





MASTER ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Waste, Recycling and Resource Recovery

Yarriambiack Shire Council is currently preparing its Master Environment Strategy. The Strategy will set a clear direction that we will use to guide our planning and decision-making to meet community expectations regarding environmental sustainability for the next 10 years. We are seeking your input on a range of matters, including climate action – adaptation, mitigation and renewable energy, to guide the development of this Strategy.

Waste generation and landfilling is environmentally harmful in numerous ways. Council has a vision for itself and the Yarriambiack Shire community to be committed to leading in waste reduction and recovering resources that can be used to benefit the local environment and develop generate economic opportunities for waste recovery in our region.

<p>Waste Diversion</p> 	<p>A lot of the Shire’s waste ends up in landfill, even when there are other ways to deal with it. Historically, only about 20% of waste is diverted from landfill and we believe we should be doing better.</p>
<p>Resource Recovery</p>  	<p>The Victorian government is implementing various measures to try improving resource recovery. This includes a requirement for all local councils to provide food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection by 2030. For a small, rural shire like Yarriambiack, which has a small population spread over large distances, the implementation of a FOGO collection service involves considerable costs. There is no local or regional FOGO facility in or near Yarriambiack Shire to receive and process FOGO, increasing the financial and emissions costs of transporting FOGO from the Shire. For these reasons, Council is considering viable alternatives that would better suit the Shire’s context.</p> <p>Other avenues of resource recovery being implemented include glass waste collection and the State’s container deposit scheme. More work also needs to be done on tackling the challenge of agricultural waste, which is often difficult to collect and dispose of appropriately.</p>
<p>Transfer Stations</p> 	<p>Council operates nine transfer stations within its area, which act as a collection point for various waste streams. Each transfer station incurs costs to run, some transfer stations collect relatively small amounts of waste and resources for recovery, and a range of factors make them challenging to run. Council believes there may be alternative ways to provide effective waste and resource recovery services to its smaller towns. Council will review its transfer stations considering how to best balance resource recovery, convenience for residents and costs to residents through their rates.</p>

Actions for Consideration


Council is seeking your feedback on potential actions it could pursue to achieve its waste, recycling and resource recovery goal. These actions include:

- Reducing the amount of waste going to landfill by diverting waste (e.g. recycling, reusing) and generating less waste.
- Assess which kerbside waste services Council provides and how it does so.
- Review how Council can provide better services to rural communities, including by addressing difficult agricultural wastes.
- Improve resource recovery e.g. avoid food and garden waste going to landfill and maximise transfer station efficiency.
- Educate the community to support waste-reducing behaviour change.
- Reduce litter and illegal dumping.
- Work with businesses and government agencies to pursue waste reduction measures.
- Minimise and appropriately manage Council’s own waste.



Goal

Increase diversion from landfill and improve resource recovery rates.




Complete the survey online by scanning the QR Code