

11.4.8 Council Policy Review – Draft Kerbside Waste Collection Services 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kerbside Waste Collection Services Policy (*the Policy*) outlines Council's objectives regarding the waste management services it offers to residents, businesses and other groups within the Shire. The current policy was adopted by Council at its November 2019 Ordinary Meeting and is now due for review.

The Policy ensures that our kerbside waste services are delivered equitably across the Shire and is driven by the below principles:

- Minimising the amount of landfill waste generated within the municipality;
- Increasing the recovery of resources;
- Providing alternatives to landfill disposal;
- Minimising the contamination of recycling and organic waste streams; and
- Equitable and accessible access for all residents.

Officers have engaged with internal departments to ensure that the proposed draft Policy is consistent across relevant business operations. There have been no significant changes to the draft Policy (refer Attachment 1).

It is proposed that the draft Policy is endorsed for community engagement consistent with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the draft Kerbside Collection Services Policy 2024;***
- 2. Place the draft Policy on public exhibition for a period of four (4) weeks, commencing on Wednesday 17 July 2024 to Tuesday 13 August 2024 at 5.00 pm, in accordance with the Communication and Engagement Plan; and***
- 3. Receive a Council report in a future Council meeting outlining the outcomes of the community engagement and presenting a final Policy for adoption by Council.***

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

In November 2019 Council adopted the current *Kerbside Collection Services Policy (the Policy)* and is now due to be reviewed. Waste Officers have undertaken internal engagement with the Community and Culture, Rates and Projects Departments to ensure that the policy is consistent and now presents that final draft Policy for Council endorsement for community engagement.

The Policy covers:

- Residential Kerbside Collection Services in Urban and Rural Areas;
- Extensions to the collection routes;
- Special Considerations Kerbside Collection Services;

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- Collections services from Commercial Premises and Educational Organisations;
- Special Events;
- Contamination management of Kerbside Bins; and
- Public Place Recycling.

As waste management impacts all residents within the municipality, it is important that the community is provided with the opportunity to provide input into the final draft Policy.

ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

The Policy allows Council officers to apply a consistent approach to resident requests around waste management services and enable a base line expectation with our residents.

Minor changes and updates to the draft Policy (refer Attachment 1) include:

- Referencing the introduction of a new glass bin in July 2025;
- Update of Officers titles and responsibilities;
- A new section around how to manage Multi Unit Dwellings;
- Minor changes to the “Special Consideration” Kerbside Collection Service; and
- Removal of Section 8.1 – “Kerbside collection services are mandatory for all habitable dwellings located on existing collection routes in rural areas of the Shire”.
- Clarity around bin allocations for community groups and arrangements for special events.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

A Communications and Engagement Plan has been developed to provide an opportunity for input from people who may be affected by the proposed changes as well as the wider community.

Depth of Engagement

Depth of engagement	Consult.
Public participation goal	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.
Promise to the public	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.

Results from this engagement will be presented with the final copy of the Policy for consideration at a future Council meeting.

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POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Plans and Policies

The key strategic focus that links with the delivery of waste management services is:

- Strategic Focus Area 3: Protect. Enhance. Adapt.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision-making.

Key regulatory and current stat plans and policies that were considered include:

Federal

- National Waste Policy

State

- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Circular Economy Act 2021
- Recycling Victoria: a new economy
- Waste to Energy Framework
- Climate Change Act 2017

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

Risk(s)	Likelihood	Consequence	Rating	Mitigation Action
Non compliance with this policy	Unlikely	Minor	Low	Policy will be available on staff intranet and on Council's website
Good governance and legislative obligations may be jeopardised if robust policies are not in place	Unlikely	Minor	Low	The application of this policy by officers provides a framework for how or waste services are delivered to the community.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law.

Council provides waste management services to its community, and these are seen as one of the fundamental core functions of Council. This updated Policy will ensure that we are providing a consistent and fair waste service for our community.

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Conflict of Interest Declaration

All officers and/or contractors involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

Transparency

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.

This report will be presented to Council in a Council meeting, open to the public and live streamed to the public. This is consistent with Council's Transparency Policy, enabling the community to have oversight regarding the matters being discussed by Council and the decisions being made.

FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of the draft Policy. All costs associated with Council's waste management services are budgeted for annually.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

Economic

There are no economic considerations as part of this policy update.

Social

Waste management is a key service that Council delivers to its community and undertaking the review of the key policy will mean our residents continue to have access to high quality, consistent, best practice waste management services.

Environmental

Council currently delivers a best practice waste management service to its community that promotes a three (3) bin service to maximise the amount of waste diverted away from landfill.

Climate change

This Policy will assist Council in diverting waste away from landfill and promoting waste education to our community.

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HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation does not limit any human rights under the Victoria *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the review of the *Kerbside Collection Services Policy* ensures consistency and responsiveness to community needs.

While minor updates to the policy have been made, the focus continues to be on delivering high quality waste management services. It is proposed that Council undertake community engagement before the final draft Policy is presented to Council for consideration at a future Council meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Draft Kerbside Waste Collection Services Policy 2024

Attachment 2: Kerbside Waste Collection Services Policy – Policy Impact Assessment Tool