

# Proposed Waste & Recycling Service Changes (From 01 July 2026)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### 1. Why is Council proposing changes to waste and recycling servicing?

Council is working towards full cost recovery for waste and recycling services. Our small population and large area means the costs of providing these services are higher than what is currently recovered through charges. These changes aim to ensure services remain sustainable, fair, and accessible for all residents. It also ensures that other services and operations are not inadvertently subsidising waste and recycling services.

### 2. What are the main changes for kerbside collection?

All new residential and rural services will be offered 120L general waste (weekly), 240L mixed recycling (fortnightly), and 120L glass recycling (bi-monthly).

### 3. Will I have to change my current bin service?

No. If you currently have an 80L or 240L general waste bin, you can keep your existing service unless you request a change. Only new services will be offered the standard bin sizes.

### 4. How much will the new services cost?

Example annual charges for 2026/27:

General Waste, Mixed Recycling, Glass Recycling: **\$598.86** (this fee is based on a 120L general waste bin).

General Waste Mixed Recycling, Glass Recycling: **\$875.11** (this fee is based on a 240L general waste bin).

Commercial charges will also increase by 50%, with details provided in the **Brochure**. Commercial residents are not obligated to use Council's waste collection services and may instead opt to visit the Transfer Stations or engage an alternative service provider.

Rural residents, where such services are provided, have the option to select only the general waste service.

### 5. What is happening with Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)?

The Council will implement a new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin service by 01 July 2027, as mandated by the *Victorian State Government*. Community consultation will be undertaken to determine preferences regarding collection frequency - either weekly or fortnightly - and bin size. The projected annual cost is \$130 for weekly kerbside collection and \$103.74 for fortnightly service, with an additional processing fee to be determined. The final processing cost will depend on the disposal site's location and associated transport expenses.

Both the 120L and 240L bin size options will be considered as part of Council's community consultation process.



## 6. Will there be changes to transfer station fees and hours?

Yes, it is proposed that there will be changes to fees and hours from 01 July 2026.

- The general waste fee at transfer stations is proposed to increase to \$45 per cubic metre. This will be in close alignment with our neighbouring Shires' fees.
- Green waste and e-waste disposal will remain free for residents. We anticipate green waste reducing when the FOGO bin is introduced from 01 July 2027.
- Most transfer stations will have reduced opening hours, except Warracknabeal, which will remain the same due to demand.
- The reduced hours will be supplemented by the fee-for-service hard waste collection service, for eligible residents, and all residents in Yaapeet and Patchewollock, where the transfer stations have been closed. Council is considering expanding the hard waste collection service from 01 July 2027, depending on community feedback.

## 7. Is there a new hard waste collection service?

Yes. A fee-for-service hard waste collection is proposed for eligible residents (Seniors Card holders, Disability Health Care Card holders, and refer to item 9), with up to 3 cubic metres collected per booking at \$45/cubic metre. The service will be scheduled by area and available by booking.

## 8. When will the hard waste service and Little Yellow Wagon service be available?

The Little Yellow Wagon service is currently accessible throughout the Shire. Beginning 1 July 2026, the hard waste collection service is proposed to be available by booking and provided on a four-week rotation schedule as outlined below:

- **Week 1** - Northern Area.
- **Week 2** - Central Area.
- **Week 3** - Southern Area.
- **Week 4** - Floating day determined monthly, based on demand.

Additionally, Council is considering the introduction of a combined service encompassing both hard waste collection and the Little Yellow Wagon on the same day in the same town.

To clarify, the fee-for-service hard waste collection, if booked, will only occur about once every four weeks.

## 9. What will happen with the Yaapeet and Patchewollock temporary bi-monthly skip bin service?

The bi-monthly skip bins in Yaapeet and Patchewollock were introduced following the closure of the respective transfer stations. While this service is presently provided free of charge, it is recognised that this approach does not ensure fairness and equity for all residents in the Shire.

Accordingly, Council proposes to implement a fee-for-service hard waste collection option for all residents in the township of Yaapeet and Patchewollock, and discontinue the current skip bin service. Should the skip bin service continue, it would be necessary for Council to introduce charges for all residents, either through their rates notice or on a user-pays basis.

## 10. How will these changes affect rural and commercial properties?

Rural services remain optional, with the same new bin options and a 10% charge increase.

Commercial services remain optional, with a 50% charge increase. Businesses can opt out or use alternative disposal options.

## 11. What about the safety and facilities at transfer stations?

The Council intends to enhance staff safety, provide accessible toilets, and improve site facilities at the Warracknabeal, Hopetoun, and Murtoa transfer stations. However, the costs of upgrading all transfer station sites do not justify the investment when compared to their usage. With financial sustainability and reduced funding affecting services across the Shire, the Council must consider the needs of the entire municipal district before committing resources, while still striving to ensure everyone has fair and equitable access.