonnes of material (from Council and other suppliers), of which 8,300 tonnes was waste sent to landfill.

Council also provide designated free green organics drop off days at the Windmill Hill Transfer Station throughout the year. Residents can drop off weed free (clean) garden organics, which is mulched and available for purchase. This mulch material is also used on Council's own parks and gardens.

## 6.1.3 Construction and Demolition Wastes

With a growing population, this not only means the amount of waste generated by the new residents will increase, but there will be growing construction and demolition wastes as housing expands and new businesses grow. There is a great opportunity to continue and improve our resources recovery from construction and demolition projects and encourage the use of recycled materials for civil works.

## 6.1.4 Mobo Group – Salvage and Save Shop

Adjacent to the Windmill Hill Transfer Station is a Salvage and Save shop which is operated by Mobo Group who engage people with a disability into meaningful paid employment. The shop offers a wide range of second hand items such as electrical goods, furniture, white goods, garden equipment and building materials, bric-a-brac, collectables and retro items. By using this facility the community can reduce waste to landfill by donating unwanted items and save money on purchasing pre-loved goods.

## 6.1.5 Hardwaste Disposal Options

Residents have numerous options available in regard to the disposal of bulky unwanted household items that do not fit in a waste bin.

**For example, these items can be:**

- Donated to friends, family or a local charity store such as the Salvage and Save shop located next to the Windmill Hill Transfer Station
- Sold online e.g. Gumtree, eBay or through local Facebook pages (charges may apply)
- Sold at a garage sale
- Donated to local clothing donation bins
- Disposed of at Windmill Hill Transfer Station for a fee.

## 6.1.6 Cash for Recycling

Recyclable materials such as beverage containers and non-ferrous metals (like brass, copper, car radiators and batteries) can also be disposed of at recycling centres located within the Mount Barker district.

**Residents can get cash back for these items at the following locations:**

- Scout Recycling Centre (Next to Windmill Hill Transfer Station)
- Mount Barker Bottle and Can (located on Secker Road).

**Council encourages residents to consider alternative avenues first before disposal at the transfer station.**

## 6.1.7 Funding Sources

Council funds the kerbside waste and recycling collection via a service charge under Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999. Under the Act, Council must not seek to recover a service charge above the cost to establish, operate, maintain, improve and replace the service. Consistent with Council's policies, all premises in our district are charged the refuse charge within the collection area where the service is made available (with some exceptions such as vacant land and properties that the collection vehicle is unable to access). Any excess funds are allocated to a reserve for future works. The refuse charge aims to fund 100% of the cost to deliver the kerbside waste and recycling service. Consequently, service provision needs to be rationalised based on the financial impost per ratepayer per year. All non-kerbside services and facilities are either completely externally funded (i.e. DrumMuster, MobileMuster), partially funded (i.e. Household Hazardous Waste Collection programme events) or are otherwise funded from general rates revenue. The actions proposed in this Plan will be assessed and planned for resourcing needs, considering both financial, staffing and material requirements and priority action areas.



# 7. How are we performing?

**Mount Barker's kerbside waste collection services has showed some positive gains as well as some opportunities for improvement to continue to help reduce waste generation and divert recyclables and green organics (including food waste) from landfill. Mount Barker District Council will continue to implement measures to recover recyclable components out of the waste stream and encourage waste reduction in the community to increase resource efficiency, reduce costs and conserve landfill space.**

The following sections provide a summary of Mount Barker's kerbside collection of waste, recycling and green organics in recent years.

## 7.1 Historical Performance

The overall diversion rate of green waste and recyclables as a percentage of the total waste generated (i.e. waste to landfill, recyclables and green organics) has remained relatively steady over the past several years since 2011 at around 47%, although the total waste tonnage has increased. This means almost half of all material collected from the kerbside services was recycled or composted and not disposed to landfill. There are opportunities to improve our performance by reducing waste production per capita and increasing the level of diversion from landfill.

In Australia, waste is becoming a major problem due to population growth. As the population grows, so does the waste per person. International evidence suggests that economic growth contributes to growth in waste generated per person.[18] Australia's economic prosperity over the past couple of decades has contributed to the growing generation of waste.

Table 4 below highlights that we are producing more waste per person than we used to (up by 1.5%). We need to reverse this trend.

Table 4

| | 2010/11 | 2017/18 | Increase |
|---|---|---|---|
| **MBDC Population** | 30,353 | 35,545 | 17.1% |
| **Total Waste to Landfill** | 5,800 tonnes | 6,896 tonnes | 18.9% |
| **Waste per person** | 191.08 kg | 194.02 kg | 1.5% |

18. Productivity Commission, Inquiry Report No. 38: Waste Management, 2006

**EDUCATION – GREEN ORGANICS**

**Did you know – about half of what we throw into the garbage bin is food and garden vegetation?**

**In 2013, Council introduced kitchen caddies for householders. These caddies divert food waste from landfill as food scraps are placed in the organic garden waste (green bin) to produce compost to help improve our gardens.**

*Note: Only use compostable bags labelled 'Compostable AS 4736' or newspaper to wrap food waste or place it directly in with your garden waste. Do not use plastic bags or biodegradable bags as they contaminate the compost.*

The graph in Figure 6 below shows the total amount of waste, recycling and green organics collected over each of the past eight financial years along with the overall diversion rate for recycling and green organics (~ 47%). Figure 7 shows the waste generation rate in kg per person per year. It shows that, although the overall diversion rate is steady, the amount of waste has increased (by 1.5% on a per capita basis as per Table 4). The recycling rate is steady or dropping and the green organics diversion rate is increasing slightly.

Figure 6

**Waste, recycling and green organics annual tonnes**

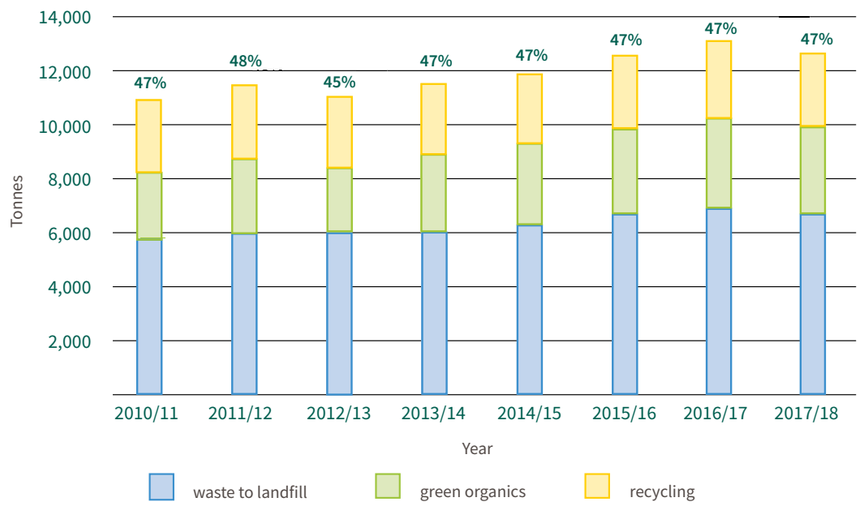
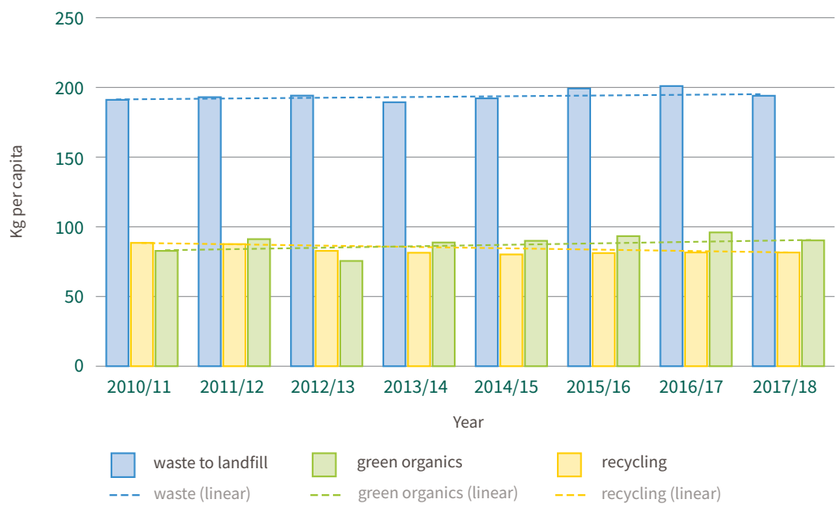



Figure 7

**Kerbside waste, recyclables and green organics generation per capita**




# 7.2 2017 – 2018 Performance

The chart adjacent (Figure 8) shows the waste tonnages and proportions (%) of kerbside waste and recoverable materials streams generated in the Mount Barker district area in 2017/2018, totalling around 13,003 tonnes. There has been a slight increase in the rate of recyclables and green organics recovery.

### In 2017/2018, Council diverted a total of:

- 2,899 tonnes (t) of recyclables from landfill, which is an increase of 65t compared to 2016/17
- 3,208 t of kerbside collected green organics from landfill, composting 125t less than in 2016/17.

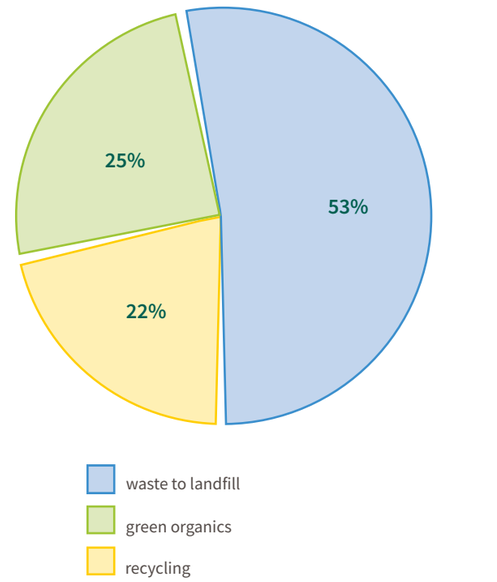
The remaining 53% of the total waste generated that was sent to landfill (6,896 t in 2017/18) is equivalent to around 462.55 kg of waste disposed to landfill per household each year (or each week, 8.89 kg per household: 3.73 kg per person).

### Compared to the previous financial year, this equates to:

- An decrease of 0.44 kg of waste/household/week, from 9.33 kg to 8.89 kg in 2017/18 (down 4.7%).
- A total decrease of waste to landfill per year from 6,979t to 6,896t in 2017/18 (down 1.2%).

Figure 8

**Kerbside Collected Materials 2017/2018**




# 7.3 Summary of our overall kerbside performance

The overall rate of increase in waste generation and disposal to landfill has increased by 1.5% on a per capita basis over the last 8 years. We want to reverse this trend. The rate of increase has started to drop, which is promising news if we compare 2017/18 to the previous two years. Recycling has increased and green organics has decreased slightly in the last financial year.

Table 5

| | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 |
|---|---|---|---|
| MBDC Population | 33,897 | 34,726 (increase 2.3%) | 35,545 (increase 2.4%) |
| Total Waste to Landfill | 6,753 tonnes | 6,979 tonnes (increase 3.4%) | 6,896 tonnes (decrease 1.2%) |
| Waste per person | 199.22 kg | 200.98 kg (increase 0.88%) | 194.04 kg (decrease 3.47%) |
| Green Organics per person | 93.31 kg | 95.98 kg (increase 2.9%) | 90.26 kg (decrease 6%) |
| Recycling per person | 81.17 kg | 81.6 kg (increase 0.5%) | 81.55 kg (decrease 0.1%) |

(figures rounded)

# 8. Our Local Community

**The population of our council area continues to grow as more people move from Adelaide city to the Mount Barker district. This can influence the expectations for service provision in a non-metropolitan setting to move towards that of metropolitan Adelaide. With a current population of around 35,000, sections of the council area resemble the metropolitan suburbs, providing a variety of different service requirements within the community. This growth is set to continue to a projected population of 51,143 by 2035, placing ever increasing pressure on our environment and natural resources, and service needs for sustainable waste management in the district.**

As part of the initial phases of the development of this Plan, Council undertook a community survey of 200 randomly selected residents across the district to ascertain their views and practices on waste and recycling. An audit style review of kerbside bin usage was also completed to assess the waste behaviours of our residential and business community in practice. This helped to guide the development of this Plan and help shape our future education, waste reduction programmes and community waste and recycling services in the context of the growing population. Consultation has also been conducted during the development of the Mount Barker District Environment Strategy where community members were invited to comment on several themes, including waste.

# 8.1 What does our waste look like?

The bin audit of 200 residential and 50 commercial bins across the suburbs of Mount Barker and Meadows was conducted in November 2017. The results of the audit[19] (and future audits) will help develop, improve and focus our waste and recycling education in the areas of most need and where we can see the most potential for gains.

**Some key findings noted from the audit are:**

## 8.1.1 Residential properties

Mount Barker performed relatively well, with less waste generated per household compared to State averages (although the diversion rate derived during the audit was around 9% higher than the annual diversion rate of 47% based on contractor data). We hope to build on this trend and further reduce our waste generation and disposal across the district. There was a lower rate of contamination of our green organics but a greater rate of recyclables contamination. However, there is still a great opportunity to increase diversion of waste from landfill from residential properties, by ensuring recoverable resources are placed in the correct bin and/or are correctly 'presented' in to ensure they be recycled:

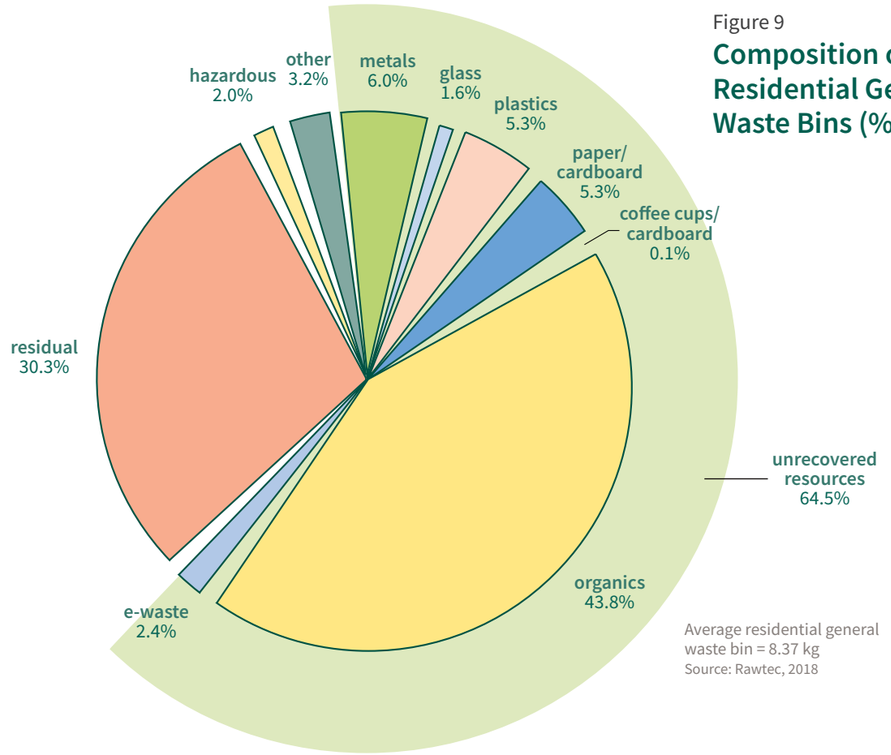
- Around 64% of waste disposed to the blue lid landfill bin was found to be 'unrecovered resources' (that is suitable for diversion to resource recovery), either in the recyclable yellow lidded bin (18%) or green organics bin (44%). The organic material included food waste that should be diverted to composting via the green organics bin.
- Some of the material needed to be diverted to specialist recycling (e.g. e-waste which must not go in any kerbside bin).
- There was also around 15% incorrectly disposed waste or 'contamination' found in the recycling bins (including organic material, residual waste and e-waste).
- The organics bins fared better with only around 1% residual waste found in the green organics bins.
- Many bins were less than half full.

In conclusion, if all materials were placed into the correct bin (or disposal facility) the amount of residential kerbside collected waste disposed to landfill would be reduced by 2/3 to around 2,300 tonnes instead of 6,896 tonnes, saving money, resources and landfill space. This is based on assuming the proportion of incorrectly disposed material found in the audit is representative and applying these figures to waste data collected by our contractors during 2017/18 for each stream.

19. Mount Barker District Council 2017 Kerbside Waste and Recycling Bin Audit, Prepared by Rawtec

Figure 9

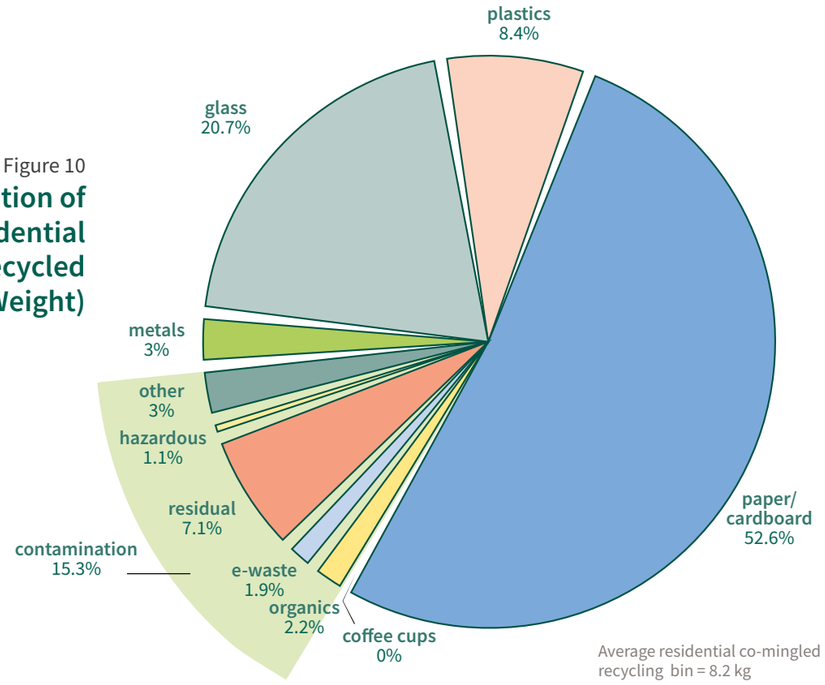
**Composition of the Residential General Waste Bins (% Weight)**




Average residential general waste bin = 8.37 kg
Source: Rawtec, 2018

Figure 10

**Composition of the Residential co-mingled Recycled Bins (% Weight)**




Average residential co-mingled recycling bin = 8.2 kg
Source: Rawtec, 2018

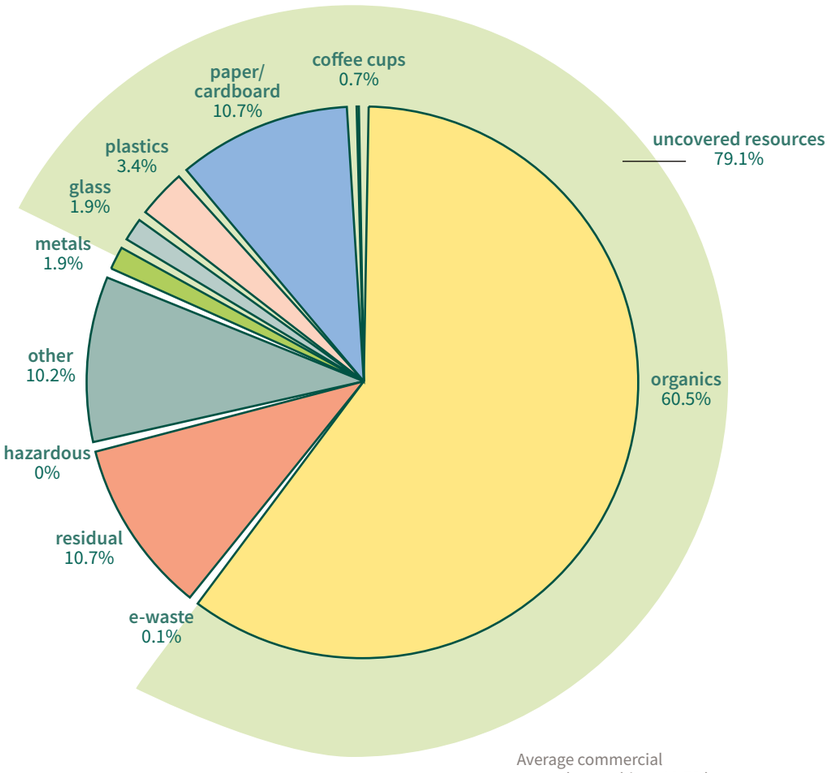
## 8.1.2 Commercial Properties

The audit of commercial bins in Mount Barker also indicated that business can greatly improve their practices and help increase resource efficiency and reduce costs to them, the community and the environment.

- As for residential bins, a very large amount of material disposed to the blue lid landfill bin was found to be recoverable, around 80%. Most of this was green organics and food waste, along with around 18% recyclables that can go in the yellow bin and e-waste which is banned from landfill.
- There was also around 10% of material found in the commercial recycling bins that was incorrectly disposed including residual waste, organics and e-waste.
- Common items incorrectly disposed included food waste, e-waste, clothing, soft plastics, cardboard and food waste. Some other contaminants commonly found in recycling streams noted separately by contractors include car batteries, medical waste and nappies.

Figure 11

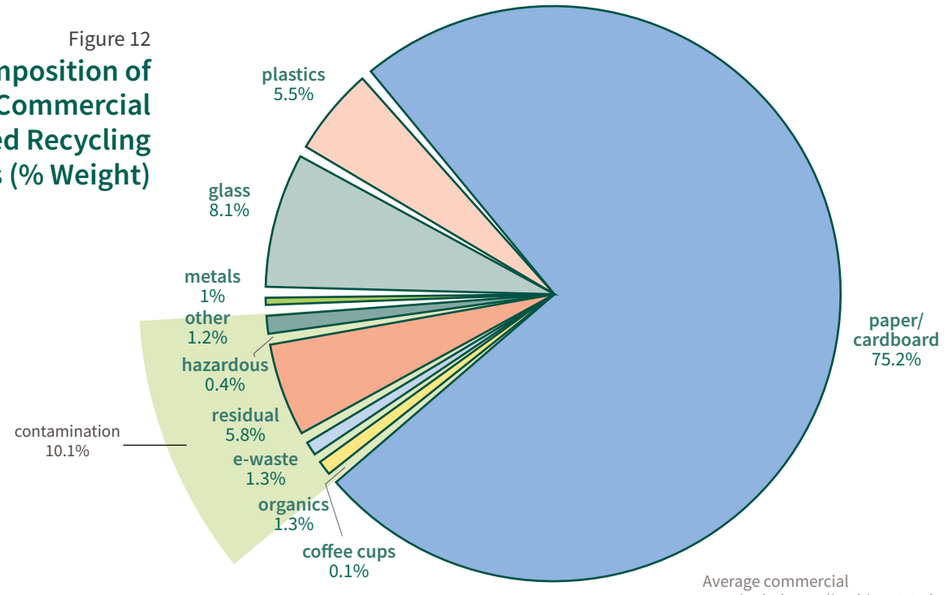
**Composition of the Commercial General Waste Bins (% Weight)**




Average commercial general waste bin = 10.72 kg
Source: Rawtec, 2018

Figure 12

**Composition of the Commercial co-mingled Recycling Bins (% Weight)**




Average commercial co-mingled recycling bin = 8.25 kg
Source: Rawtec, 2018

# 8.2 What is important to our community?

A community telephone survey was conducted in November 2017[20]. Data from this survey has also been used to develop this Plan. The survey returned some very interesting and positive results but also showed some variation depending on things such as age group, gender and how long the person interviewed had been a resident in our district. Again, we believe we have a sound basis from which to achieve further improvements on our sustainable waste management journey.

Our community is motivated! The vast majority of our residents want to do the right thing environmentally and socially with respect to waste management and recycling which aligns with our goal of resource efficiency. The survey found that although they were motivated, there was uncertainty surrounding the best disposal options for their waste and knowledge regarding what happens with it. We feel that this enthusiasm amongst most residents is really positive and we will continue to work with the community to help find solutions to reduce waste and improve resource recovery. As highlighted by the bin audit, there are great opportunities in both the residential and commercial sectors to improve our performance particularly for organic waste and correct bin use/waste presentation.

**The results of the survey have been divided into the three focus areas, as follows:**

## Education

Most residents had good knowledge on what to do with many household wastes. There is still some confusion about the best way to manage all waste types however. We will ensure that community education forms part of our implementation of this Plan through a range of media and delivery mechanisms to work towards achieving the improvement targets. We will tailor our engagement to target schools, residents and businesses in the key areas identified in this survey.

## Service Provision

There was a very high satisfaction rating for the services that Council provides for residents although some customer service concerns were raised in relation to the transfer station. We will continue to strive to provide good quality service to our residents. Service reviews will be conducted to provide optimum waste and resource recovery services to the community.

## Future Needs

Our community is growing and we need to ensure our existing and new residents have the right information to help them best reduce, reuse and recycle and help improve understanding of what happens with that waste. We will keep abreast of emerging issues for the industry including markets and regulations, and review our services and programmes to address those key issues and opportunities that arise in future that we can influence better outcomes in our community. This also includes reviewing our facilities and capacity for expansion to remain viable and meet future demand. Future growth also means increased waste as a result of construction and demolition activities. There is an opportunity to increase and improve recovery of soil, and construction and demolition waste for reuse in civil projects.

# 8.3 Opportunities

The survey and bin audit indicate that 64% of materials in residential waste bins and 80% in commercial bins is recoverable. Therefore, opportunities exist to improve our waste and recycling outcomes for the district. The majority of this in each case is organics.

The audit also found that there is also a significant amount of material incorrectly placed in both residential and commercial recycling bins which reduces the ability for the actual recyclable material to be recovered effectively.

Improvements may be achieved through education, behaviour change and review of the services that Council provides now and into the future.

**Some examples include:**

- Develop a community education and engagement plan to assist our community better understand what materials go in which bin. In particular, target organic wastes including food waste, the correct ‘presentation’ of recyclables (e.g. not in plastic bags) and difficult waste such as e-waste.
- Review of the collection service provision, particularly organics.
- Develop a plan to engage with local business to promote sustainability including to support improved source segregation and reducing the amount of organic and recyclable material going to landfill.

**RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**

**We can all recover more resources from our waste...**

**The findings from the survey and bin audit show:**

- **64% of materials in residential waste bins is recoverable**
- **80% of materials in commercial waste bins is recoverable.**

20. Mount Barker District Council Community Kerbside Waste Survey 2017, Prepared by Harrison Research

# 9. Waste to Resources Management Plan 2018–2025

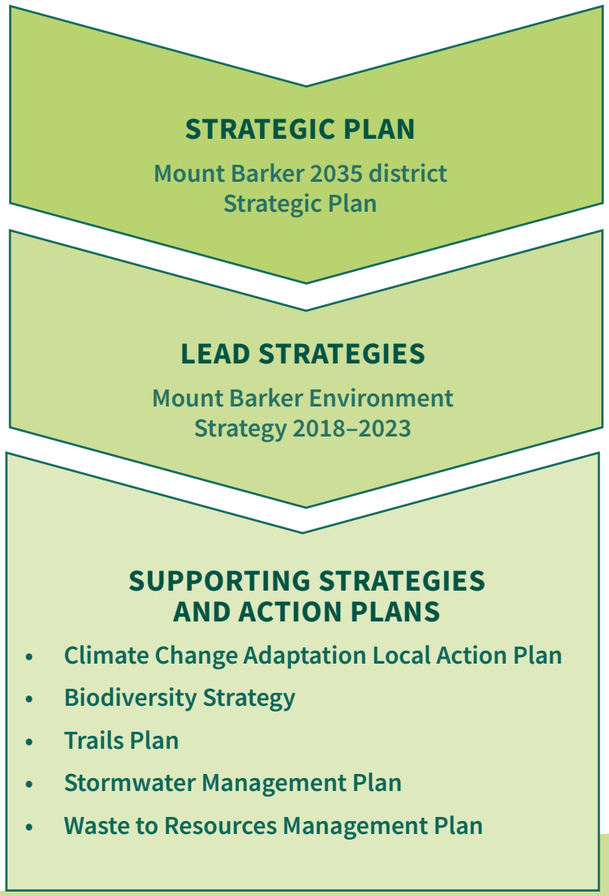
## 9.1 Strategic Direction

The Council will continue to implement measures to recover recyclable components out of the waste stream and encourage waste reduction in the community to increase resource efficiency, reduce costs and conserve landfill space. This direction is provided by the overarching 'Mount Barker 2035 District Strategic Plan' and the lead strategy 'Mount Barker Environment Strategy 2018-2023' both of which this Plan supports. This relationship is illustrated Figure 13 below.

## 9.2 Vision

Working together to achieve a more sustainable waste community.

Figure 13






# 9.3 Goals and Objectives

## 9.3.1 Goal

To provide resource efficient and sustainable waste management services, facilities and programmes that help to reduce the ecological footprint of Council and the Mount Barker district community.

**RESOURCE EFFICIENT**

**Council aspires to manage their waste in line with the concepts of the Waste Management Hierarchy and Circular Economy by viewing their waste as a potential resource to work towards achieving waste reduction targets.**

## 9.3.2 Objectives

The following section provides the objectives of the Plan based on three core focus areas, or themes. The strategies to implement the objectives are provided along with examples of actions to be taken. The detailed Action Plan is provided in Section 9.5.

Figure 14

### EDUCATION

Improve community understanding and engagement on waste reduction and recycling.

**STRATEGY:**
Establishing and implementing projects and programmes to educate, promote and facilitate reduced per capita waste generation and disposal of waste to landfill.

**ACTIONS:**
We will develop engagement plans for our residential, commercial and school communities, and will support local community groups initiatives including encouraging zero waste events. We will aim to encourage behaviours to avoid the generation of waste and reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill.

### SERVICE PROVISION

Provide programmes to reduce waste and improve recycling and provide efficient and environmentally responsible waste management services.

**STRATEGY:**
Providing an efficient and environmentally responsible waste collection, processing and disposal service to meet current and future demands.

**ACTIONS:**
We will review our waste collection, recovery and disposal services to look to expand and introduce increased flexibility with a focus on organics collection and increasing public place recycling. We will also assess opportunities for cost effective expansion of collection or drop off services for difficult, bulky or hazardous household wastes. We will also be looking to improve our own inhouse performance by developing a specific Council Waste to Resources Management Plan for our offices, parks and gardens and civil works.

### FUTURE NEEDS

Plan for the future needs of our district.

**STRATEGY:**
Striving to meet sustainable resource recovery targets established for our district into the future.

**ACTIONS:**
We will undertake a review of the kerbside collection contract and ensure the capacity of our waste management facilities are sufficient to support the growth of our district, including the introduction of waste management requirements into the planning process. We will also collect further data including bin audits and phone surveys to measure our performance and inform future Plans. We will keep abreast of legislative changes to ensure potential impacts and opportunities of future regulatory waste reforms are incorporated, including future costs and levies.



# 9.4 Developing Targets for Kerbside Collected Waste

## 9.4.1 Predictions against business as usual

If a 'business as usual' scenario is assumed for kerbside collected waste each year[21] for the projected population growth (up to around 41,678 by 2025 and 52,320 by 2035 – an annual increase of about 2.3%), this results in a projected total waste generation of around 15,608 tonnes per annum by 2025, and 20,436 tonnes by 2035.

**Using the 2017/18 diversion rates, it is projected that:**

- By 2025, waste generation would comprise approximately 8,214 t waste (~53%); 4,260 t green organics (~27%) and 3,134 t recycling (~20%).
- By 2035, this would be 10,545 t waste, 6,387 t green organics and 3,504 t recycling.

Ideally, the total amount of waste generated would also reduce from 2017/18 rates that were used to produce these targets, such as through reduced packaging, reducing food wastage and increasing segregation of waste from recyclables and green organics to reduce residual waste. However, for the purposes of this Plan, we have assumed waste generation rate of 194.02 kg/person/annum, recycling at 81.55 kg/person/annum and 90.26 kg/person/annum or organics (total 365.83 kg/person/annum).

Diversion rates can vary dependent upon factors such as dwelling type which can influence disposal options e.g. green waste volumes. With an average of 2.38 people per household, the projected number of collections (i.e. households) might increase from around 14,911 in 2017/18 to around 17,724 in 2025, and 22,689 in 2035 if steady growth is assumed. This is a stepwise overall increase of 17.3% and then 25.5% respectively. An overall increase of 52.2% in the service level requirements by 2035.

21. 194.02 kg of residual waste per capita, 90.26 kg of recyclables per capita and 81.55 kg of green organics per capita, assumes no contamination; 2.3%/yr pop'n growth

## 9.4.2 Targets considered

Targets for metropolitan Adelaide are set out in South Australia's Waste Strategy 2015-2020 to increase diversion of waste from landfill by 2020. These have been referred to as a benchmark against which to assess Mount Barker's non-metropolitan waste diversion performance.

**The target for non-metropolitan waste (i.e. Mount Barker), is to:**

- 'Maximise diversion to the extent practically and economically achievable'.

**NOTE:**

**The targets for metropolitan areas are as follows:**

- Municipal Solid Waste: increase diversion to 70%*, from a baseline of 55% in 2009
- Commercial and Industrial Waste: increase diversion to 80%, from a baseline of 60% in 2009
- Construction and Demolition Waste: increase diversion to 90%, from a baseline of 80% in 2009

* the MSW target comprises 60% diversion from high performing bin systems for overall MSW target of 70%.

## 9.4.3 Target for 2025

Considering the current South Australia's Waste Strategy targets for diversion of metropolitan waste of 60% from high performing kerbside services and the current diversion rate for the Mount Barker District Council of 47%, we have set the following target for 2025 in line with the Mount Barker Environment Strategy.

The projected waste generation and population growth (using the 2017/2018 rates), proposed targets and diversion rates were used to develop the actions in this Plan. In addition, the capacity of the current waste management services and facilities will need to be considered to assist with services, programmes and budget planning into the future.

### To work out the amount of waste for each stream the following assumptions were made:

- A population of around 41,678 by 2025 (assuming 52,320 by 2035 at a steady increase)
- The reduction of 20% applies to the 2017/18 rate of waste production per person per annum (194.02 kg)
- This translates into an equivalent increase in green organics and recyclables by 25% and 20% respectively.

**TARGET FOR 2025**

**A reduction of waste to landfill by 20% per capita**

### This results in:

- **An overall 8% increase in the amount of waste produced by the increased total population by 2025.**
- **A waste mix of 47% waste and 52% diverted resources (28% recyclables and 24% organics).**

The figures for 2017/18, for 2025 Business as Usual (BAU) (i.e. no improved performance), and the 20% reduction target for the year 2025 are presented below in Table 6 (figures rounded).

Table 6

| Waste Streams | 2017/18 Tonnes/Annum* | BAU 2025 Tonnes/Annum* | Target 2025 Tonnes/Annum* | kg/person/annum (comparing 2017/18 with 2025 target) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Waste | 6,896 | 8,214 | 7,393 | Reduction of 39.42 kg from 194.02 kg to 157.67 kg (–20%) |
| Green Organics | 3,208 | 4,260 | 5,325 | Increase of 25.55 kg from 102.21 kg to 127.76 kg (+25%) |
| Recycling | 2,899 | 3,134 | 3,761 | Increase of 15.04 kg from 75.2 kg to 90.24 kg (+20%) |
| Total | 13,003 | 15,608 | 15,657 | |



The targets for each waste stream on a per capita basis for 2025 as illustrated in figures 15 and 16 below will be used as benchmarks against which to assess Council's kerbside waste diversion performance.

Figure 15

**Projected waste generation (tonnes) showing current, BAU and target 20% reduction in waste to landfill**

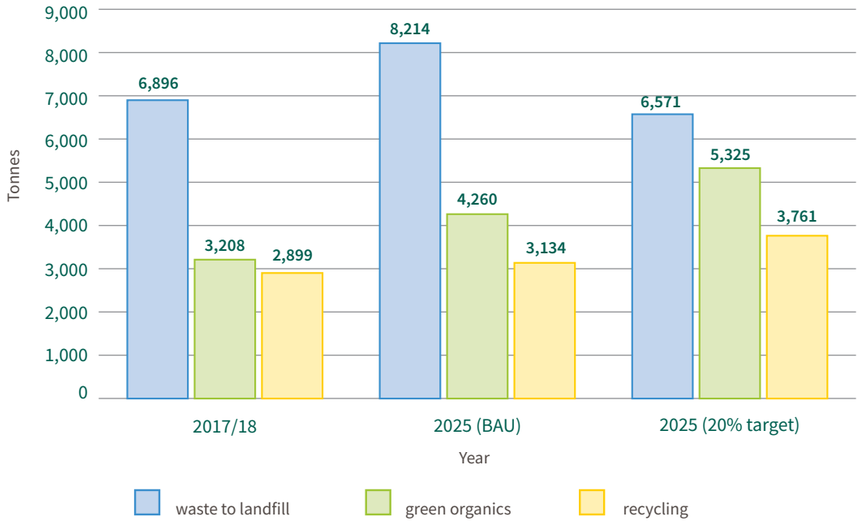
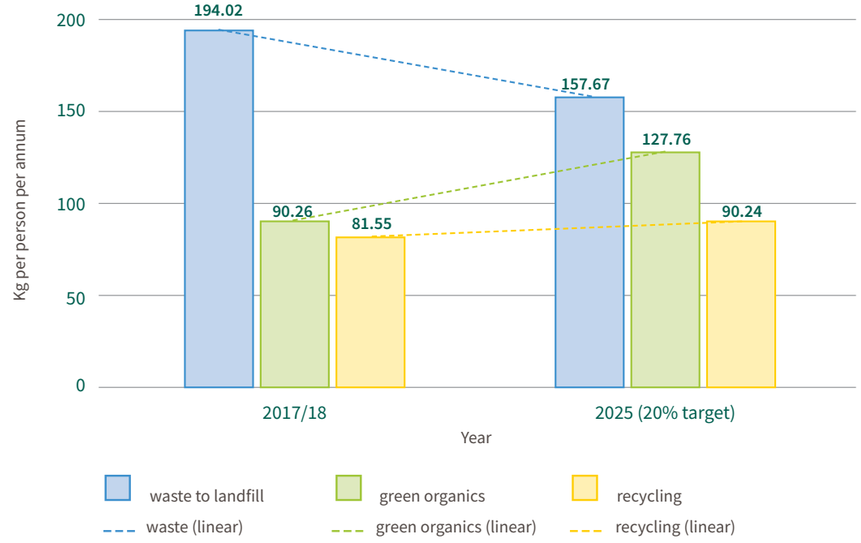



Figure 16

**Projected waste generation (per capita) showing current and target 20% reduction in waste to landfill**



# 9.5 Action Plan

**The following Action Plan outlines the key projects based on each of the three focus areas:**

**1. Education**

**2. Service Provision**

**3. Future Needs**

These actions will be prioritised over the next 7 years, and Council will work in partnership and collaboration with the community and other key agencies and organisations to implement them.

In this way, we will provide up-to-date, efficient and consistent information. The programmes, events and services we implement will benefit our community and guide us to a more sustainable result.

The Action Plan has been developed in consultation with the community and councillors. Table 7 provides a high level summary of the High, Medium and Low priority projects along with the timeframe for implementation. For more detailed information refer to Table 8, 9 and 10.



Table 7

## Action Plan Overview

| | Education | Service Provision | Future Needs |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Priority:** H<br>**Timeframe:** S | • Resident Education Package (incl. website update)<br>• Online collection calendar | • Update Waste Policy<br>• Kerbside collection – investigate green waste expansion, flexibility of service<br>• Special/difficult waste – investigate Hardwaste Service, soft plastics | • Sustainable DAs & procurement<br>• Future proofing facilities, services & compliance |
| **Priority:** M<br>**Timeframe:** M | • Commercial Education Package | • Public place resource recovery (e.g. street recycling bins)<br>• Review WHTS operations | |
| **Priority:** L<br>**Timeframe:** L | • Schools Education Package<br>• Community Groups & Events | • Retain AHRWMA membership<br>• Council performance (inhouse)<br>• Minimise illegal dumping | • Regulatory review<br>• Data collection & review |

**Priority:**
H – High
M – Medium
L – Long

**Timeframe:**
S – Short-term (0–2 years)
M – Medium (2–4 years)
L – Long (5+ years)
O – Ongoing

Table 8

# Focus Area 1: Education

## Improve community understanding and engagement on waste reduction and recycling

| Projects | Actions | Priority | Timeframe |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Resident Education and Engagement Plan**<br>Improve community understanding and engagement on waste and recycling. | • Develop a resident information package about recycling right, organic waste, e-waste and hazardous waste management<br>• Develop educational resources including stickers, brochures etc for distribution and use at community events.<br>• Update Council's website waste and recycling information, including reference to GISA's 'Which Bin' search engine & links to other government waste related websites. Create online ordering tool for resources<br>• Provide regular communication with the community via social media and newsletter articles on waste management<br>• Provide information at customer service and the library targeting organics waste, recycling & correctly managing difficult & hazardous wastes, correct bin use & correct 'presentation' of materials, e-waste recovery options & managing difficult or hazardous household wastes<br>• Create a resident information package for "new" residents to the Mt Barker district | H | S |
| | • Promote waste management services within the district<br>• Update website to provide information on waste management services within the district including Council services eg. Windmill Hill Transfer Station, dedicated collection days, services for difficult wastes | M | S |
| | • Undertake programs such as surveys, bin tagging and bin audits to identify opportunities to assist the development of policy and educational tools<br>• Undertake regular surveys, bin tagging and/or bin audit programmes and report results via Council's website | M | S |
| | • Provide an online/ electronic waste calendar and waste collection maps<br>• Convert hardcopy annual waste calendar to an electronic platform | H | S |
| | • Deliver media campaigns on anti-littering/ illegal dumping and recognition programs<br>• Implement recognition programme (individuals or community groups), highlighting & publicly recognising excellent local community environmental practices & zero waste initiatives | M | M |
| **Commercial Education and Engagement Plan** | • Develop a commercial information package including resources<br>• Target programmes focussing on main streets eg. Hahndorf Main Street & Gawler Street Mount Barker<br>• Promote green organics & recyclables diversion<br>• Provide information to manage difficult wastes (e.g. e-waste) | M | M |
| | • Identify opportunities with local businesses to promote the adoption of a 'circular economy'<br>• Connect businesses that can cooperate & participate in a local 'circular economy' model | M | M |
| | • Investigate opportunities with local businesses to develop 'green challenges' programmes<br>• Investigate business interest & opportunities to pilot resource efficient 'green challenges' by working with local business association to develop annual programmes eg. Eliminating plastic waste, use of compostable or reusable packaging & containers in shopping areas, eliminating food waste such as through efficient purchasing, composting & participation in initiatives such as OzHarvest<br>• Promote 'green businesses', highlighting & publicly recognising the best business environmental practices & zero waste initiatives including in collaboration with incentive schemes through other agencies (GISA) | M | O |
| **Schools Education and Engagement Plan** | • Develop a schools information package, including resources<br>• Utilise GISA's education material to provide schools with education materials such as brochures, stickers etc | M | M |
| | • Work collaboratively with schools and provide support and encourage sustainable waste management in cooperation with GISA, KESAB and Wipe Out Waste<br>• Participate in or support annual events to align with waste education events at schools in cooperation eg. Wipe Out Waste campaign developed by Green Industries SA & KESAB<br>• Support food waste composting and worm farms at local schools | M | M |
| | • Investigate opportunities with schools to develop 'green challenges' programmes<br>• Annual recycled art competition during National Recycling Week and annual school 'Waste and Recycling Sustainability Champion' Award<br>• Implement an annual nomination & recognition programme (individuals or schools), highlighting & publicly recognising the best schools' environmental practices & zero waste initiatives | M | M |
| **Community Groups and Events** | • Support and promote Waste Wise events with community groups<br>• Develop guidance to actively support 'waste wise' events by engaging with local community groups to address waste management plans, waste & litter reduction & providing targeted materials & appropriate waste segregation & collection services for each event<br>• Hold Council waste information stalls at community events | M | M |
| | • Review Council's funding application requirements to ensure waste management is included<br>• Develop waste management requirements for Community Grants Program and Environmental Grant Program and associated grants | M | M |
| | • Develop an annual calendar of events to participate in & promote with the local community to align with initiatives<br>• Participate in or support annual events to align with National Recycling Week, World Environment Day, Clean Up Australia Day and International Composting Awareness Week. | M | M |

**Priority:**

H – High
M – Medium
L – Long

**Timeframe:**

S – Short-term (0–2 years)
M – Medium (2–4 years)
L – Long (5+ years)
O – Ongoing

Table 9

# Focus Area 2: Service Provision

## Provide efficient and environmentally responsible waste management services

| Projects | Actions | Priority | Timeframe |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Kerbside Collection**<br>Improving kerbside waste and resource recovery service flexibility and performance with a focus on reducing waste to landfill | • Investigate the expansion of green organics kerbside collection for equal service across the district<br>  • Investigate the expansion of serviced areas including bin provision with the goal of green organics diversion from landfill for residents, commercial customers and schools | H | S |
| | • Review and update Council's Kerbside Waste, Recycling and Green Organics Collection Service Policy (Waste Policy)<br>  • Review the geographic extent, flexibility, consistency & collection frequency for the kerbside bin collection system across the District – including provision of additional bins, options for obtaining different bin types & sizes, provision of services at community events, options for alternative bin arrangements for high density living, promotion/ provision of kitchen caddies and worm farms | H | S |
| | • Monitor and review kerbside waste collection contract for best practice and cost-effective service provision<br>  • Regularly review and manage kerbside collection contract, adhere to KPIs, reporting, data etc<br>  • Assess contract in response to China Sword Policy impacts and negotiate as required<br>  • Go to the market to assess waste contracts for value for money & for cost effective service provision best practice waste contracts including considering regional options for cost efficiency | M | O |
| **Waste Recovery in Public Places, Community Events and Local Businesses**<br>Provide increased resource recovery at public events, places and commercial premises | • Investigate and implement a Community Events Policy for waste and recycling services provision<br>  • Conduct trial waste-wise events in partnership with community group/s and assess feasibility of providing waste and recycling services | M | M |
| | • Review public bins and consider public place recycling services within prominent locations<br>  • Review public bins (number, type & replacement requirements) throughout the district & the adequacy of collection procedures<br>  • Consider the provision of public place recycling bins & collection services at key locations | M | M |
| | • Review the commercial waste collection service including consideration of green organics<br>  • Review the commercial waste collection service for all waste types<br>  • Assess opportunities for green organics collection services<br>  • Investigate opportunities for commercial waste reduction and extension of resource recovery including CDL, recyclables, green organics & food waste, e-waste | H | S |
| **Improved Council Performance**<br>Management of waste from Council operations and activities | • Implement measures to improve the avoidance of waste and recovery of resources such as office waste, green waste and infrastructure works<br>  • Develop action plan for waste minimisation for Council operations including offices and depot targeting such as office waste, road construction, parks & gardens; C&D, infrastructure maintenance | M | M |
| | • Maximise the use of recycled content in Council's operations in striving to achieve a circular economy approach<br>  • Review Council's Procurement Policy and consider the inclusion of a target of recycled content in goods procured by Council | M | S |
| **Windmill Hill Transfer Station**<br>To maximise recovery, reuse and recycling of materials entering the WHTS | • Ongoing review of operations including opening hours, gate fees, capacity and environmental controls to ensure WHTS operates in an economically viable manner and meets community demand<br>  • Assess waste contracts for cost effective service provision including consideration of regional options for cost efficiency<br>  • Review service provision expansion where feasible eg. Paintback, soft plastics recycling<br>  • Review the way that waste is deposited, handled and/or transported to landfill in order to maximise resource recovery and provide the most effective management of received materials<br>  • Regularly (at least annually) assess the gate fees to ensure they are sustainable and are in line with fees charged at other stations within the region<br>  • Provide cost effective options for residents to dispose of materials that can be reused or recycled | M | O |
| | • Maintain annual schedule of designated free drop off days for green organic waste<br>  • Provide regular free clean green waste drop off days & mulch collection | M | O |
| | • Continue to support the Salvage and Save establishment where practical and possible<br>  • Maximise recovery, reuse and recycling by diverting hard waste from landfill | M | L |
| **Special and Difficult Wastes (including Hardwaste)**<br>Provision of options for cost effective management | • Review the viability of offering a Hardwaste service to residents, considering various delivery options<br>  • Conduct a review for the provision of a cost effective hardwaste service for bulky household wastes | M | S |
| | • Explore regional opportunities to manage targeted/ difficult waste through the AHRWMA and National schemes<br>  • Implement resource recovery solutions for special and difficult waste such as asbestos, batteries, E-waste, fluorescent & mercury lamps, household hazardous waste, medical waste & sharps, paint, soft plastics & polystyrene, tyres, waste from Council & other development works (soil, C&D, pavement) | M | S |
| **Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority**<br>Maximise membership to Council's benefit | • Continue to utilise AHRWMA for waste and resource management/ operation for the benefit of Council<br>  • Retain membership with AHRWMA and obtain resourcing and waste management advice | M | O |
| | • Continue to evaluate the benefits of Council's membership in the regional subsidiary to ensure value<br>  • Explore regional opportunities for resource sharing through the AHRWMA | M | O |
| | • Provide input to the development of the AHRWMA strategic plan and business plan<br>  • Contribute through the Board membership & committees of the AHRWMA | M | O |
| **Illegal Dumping** | • Investigate the extent and potential cost of illegal dumping<br>  • Measure and report on illegal dumping, including the number of incidences and budget impact to Council | M | S |
| | • Implement measures to deter, investigate and take action on illegal dumping<br>  • Conduct anti-littering campaign/s in conjunction with Council Rangers, as required<br>  • Work in conjunction with Council Rangers and EPA to provide staff training for illegal dumping investigation and follow up | M | L |

**Priority:**
H – High
M – Medium
L – Long

**Timeframe:**
S – Short-term (0–2 years)
M – Medium (2–4 years)
L – Long (5+ years)
O – Ongoing

Table 10

# Focus Area 3: Future Needs

## Plan for the future needs of our district

| Projects | Actions | Priority | Timeframe |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Future Proofing Facilities, Services and Compliance**<br>Ensure Council's service and facilities meet the future needs of the district | • Review waste management service needs and demands into the future<br>• Plan for future waste management service needs & demands considering waste generation & population projections<br>• Regularly review Council's waste policy<br>• Regularly review Council's kerbside collection maps & schedules for population growth & District expansion areas with waste contractor and City Planning<br>• Assess potential for alternate models for service charges (e.g. pay as you throw; incentives for waste reduction)<br>• Assess environmental & pollution controls at Windmill Hill Transfer Station and plan for upgrades where necessary | H | O |
| | • Ensure the implementation of the Waste to Resources Management Plan is adequately resourced<br>• Create internal working party to implement Waste to Resources Management Plan<br>• Apply for additional resources as part of annual budget process<br>• Apply for grants that are suitable to assist in resourcing the Waste to Resources Management Plan | H | O |
| | • Consider regional options<br>• Review opportunities to expand materials accepted at the Windmill Hill Transfer Station<br>• Work with AHRWMA to identify opportunities for resource recovery and cost sharing | M | L |
| **Sustainable Waste Management for Development Approvals and Procurement**<br>Improvements in sustainability for developments | • Incorporate sustainable waste management and resource efficiency for works procured by or approved by Council through the Development Application and Approvals process<br>• Coordinate with planning functions of Council to develop rules to promote & specify consideration of sustainability & waste management planning for development works procured by or approved by Council<br>• Include specific waste & recycling requirements for new developments – e.g. waste management & sustainability measures in approvals for new residential & commercial developments<br>• Promote the consideration of sustainability, local suppliers, recycled content, recyclability & segregation of wastes<br>• Promote the establishment of 'green' on-site waste management requirements for development within the Council area - e.g. KESAB clean site programme | H | S |
| | • Ensure Council's own buildings/ facilities incorporate sustainable waste management principles and are resource efficient<br>• Ensure all facilities have a waste management plan | H | O |
| **Data Collection and Review** | • Maintain a database to track performance against the 2025 waste reduction target<br>• Maintain database of landfill tonnages and recycling statistics from kerbside collection & Windmill Hill Transfer Station reported on an annual basis & tracked against 2025 waste reduction target. | H | O |
| | • Review data from bin audits, community surveys and enquiries to inform opportunities for continued improvement<br>• Conduct at least one bin audit & one formal community survey on waste management for every 2 years, identifying areas for continued improvement & informing subsequent Plans<br>• Track performance against targets via Council's website annual report on Waste to Resources Action plan - meet KPIs<br>• Review complaints / enquiries data to identify potential improvements | M | L |
| **Regulatory Review**<br>Plan for regulatory changes for waste and resource recovery | • Review proposed State Government Legislative and Policy changes to assess potential impacts and opportunities for Council<br>• Assess potential impacts & opportunities for MBDC including changes to standards, mass balance reporting & waste tracking on any proposed State Government Legislative & Policy changes | H | L |
| | • Advocate for and support Government and industry initiatives on Extended Producer Responsibility and local/national markets for recycling and recycled content<br>• Remain abreast of Government discussions & Policy positions on energy from waste needs & drivers in SA & assess & consider suitability & feasibility of waste to energy options for MBDC and/or in collaboration with other Councils | M | L |

**Priority:**

H – High
M – Medium
L – Long

**Timeframe:**

S – Short-term (0–2 years)
M – Medium (2–4 years)
L – Long (5+ years)
O – Ongoing

# 10. Implementation, Performance Measurement and Review

**The overarching measure of the performance of this Plan will be the volume of material diverted from landfill (tonnage) per annum and waste reduction against targets. In addition to this, performance against actions undertaken will also be tracked.**

- This Plan and each project developed from this Plan shall be reviewed against the specific objectives, targets and KPIs in this Plan
- The Action Plan shall be reviewed and updated on an annual basis and may require adjustment as issues evolve or arise over time. This Plan will be updated to ensure consistency with State Government (or other relevant external agency) policies after two years or should significant service or policy changes come into effect before this time.
- Any significant changes to the Plan or to Council's waste services should be undertaken consistent with Council's Community Engagement framework.
- A comprehensive review and update of this Plan should be undertaken no later than five years after endorsement by Council to develop a new Plan for 2025 and beyond.



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL