

Waste And Resource Recovery Strategy 2021 - 26

MURRAYLANDS RIVERLAND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



**Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Association**

An initiative of Murraylands Riverland LGA in
partnership with Green Industries SA



Government of South Australia
Green Industries SA



Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association

An initiative of the MRLGA and member councils in partnership with Green Industries SA .



Forward

The development of this 2021-26 Regional Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy is a credit to the eight (8) constituent councils of the Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association. Coming together to work on key issues for local government and the communities we represent makes good sense. The process undertaken to work through the individual waste management needs of each council, consider the bigger picture - including state, national and global perspectives - and ultimately bring together a regional strategy, demonstrates real maturity.

The strategy is foundational in its approach and will position local government in the region to move beyond 2026. It provides a framework for achievable local solutions to enhance service delivery, manage costs and drive innovation in resource recovery. Of course, plans are only plans until implemented and we know this journey will require strong partnerships with our communities and the waste management industry. The opportunity to work together to reimagine waste and recover items that can generate value elsewhere is however exciting and indeed, worthy of a concerted collective effort. I look forward to seeing the regional circular economy grow over the next 5 years and beyond.

I congratulate all involved in contributing to the Strategy and commend the document to you.

Mayor Peter Hunt

President, Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association.



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The MRLGA would like to acknowledge Rawtec for their involvement in the development of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-26

rawtec.com.au



Background

The Murraylands and Riverland is a rich agriculture region and tourism destination. The region has a population of 73,000 people and is divided into eight local government areas:

- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Southern Mallee District Council.

The Murraylands and Riverland Local Government Association (MRLGA) is a regional subsidiary under the Local Government Act 1999. It works with and represents the eight councils to enhance efficiencies and create value through a commitment to high level planning and coordination of resources.

Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy

Councils are responsible for providing a range of infrastructure and services to their community. This includes regular kerbside collection of waste and recycling bins and local transfer stations where residents can drop-off materials.

Regional councils typically have lower population density and large travel distances. This creates greater challenges and costs to deliver waste and recycling services. The MRLGA councils vary in size and will have their own considerations and challenges that require a considered approach for each community. However, cooperation through the MRLGA will help to achieve greater outcomes than councils could achieve individually.

This waste and resource recovery strategy encourages a regional approach to resource recovery and developing a circular economy. The actions in this strategy will create a waste and resource recovery system with a strong foundation and establish the region's direction, creating the platform for future actions and opportunities.

The strategy is a tool to support business development opportunities for councils to explore local solutions for their communities. Figure 1 outlines the framework of how the strategy has been developed and highlights the separate implementation plan that has been developed.

Figure 1: Strategy development framework



Murraylands Riverland Regions

Mid Murray Council

Berri Barmera Council

Renmark Paringa Council

District Council of Loxton Waikerie

Southern Mallee District Council

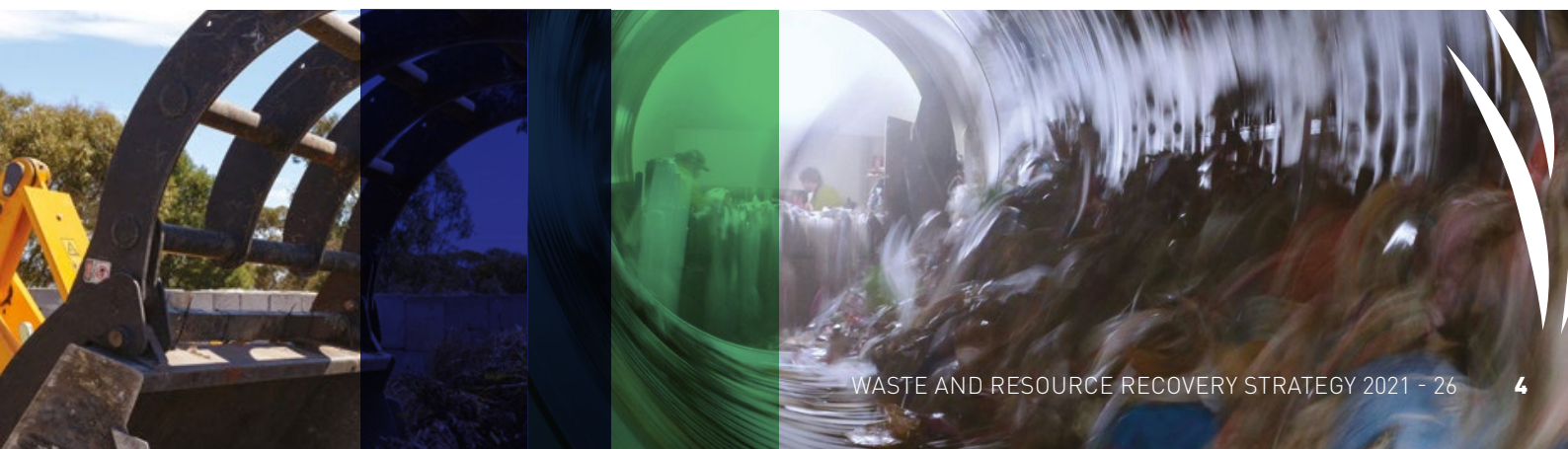
Coorong District Council

Rural City of Murray Bridge

District Council of Karoonda East Murray



-  Composting
-  Local Landfill
-  Regional Landfill
-  TS/RRC



Current services

2020 DATA



Kerbside collection

Council	General waste	Comingled recycling	Organics recycling *	Est. landfill diversion
Berri Barmera	✓	✓	GO	39%
Loxton Waikerie	✓	✓	GO	39%
Renmark Paringa	✓	✓	GO	36%
Coorong	✓	✓	GO	28%
Karoonda East Murray	✓	✓		13%
Mid Murray	✓	✓		10%
Murray Bridge	✓	✓	FOGO	45%
Southern Mallee	✓	✓		14%

* GO = Garden organics only, FOGO = Food organics and garden organics

Context and future drivers

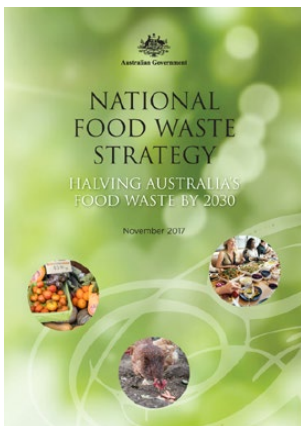


There have been significant changes in the waste and recycling industry in recent years. This impacts on current practices and will shape our future actions.

Supporting the Circular Economy: SA Waste Strategy 2020 - 2025

The SA Waste Strategy 2020-25 is driving the state to achieve higher resource recovery, and improved waste avoidance and, in the process, is developing the circular economy. A target of zero avoidable waste to landfill by 2030 and no new landfills to service metropolitan Adelaide reinforces this transition. We expect there will also be limited support for new regional landfills.

The strategy also requires regional councils to set a landfill diversion target to progress resource recovery. It acknowledges that pathways to higher diversion will be region specific and our communities will have a strong role to in contributing to increased resource recovery and reduced waste generation.



National and SA Food Waste Strategies

The Australian Government's is targeting 50 per cent reduction by 2030 in the 7.3 million annual tonnes of food waste. SA's food waste strategy (2020-25) supports the Australian Government target. Currently food waste makes up approximately 22% by weight of total household kerbside collected waste and up to 40% of material presented in general waste bins. The strategy prioritises action across households, businesses (commercial) and supporting infrastructure. The Murraylands and Riverland are rich agricultural areas and will benefit in pursuing innovative solutions to food waste and creating products from food waste.



SA Solid Waste Levy

A fee is charged for every tonne of waste sent to landfill in SA. The levy has increased significantly in recent years and the cost of sending waste to landfill will continue to increase. Increasing resource recovery can help to reduce costs for councils and contribute to the circular economy.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill 2020

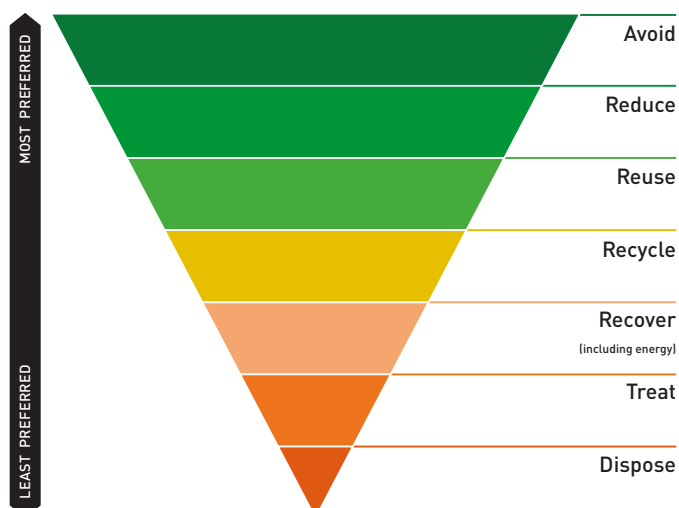
The Australian Government is taking the lead in managing waste and recycling. In December 2020, The Recycling and Waste Reduction Bill 2020 was passed. It bans the export of unprocessed waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres over the coming years and requires waste to be managed onshore. This legislation is supported by significant federal investment in the resource recovery industry to increase recycling and remanufacturing of waste materials, create jobs and develop local circular economies.



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 12 of the sustainable development goals (SDG) is to 'ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns'. Targets for 2030 include halving food waste, reducing waste generation, promoting sustainable procurement practices and improving sustainability reporting.

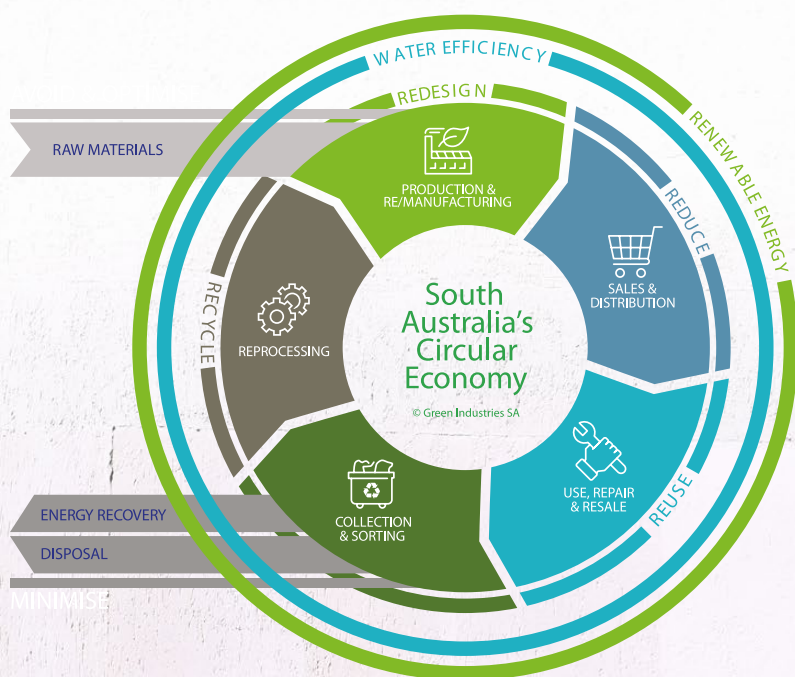
THE WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY



The waste hierarchy

Council's waste and recycling services will be based on the waste management hierarchy (Figure 2). This is the internationally accepted preferred order of waste and recycling management practices.

Figure 2: The waste management hierarchy. Image courtesy Green Industries SA 2021



The Circular Economy

The circular economy is a system where waste has been designed out and products and materials are continually used at their highest value. Keeping material out of landfill and in the circular economy makes the most of valuable and scarce resources, reduces the use of virgin materials, decreases greenhouse gas emissions and creates local jobs and investment.

Figure 3: Summary of the circular economy. Image courtesy Green Industries SA 2021



Vision, Mission and Principles

Our vision

Our waste and resource recovery systems contribute to the Murraylands and Riverland becoming a vibrant circular economy renowned for its leadership.

Our mission

To work together to deliver high quality, cost effective waste and resource recovery services that minimise contributions to landfill and create value through investigation, engagement, innovation and investment.

Principles of this strategy

Resource recovery

Retain and create the highest value of resources in our region.

Sustainability

Encourage environmental and financial sustainability to achieve effective and flexible services for the community and maintain our region's natural resources.

Enhanced service delivery supported by the community

Develop close partnerships between councils, the community and industry to encourage waste reduction, service modernisation, efficiency and investment.





Objectives

Our objectives will guide our actions and help measure success. They are complementary and will contribute to one another as we make progress.

Objective 1

Reduce waste and increase landfill diversion

Increase landfill diversion to achieve environmental and financial benefits. Performance indicators include:

- Reduce per capita waste generation by five per cent (from a 2021 baseline).
- 50 per cent diversion of materials collected from kerbside bins (regional average based on LGA population).
- 65 per cent diversion across all materials managed by councils (kerbside and transfer stations - regional average based on LGA population).

Objective 2

Increase organics recovery and reuse in the region

Value organic materials and manage them locally to benefit the region. Performance indicators include:

- All councils provide a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection kerbside collection.
- Increase the recovery of kerbside organics and achieve a food organics recovery efficiency 50 per cent.

Objective 3

Deliver high quality and adaptable waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure

Deliver high quality and cost-effective services that respond to community needs as they change over time. Performance indicators include:

- Use education and technology to reduce and control contamination in recycling streams:
 - Comingled recycling <12 per cent
 - FOGO <2 per cent.
- Establish a suitable regional or sub-regional governance structure that encourages effective and innovative waste and resource recovery services.
- Capture accurate data on waste and recycling services through increased technology use and report to MRLGA annually.
- Develop quality infrastructure that encourages efficient and effective resource recovery and waste management.
- Provide improved services within the current cost per household.



Priority Actions

	 Objective 1	 Objective 2	 Objective 3
1.1 Explore alternative and affordable kerbside collection services	✓	✓	✓
1.2 Collaborate through joint procurement to achieve increased environmental performance and financial savings	✓	✓	✓
1.3 Develop best practice resource recovery infrastructure: Composting facility in the Riverland	✓	✓	✓
Resource recovery centre/bulk transport facility	✓	✓	✓
1.4 Educate and engage with the community to achieve our goals	✓	✓	
1.5 Explore governance models to improve management of waste and recycling			✓
	 Objective 1	 Objective 2	 Objective 3





Priority Action 1.1

Explore alternative and affordable kerbside collection services

Kerbside bin collection systems can be improved to control costs, increase resource recovery, reduce waste generation and improve the service offer and flexibility.

Alternative kerbside services encourage the community to engage with their waste and recycling service, divert more material from landfill, especially food waste, and help to address the large geographical area and low population density of the region.

We will explore alternative models of kerbside services that respond to community needs and balance council costs, including:

- Fortnightly collection of general waste and comingled recycling.
- Minimum fortnightly FOGO recycling collections (and options for weekly in townships).
- Options for residents to tailor their bin services with larger or additional bins to match their needs.
- Distributing kitchen caddies and compostable bags (in the first year) to residents to recycle food waste.

This strategy will help us to support the state waste strategy and SA circular economy, the national and state food waste strategy, SDG 12 and reduce the impact of the solid waste levy.

Priority Action 1.2

Collaborate through joint procurement to achieve increased environmental performance and financial savings

Kerbside waste and recycling services

Joint procurement of waste and recycling services creates economies of scale and leads to better service options and deliver lower costs.

We will tender for kerbside collection, bulk transport and disposal/processing services through joint procurement with MRLGA councils. The process will also allow us to:

- Realign service prices to competitive market rates to maintain household costs.
- Receive pricing for alternative kerbside services to understand the financial feasibility of this change.
- Explore ways to use technology (e.g. cameras, GPS, radio frequency identification) to manage service delivery and monitor and influence contamination.

We will implement the new kerbside services, where practical and feasible, to deliver savings and other community benefits. It will also help us to implement the state waste strategy.

Managing secondary and challenging waste streams

Each council manages secondary waste materials at their transfer stations that require processing each year (e.g. metals, concrete and bricks, plastics).

To increase the cost effectiveness of managing these materials, we will work together as a group of councils and tender for these services.

We will also explore ways to manage challenging materials (e.g. polypipe, chemically treated posts, tyres, chemicals) and work together to achieve cost-effective processing or disposal solutions.



Priority Action 1.3

Develop best practice resource recovery infrastructure

Composting facility in the Riverland

The Riverland region is a large source of organic waste materials and a growing market for certified compost materials.

We will explore the feasibility of a composting facility in the region. This will include developing a detailed business case with:

- market analysis (supply and final market)
- the optimal model to manage risks
- potential site locations
- detailed costs to establish the facility
- potential partner organisations.

A composting facility will manage council collected organic materials from the kerbside (including food waste), community drop-off at transfer stations and council operations. It can also receive materials from local agricultural producers, will remove large transport costs for users of the high-value compost product and create significant additional benefits for the region.

Regional resource recovery centre/bulk transport facility

Owning key resource recovery infrastructure provides the strategic benefit to councils of influencing service availability and price for the community and internal operations.

To facilitate cost effective services we will explore options to establish facilities or develop sites capable of serving as a regional resource recovery or bulk transport facility.

This strategy will allow councils to build a strong local circular economy, reduce the impact of the solid waste levy and contribute to state and national policy directions.

Priority Action 1.4

Educate and engage with the community to achieve our goals

Engaging with our community is important. Supporting our community's existing actions and providing regular and ongoing education is needed to achieve our landfill diversion, organics recovery, contamination and cost management goals to reduce waste generation.

MRLGA councils will work together to deliver education materials and campaigns that link to the actions in the strategy. They will be guided by the concepts of the waste hierarchy, circular economy and help achieve the actions of the state waste strategy. We will explore ways to partner with Green Industries SA to align with the state-wide recycling campaign Which Bin.

Priority Action 1.5

Explore governance models to improve management of waste and recycling

Waste and recycling services, contracts and education require ongoing management and oversight. Experience has shown a collaborative approach between councils could streamline cost, processes and use resources effectively.

We will explore ways to provide greater oversight and management of service delivery for councils. This may include establishing or joining a regional waste authority where dedicated employees manage waste and recycling services and contracts on behalf of councils and provide education to the community.

Implementation

An implementation plan has been developed to guide councils through the strategies and the priority actions that need to be taken to achieve them. A high-level summary of these timelines is outlined below.

MRLGA Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
1.1 Explore alternative and affordable kerbside collection services	>					
1.2 Collaborate through joint procurement to achieve increased environmental performance and financial savings	>					
1.3 Develop best practice resource recovery infrastructure		>				
1.4 Educate and engage with the community to achieve our goals		>				
1.5 Explore governance models to improve management of waste and recycling	>					
Strategic review and develop new strategy					>	



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