



Yarra Ranges Council Resource Recovery and Waste Services Policy 2023

Version:	3.1
Approved by Council:	8 th August 2023
Responsible Officer:	Executive Officer Waste Management
Department:	Resilient Environment
Contact Officer:	Graham Brew – Executive Officer Resource Recovery

Yarra Ranges Vision

The following vision statement has been developed by Council to describe Council's aspirations for the future of the municipality - how we would like Yarra Ranges to be in 2036.

Whether you live here or visit, you will see how much we value our natural beauty, how connected our communities are, and how balanced growth makes this the best place in the world.

Strategic Objectives

Council has identified five strategic objectives to describe what we are working towards – how we want Yarra Ranges to be in the future. These objectives, and the activities we will complete over the coming years, have been developed in response to our community's priorities and the big issues facing Yarra Ranges. All activities completed by the organisation contribute to one or more of these objectives.



Connected and Healthy Communities

Communities are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially well connected. Quality services are accessible to everyone.



Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places

Quality facilities and infrastructure meets current and future needs. Places are well planned and are hubs of activity that foster wellbeing, creativity and innovation.



Protected & Enhanced Natural Environment

A healthier environment for future generations.



Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism

Our tourism, agriculture, health, manufacturing and other industries are leading and dynamic. Strong investment and attraction underpins sustainable economic growth and job creation.



High Performing Organisation

An innovative, responsive organisation that listens and delivers quality, value for money services to our community.

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands. We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region. We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.

Purpose of the Policy

Council provides a range of waste services across the municipality to meet regulatory requirements and community needs. These services encourage avoidance, reuse and recycling whilst minimising disposal of waste to landfill, complying with the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, Recycling Victoria A New Economy Policy 2020, and in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1989 and 2020.

This Policy outlines the services offered by Council and how cost recovery of those services is achieved. It also provides the foundations of how charges are to be applied. Additional information around usage of the services is outlined in supporting documentation such as educational materials and guidelines. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Amenity Local Law 2020 - Part 16 - Waste Disposal.

Local Government Act 1989

Council is able to apply charges for these waste services under the following sections of the Local Government Act 1989:

- Section 155 provides that the Council may declare rates and charges on rateable land including (d) service charges under section 162.
- Section 156 places liability of the owner of the land to pay the rates and charges on that land.
- Section 158A (1) If the Council levies a rate or charge on any land, the Council must separately levy that rate or charge in respect of each portion of that land for which the Council has a separate valuation.
- Section 162 (1) A Council may declare a service rate or an annual service charge or any combination of such a rate and charge for any of the following services:
 - The collection and disposal of waste, recycling or resource recovery services
 - Any other prescribed service.
- Section 162 (2) A service rate or service charge may be declared on the basis of any criteria specified by the Council in the rate or charge.
- Section 221 (1) A Council may impose in relation to any land in its municipal district which is not rateable land an annual service charge for any of the following services which the Council provides or which the Council is prepared and able to provide:
 - The collection and disposal of waste, recycling or resource recovery services
 - Any other prescribed service.
- Section 221 (2) The service charge under this section may be imposed on the basis of any criteria specified by the Council.

Recycling Victoria A New Economy Policy 2020

Council is working towards the four State-wide targets:

- Divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030, and an interim target of 72 per cent by 2025.
- Cut total waste generation by 15 per cent per capita by 2030.
- Halve the volume of organic material going to landfill between 2020 and 2030, with an interim target of 20 per cent reduction by 2025.
- Ensure every Victorian household has access to food and garden organic waste recycling services or local composting by 2030.

Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021

Council is required to provide municipal residual waste and municipal recycling services:

- Section 10 It is the responsibility of all levels of government and industry, business, communities, and the people of Victoria to support a circular economy by:
 - reducing or avoiding waste by improving product design and use; and
 - improving the quality and reusability of products; and
 - managing products and materials and their environmental impacts throughout their life cycle including disposal; and
 - recognising that persons who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance, and abatement; and
 - considering climate change impacts and greenhouse gas emissions in the design, management and disposal of products and materials.
- Section 60 (1) A Council must provide the following services, in accordance with this Act and the regulations, to land in its municipal district that is used primarily for residential purposes:
 - a municipal residual waste service
 - a municipal recycling service (other than for glass or for food organics and garden organics material)
 - a municipal recycling service for glass
 - a municipal food organics and garden organics service
 - a prescribed municipal service to land in its municipal district that is used for a prescribed purpose.
- Division 3 – Service standards: Council is required to comply with the service standards set (Sections 62 to 74 of the Act) relating to the contents of particular bins used in municipal residual waste or municipal recycling services provided for or on behalf of a Council, reporting on the rates of each waste type collected for disposal or recycling and the rates of contamination.

Definitions

Additional bin	If extra disposal capacity is required an additional bin may be requested, this is an addition to the minimum standard set issued to a property.
Common Collection Point	A location established for the collection of waste where an individual collection service cannot be provided directly adjacent to a property or properties.
FOGO	Food organics and garden organics replaces the former garden organics only waste service.
FOGO bin	Food organics and garden organics bin (120 or 240 litre).
Glass bin	A separate glass only collection service will be introduced from 2025-2026.
Medical needs waste service	A person may be eligible by providing a letter or documentation from their medical practitioner identifying additional bin capacity needs because of their chronic illness, disability or medical condition.
Minimum waste services and Minimum Waste Charge	A service and charge applied to specific properties that are not provided the standard kerbside bin collections (based on planning permit conditions). This charge relates to the activities required to undertake waste collection and disposal across the municipality. It includes waste collection from public spaces, illegally dumped rubbish, landfill management, hard waste and bundled branches collections, education and administrative activities.
Non-residential property	A property that has a rating of anything other than for a primary use of residential land use. This includes non-rateable properties.
Non-residential service	A Council kerbside waste collection service for non-residentially rated properties.
Non-rateable property	Properties that are classified as non-rateable under the Local Government Act 1989 & 2020.
Private waste service	A waste collection service by a private commercial service provider.
Rates Notice	The notice issued under section 158(3) Local Government Act 1989 & 2020.
Recycling bin	Recycling bin (120 or 240 litre).
Residential property	A property with dwelling/s rated as residential, and a land use code in line with the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC).
Residential service	A Council kerbside waste collection service for residentially rated properties.
Resource Recovery and Waste Service Charge	A charge applied to a property under sections 155 and 221 and declared under Section 162 (1) of the Local Government Act 1989 for the cost of the waste services provided by Council to a property.
Rubbish bin	Rubbish bin (80 or 120 litre).

1. Waste Service and Charge Types

- 1.1. The Resource Recovery and Waste Service Charge will be calculated annually and be based on full cost recovery for the provision of waste services. It will be applied to properties as a separate charge on the Rates notice.
- 1.2. The charge will be applied to all separately rated residential properties to which collection services are provided or made available.
 - 1.2.1. A single charge will apply to a residentially rated property with Bed and Breakfast accommodation. If additional waste services are requested, charges for these will be applied to the main assessment.
- 1.3. The minimum waste charge will be applied to residential properties where there are limitations on the ability of Council to provide a kerbside waste collection. This charge consists of the standard waste services excluding kerbside collection of bins. It is applied to residential multi-unit developments where a planning permit condition requires a private waste arrangement.
- 1.4. The Non-Residential Waste Charge is optional for properties rated anything other than for residential land use e.g. commercial or education, or non-rateable properties. It is applied to a property where an owner/occupier has chosen to utilise a Council waste collection service, it consists of standard waste services excluding collection of hard waste and bundled branches.
- 1.5. From 1 October 2023 the standard bins in any resource recovery and waste service provided by Council must include a minimum of three bins: a FOGO (food organics and garden organics) bin, a Recycling bin and a General Rubbish bin.

Application of the Charges

2. General Application of the Charges

- 2.1. Waste services are allocated based on property rating; the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) provided as a component of property valuations by the Valuer General of Victoria. Where a property has mixed uses e.g. residential and non-residential, the AVPCC will be considered along with the presence of a dwelling on the land.
- 2.2. The default allocation of bins to a property will be Waste Service Package 1 consisting of the largest bin options in each waste stream: 240L FOGO, 240L Recycling and 120L General Rubbish bins. This applies to newly created residential properties and non-residential properties where no other request to change bin sizes have been made.
- 2.3. Higher density residential dwellings, based on land use coding, such as retirement village housing, townhouses and apartments will be allocated a smaller 120L FOGO bin and the related Charge applied where no other request to change bin sizes have been made.
- 2.4. Upsizing or downsizing individual bins in a package will alter the package applied and fees charged.
 - 2.4.1. *For example a property with Package 1 including: 240L FOGO, 240L Recycling and 120L General Rubbish bins, wanting to downsize a FOGO bin would be changed to Package 5 including: 240L Recycling, 120L FOGO and 120L Rubbish bins.*
 - 2.4.2. Upsizing or downsizing bins will not attract a separate changeover or delivery fee.
- 2.5. Resource Recovery & Waste Service Packages from 1 October 2023:
 - 2.5.1. Properties with existing Council kerbside bins at the time of the service changeover will have an equivalent Package charge and any relevant additional bin charges applied.

2.5.2. During the transition to the new waste services, between 1st July and 1st October 2023 properties with an existing optional Garden Organics Bin will have a Charge that reflects the full twelve months of the financial year with an organics service. Properties without an existing Garden Organics bin will have a FOGO bin delivered before October and will have a Charge that reflects nine months of the financial year for an organics service. The charges will be identified on the Rates Notice for each individual property.












- 2.6. Amendments to the number or size of bins for residential properties must be requested and authorised by the property owner or their managing agent. For non-residential properties changes can be authorised by the owner, managing agent, or tenant.
- 2.7. Amendments to a waste service that incur a change in the Charge will be charged pro-rata based on the service option chosen from the date the request was made.
- 2.8. Additional bins will incur Charges that cover the cost of providing these additional services. If a request for an additional service to a property is raised and cancelled within the same financial year, the full year cost will be applied to the property to account for the cost of supply, delivery and collection of the bin/s associated with the service.
- 2.9. It is the responsibility of the owner/occupier to notify Council if the bin services identified on the Rates Notice are different to the bins at the property or a service is no longer required. Payment of the Charge included with the Rates notice is acceptance of the waste services provided.
- 2.10. Hazardous waste, known as 'prescribed industrial waste' in Victoria's environment protection laws, must not be disposed of within Council provided bins. Waste services may be withdrawn from a property should this occur.

3. Variations or Exemptions

- 3.1. Upon application, a residentially rated property larger than four (4) hectares, and where the owner/occupier has another method of disposing of Residential waste which does not cause a nuisance and complies with Victorian Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, complies with the resource recovery intentions of the Recycling Victoria A New Economy Policy 2020 and is to Council's satisfaction, may be exempt from Council's kerbside services.
- 3.2. Exemptions, if approved, will be applied from the time of a granting approval to a request and will not be backdated. Refer to section 11: Authorisations.

4. Resource Recovery and Waste Services Inclusions

4.1. Resource Recovery and Waste Services options applicable from 1 October 2023 include:

Base package of three bins:			
 <p>Package 1 240L FOGO 240L Recycling 120L Rubbish</p>	 <p>Package 2 240L FOGO 240L Recycling 80L Rubbish</p>	 <p>Package 3 240L FOGO 120L Recycling 120L Rubbish</p>	 <p>Package 4 240L FOGO 120L Recycling 80L Rubbish</p>
 <p>Package 5 120L FOGO 240L Recycling 120L Rubbish</p>	 <p>Package 6 120L FOGO 240L Recycling 80L Rubbish</p>	 <p>Package 7 120L FOGO 120L Recycling 120L Rubbish</p>	 <p>Package 8 120L FOGO 120L Recycling 80L Rubbish</p>
Optional additional bins:			
 <p>Additional 240L FOGO</p>	 <p>Additional 240L Recycling</p>	 <p>Additional 120L Rubbish</p>	

4.2. The standard Charge includes collection of:

- Recycling
- FOGO (food organics and garden organics)
- Rubbish
- Separate glass collection from 2025/2026
- Hard waste and bundled branches collections **(for residential only)**
- Street and park litter bin services
- Illegally dumped rubbish collection
- Processing and disposal of collected materials
- Education and communication activities and resources
- Minor maintenance for closed landfills
- Administrative and systems maintenance tasks, legislative requirements and reporting and contract management required to deliver the waste services.

5. Restricted Access to Properties for Waste Collection

- 5.1. Common Collection Points remote to a property or properties will be established where it is not possible to service a property directly due to local terrain constraints or safety concerns. Owner/occupiers are responsible for taking their bins to and from their Common Collection Points. The service costs and therefore the Charge will not vary in these instances.
- 5.2. An exemption from this Policy may apply to properties determined by Council to be remote making it impractical to provide a waste collection service. This does not include properties where a Common Collection Point is established.

6. Private Property and Multi-Unit Developments

- 6.1. Council reserves the right to determine whether kerbside collection services can be provided on private property or in multi-unit developments.

This decision will be determined by several factors and will consider aspects such as safe and suitable access for the collection trucks and equipment used by Council's contractors, and sufficient kerbside frontage from a Council maintained roadway. For new multi-unit and non-residential developments a review is undertaken through the planning permit process.
- 6.2. Council waste collection services will not be carried out within private property unless agreed to by council and a written indemnity is provided against damage to private infrastructure in the course of undertaking waste collections by Council or Council appointed contractors.
- 6.3. Where a Council kerbside collection cannot be facilitated it is the responsibility of the developer, permit holder or future owner's corporation to ensure all future owners/occupiers are aware of their obligation to facilitate private waste collection and that councils Minimum Waste Charge will apply.

7. Ownership of Bins

- 7.1. Council retains ownership of all kerbside bins, provided to and registered against a specific property. Owners/occupiers must not remove bins from a property if they move premises.
- 7.2. Property owners/occupiers should advise of any damage to bins. Council's contractor will carry out repairs to bins or arrange replacement as deemed necessary.
- 7.3. Any alterations to bins must not interfere with the bin's capacity to hold waste items, be lifted manually or mechanically, and must not have the coloured lid obstructed. Owners/occupiers are permitted to number their bin or install a lock on the lid if desired, noting they are responsible for opening the lock on collection days, failure to do so may result in non-collection.

8. Medical Needs Waste Service

- 8.1. An extra rubbish or recycling bin is available at no extra charge, for a resident or residents living at a property who have a chronic illness, disability or medical needs that causes additional generation of waste and have no feasible way to reduce the amount of waste.
 - 8.1.1. The extra rubbish or recycling bin is only for regular household waste items such as packaging items and incontinence aids. This service is not available for medical or clinical

waste (such as sharps, large amounts of blood or urine, human tissue or items from patients with a contagious disease), these items should never go in Council kerbside bins.

- 8.2. A property with dwelling/s rated as residential in line with the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC) is eligible. This service is not available to businesses, or businesses operating in a residentially rated property, or non-residential properties.
- 8.3. Provision of a free extra bin may be provided if:
 - 8.3.1. A formal application is made to Council, and
 - 8.3.2. A medical certificate or letter from a registered medical practitioner is provided. The letter should confirm the need for additional bin capacity where there is no other feasible way to reduce the amount of waste being generated related to the medical need.
- 8.4. The Medical Needs Waste Service will be valid for up to two (2) years, aligned with the financial year. A new medical certificate or letter from a registered medical practitioner will be required to continue the service, valid for two (2) years at a time. If a renewal letter is not provided within eight (8) weeks of a request from Council the bin will be removed by Council.
- 8.5. If the property changes ownership or Council is advised the bin is no longer required, the bin will be removed by Council.
- 8.6. Alternative or modified waste disposal support will be considered in unique circumstances relating to waste generated by the medical needs, written application to the Executive Officer Resource Recovery is required.

9. Public Street and Park Litter Bins

- 9.1. Public street and park litter bins are provided throughout townships, streets and reserves for the collection of waste in public places. These bins receive mixed waste, which is monitored periodically for the ratio of recyclable and non-recyclable materials. If the waste is predominantly non-recyclable material and unable to be processed by recycling facilities it is disposed of at landfill.
- 9.2. Locations, quantities of public litter bins and the frequency in which they are serviced are determined by Council officers in the course of operational duties. Requests for new litter bins or changes to existing litter bins will be considered based on established criteria which include but are not limited to, amount of litter in the nearby environment, infrastructure or activities that are likely to influence litter generation e.g. picnic tables and barbeques, proximity to existing bins and observed usage rates of existing bins.
- 9.3. Council does not provide public litter bins specifically for dog or animal faeces. Pet owners using public spaces are encouraged in line with responsible pet ownership to pick up their pet's waste and dispose of it appropriately which may be the kerbside rubbish bin at their own property.

10. Container Deposit Scheme

- 10.1. The State Government has introduced a container deposit scheme to reduce litter and recover resources. This scheme is managed and supervised by the State Government and does not form part of Council's responsibilities and is not covered under this policy.

11. Education

- 11.1. Upon request Council will provide schools, pre-schools, and childcare centres with up to a total of four recycling or FOGO (food organics and garden organics) bins, free of charge to support a waste education program.

11.2. Educational resources to support waste education are made available online and hard copies can be made available upon request.

12. Authorisations

12.1. Removal of or adjustments to the Resource Recovery and Waste Service Charge, including exemptions in accordance with this policy, are to be approved by the Coordinator Waste Operations or Executive Officer Waste Management and administered by Resource Recovery or Property and Rating Officers.

13. Administrative amendments

13.1. From time to time, circumstance may require minor amendments be made to this Policy. Where this does not materially alter the Policy, such amendments may be made administratively by the Chief Executive Officer.

13.2. Any amendment which materially alters the Policy must be approved by resolution of Council.

Endorsement

Stakeholders <i>e.g. ELT, Councillors, external agencies</i>	Version of the policy endorsed	Date endorsed	Signature (if required)
ELT	Version 3	14 th June 2023	
Council	Version 3	8 th August 2023	
CEO	Version 3.1 (Amendments made to sections 2 and 4.1 updating bin size descriptions and images and amendments to section 8 clarifying medical needs waste services)	30 th November 2023	

Review Cycle

This Policy applies from 14th August 2023 and is to be reviewed in 2 years before the residential glass collection service is implemented. Should any major changes occur that affect Council's waste collection service prior to the next review date, this policy may be reviewed earlier than scheduled.