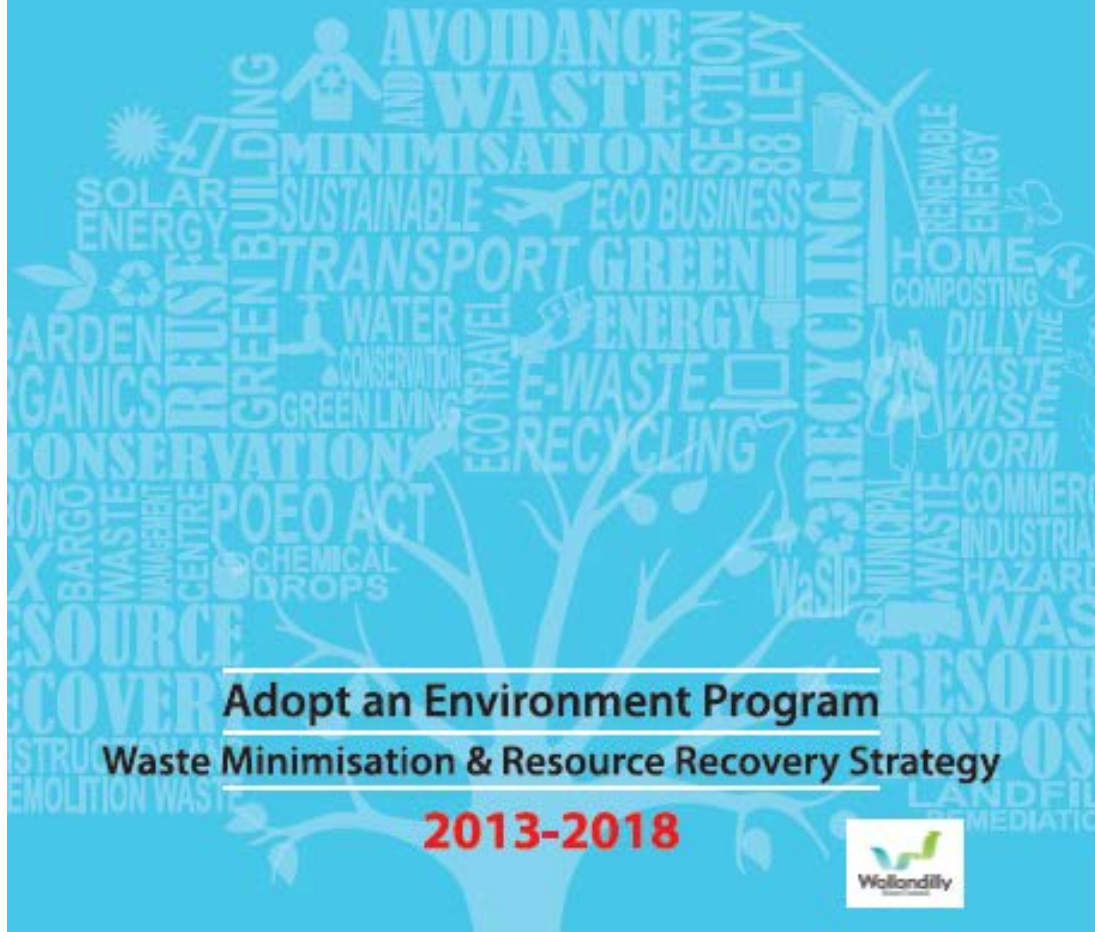




ADOPT AN ENVIRONMENT



Adopt an Environment Program

Waste Minimisation & Resource Recovery Strategy

2013-2018



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Council gratefully acknowledges the efforts of George Coward, whose foresight and diligence shaped much of this document.

Executive Forward

Wollondilly Shire Council is committed to the implementation of sustainable approaches to waste management. Environmental issues are of growing community interest and therefore Council needs to ensure that the community is well informed on Council's strategies to minimise waste and increase resource recovery.

This five year Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery Strategy has been developed to reflect the values of our community and to balance those with environmental sustainability. It is designed to deliver to the community sustainable, valid and fair waste management systems.

The Strategy will provide guidance to Council and the community regarding:

- Waste management actions planned for the next 5 years
- How these actions were identified
- When, how and where waste management options will be implemented, and
- Expected outcomes of these actions.

Council intends to review this Strategy annually, so that it can best reflect Council's preparedness and reaction to any new initiatives and developing situations that may occur during the lifecycle of the Strategy. These annual reviews will be guided by feedback from our community and evidence based data.

This five year Strategy highlights the planned and programmed annual achievements the community can expect to be delivered, along with actions on how Council will effectively manage waste management systems and plans.

I commend the development of the Waste Management Strategy and encourage all members of the community to work with Council to successfully implement the strategic objectives.

Les McMahon

General Manager

Wollondilly Shire Council

1 Council Vision and Objectives

1.1 Council's Vision

The *Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033* presents an overall vision of Rural Living:

“Council’s vision reflects the Community’s desire to maintain Wollondilly Shire’s rural character together with the sense of belonging to caring communities that have been at its core for generations.”

From an environmental perspective, the outcomes of this Strategic Plan are envisioned to be:

1. Our local environment is valued and protected
2. A Community that interacts with and cares for their environment.

Consistent with our Strategic Plan, Council’s Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery Vision is:

To continue to provide the community with a **workable** and **convenient** waste management system, whilst encouraging the community to participate in programs aimed to **minimise waste generation, increase resource recovery** and **protect our environment**.

As part of this vision, Council has resolved to set up a sunset community reference group to assist with the implementation of this Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery Strategy.

1.2 Waste Management Objectives

Council’s six (6) Waste Management Objectives are:

1. Compliance with State Government legislation and targets for Municipal Waste
2. Provision of sustainable waste management and resource recovery services
3. Provision and facilitation of cost effective waste and resource recovery services, which meet the needs of the Wollondilly community
4. Creation of minimal adverse environmental impacts associated with the provision of waste related services
5. Council ‘leading by example’ by demonstrating sustainable waste and resource management practices across its services
6. Council working cooperatively with adjoining Councils to seek mutually beneficial and cost effective regional solutions.

2 Waste Management Framework

2.1 Council's Strategic and Policy Direction

2.1.1 Strategic Waste Management Directions and Options for Wollondilly Shire

The previous strategy, which has guided Council's waste strategy for last 10 years, was titled *Strategic Waste Management Directions and Options for Wollondilly Shire 2003*.

Following this strategy's adoption, Council entered into a 15 year joint contract for the processing of waste, recyclables and garden organics with our neighboring Campbelltown, Camden and Wingecarribee councils.

During this period, Council has made significant improvements and advances in waste management including:

- Undertaking regular NSW government mandated waste audits
- Introducing various waste education programs
- Closure of the Warragamba Waste Management Centre with an EPA endorsed remediation plan
- Increasing material recovery at the Bargo Waste Management Centre (WMC)
- Changing the kerbside waste collection system from one weekly 240 litre bin (with a dividing barrier that allowed for the separate storage of garbage and recycling) to a three (3) bin collection system for separate collection of garbage, recycling and garden organics.

This new kerbside bin service offered residents:

- A 80 or 120 litre garbage bin collected weekly
- A 240 litre recycling bin collected fortnightly
- A 240 litre garden organics collected fortnightly on the alternate week to recycling (urban areas only).

During this time, Council has also completed the Wollondilly Environmental Strategy and Policy (2009) and the Sustainable Wollondilly Plan (2008).

The new Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery Strategy (Strategy) will build on the achievements of the previous strategy, incorporating new developments in waste management strategy and taking advantage of new opportunities, such as the commencement of a new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract in July 2015.

2.1.2 New Waste and Recycling Collection Contract

Council's current Waste and Recycling Collection Contract expires in June 2015. The current Waste and Recycling Collection Contract encompasses the following services:

- Collection of domestic & commercial waste including a weekly collection of garbage (red lidded bin), a fortnightly collection of recycling (yellow lidded bin) and a fortnightly collection of garden organics (green lidded bin). The garden organics service is provided in urban areas only.
- A biannual kerbside collection of domestic hard waste up to 1.5 m³ per clean up.
- Delivery of waste materials to Council's waste processing contractor
- Repair and replacement of bins as required during the contract term
- Provision of a Customer Service Centre
- Provision of Waste Education.

The process of planning and developing a new contract has already commenced, including a detailed review of the current services provided under the Contract.

The new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract will be designed to complement Council's new Strategy and will be a key component in the implementation of the strategies and programs outline in this Strategy.

2.1.3 Adopt an Environment Campaign

Wollondilly Shire Council's **Adopt an Environment Program** was launched and adopted by Council in 2013. It signifies Council's intent that our environment is adopted in all management practices, wherever possible.



Council's intent is that the Adopt an Environment logo be used as the overall linking brand in key environmental campaigns. It will be a highly visible sign of Council's commitment to the

Strategy and will reinforce to the community their role and significance in achieving the objectives of the Strategy.

2.1.4 Council Waste Diversion Target

The *Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033* has set a target of 66% waste diversion from landfill, in line with the NSW State Government's *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2007*.

In 2009, Council entered into a regional processing contract with Campbelltown, Camden and Wingecarribee councils for garbage, recycling, garden organics and clean up materials. This 15-year contract significantly increased waste diversion by diverting organic and recyclable materials in the red-lidded garbage bin from landfill.

This Strategy outlines strategies for improving this landfill diversion performance through providing more resource recovery options to residents and by improving recycling behavior. Waste minimisation and at home recycling/reuse strategies are also detailed in this Strategy and represent landfill diversion in addition to the reportable diversion performance percentage.

Currently, there are no formal programs for clean up or public place waste recycling and these are key issues that need to be addressed in order to ensure Council meets and potentially exceeds the 66% resource recovery target.

2.1.5 Wollondilly Vision 2025

The *Wollondilly Vision 2025* defines the local identity for Wollondilly within a future context and identifies what kind of place the community wants Wollondilly to be.

Nine separate visions have been identified, namely:

- 1 A wealth of native flora and fauna.
- 2 Healthy waterways.
- 3 Integrated transport networks.
- 4 Green space and recreation networks.
- 5 Invigorated main streets.
- 6 Well designed towns and villages.
- 7 Sustainable farms.
- 8 Protected rural character and environmental heritage.
- 9 An integrated community.

Waste management infrastructure and services need to be designed and operated in accordance with this vision.

2.1.6 Wollondilly Shire Council Development Control Plan (DCP) 2011

This DCP provides guidelines for waste minimisation and management during the construction and demolition of buildings. Specific sections relate to:

1. Submission of a Site Waste Minimisation and Management Plan for building demolition.
2. Waste minimisation requirements for construction of buildings or structures.
3. Specific waste minimisation and management requirements for:
 - Residential and tourist uses
 - Commercial and community uses
 - Industrial and infrastructure uses.

2.1.7 Sustainable Wollondilly Plan

During 2008, Council endorsed the *Sustainable Wollondilly Plan* as a community plan for the future. This plan states how Council will progress towards sustainability and includes an action to develop and implement a Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy.

2.1.8 Wollondilly Environmental Management Strategy and Policy

During 2009, Council adopted the *Wollondilly Environmental Strategy and Policy*.

This Strategy has the following objectives:

1. To facilitate reaching the Environment Goal and Outcomes identified in the Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033.
2. To enhance sustainability partnerships and collaboration opportunities within the local area.
3. To increase the awareness of Council staff and the community of their carbon footprint and how it can be reduced.

The Strategy has been broken down into the four themes currently being undertaken in the Environmental Services Section of Council, which are:

1. Biodiversity
2. Water Health
3. Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery
4. Sustainability

The waste minimisation and resource recovery theme has nominated a number of practical environmental management actions and opportunities for Council, including:

- Review of Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy
- Finalisation of waste specific development controls and standard conditions, such as improving procedures for services such as collection of illegally dumped material (see Section 3.3)
- Review of Council's internal Waste Management Systems and determine more effective/resource efficient systems
- Ensure appropriate management of closed landfills
- Development of a Commercial and Industrial Waste Minimisation Program
- Development of a Construction and Demolition Waste Minimisation Program
- Develop a Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (see Section 3.5.1).

These actions have been incorporated, where practicable, into the Strategy. Further actions may be incorporated into future revisions of the Strategy as more resources become available.

2.1.9 Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033

For Wollondilly to become a healthier and more sustainable community, council and the community need to:

1. Reduce the Shire ecological footprint
2. Build community capacity to appreciate, care for and sustain a rich and diverse environment
3. Continually improve the Shire built environments.

Environment Outcomes

1. The Shire's natural environment is protected and conserved.
2. The impact of existing and new development on the environment is reduced.
3. The Wollondilly community lives and works more sustainably.

Environment Strategies

1. Develop and sustain a carbon-neutral Shire with a small ecological footprint.
2. Develop high standards of sustainable water management and water conservation.
3. Protect and preserve a diverse range of native flora and fauna, sensitive natural environments, aboriginal cultural sites and valued rural landscapes, while allowing appropriate public engagement with those environmental resources.
4. Ensure integration of all plans and strategies relevant to the natural and built environment.

5. Cultivate a range of facilities, programs and enterprises and partnerships, which enable Wollondilly residents and visitors to engage with, learn about, care for and sustain both the natural environment and the rural landscape.
6. Maintain a range of functional, highly sustainable, attractive built environments in sympathy with the nearby natural and built environment and the Shire's rural character and heritage values.

2.2 NSW Government Strategic and Policy Direction

2.2.1 Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2007

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2007* (WARR Strategy) has four key result areas namely:

1. Prevention and avoidance of waste.
2. Increased recovery and use of secondary materials.
3. Reduction of the toxicity in products and materials.
4. Reduction of litter and illegal dumping.

WARRS sets a target for 66% resource recovery from Municipal Waste by 2014. Although a state-wide target, Council is committed to playing their part by meeting this target for wastes under Council control.

This WARR Strategy also sets targets for Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I - 63%) and Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D - 76%) by 2014. Although Council has less control over these waste streams, Council is committed to programs that will assist the C&I and C&D industries achieve these targets.

2.2.2 Environment Protection Authority: Strategic Plan 2013-2016

Environment Protection Authority: Strategic Plan 2013-2016 was published by the NSW EPA in July 2013. The plan aligns with the NSW Government publication *NSW 2021 – A Plan to Make NSW Number One*, which sets out how the NSW Government will deliver a range of community priorities over the next eight years.

This document sets a key performance indicator for recycling rates to increase to 70% for municipal solid waste by 2021/22.

This Strategy includes strategies and programs that aim to bring Wollondilly closer to this increased target.

2.2.3 Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative

On 23 February 2013, the NSW Government released the document: *Waste Less, Recycle More: A five-year \$465.7 million Waste and Resource Recovery Initiative*.

The initiative provides for significant funding for councils and other organisations over 5 years. This funding includes \$137.7M in non-contestable funding for local government (including the 2012/13 Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment); \$85.1M in contestable grants exclusively available to local government; and \$133.9M in contestable grants available to local government and other organisations.

Funding will be made available for programs that increase recycling and reduce illegal dumping and littering.

As part of this initiative, the NSW Government has developed a draft strategy to combat illegal dumping and is working on a draft litter strategy in collaboration with local communities and councils.

Applicable strategies/programs developed as part of this initiative have been incorporated into this Strategy.

Future programs developed under this initiative will be incorporated into future revisions of this Strategy.

This initiative will replace the previous Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment (WaSIP) Program. Council programs currently funded under this program will need to find alternative sources of funding. Some of these programs may be eligible for funding under the initiative.

2.2.4 Reducing Waste: Implementation Strategy 2011-2015

The *Reducing Waste: Implementation Strategy 2011-2015* comprises a series of strategies in five focus areas as follows:

- Focus Area 1: Making it easier for households to separate and recover their waste
- Focus Area 2: Making it easier for businesses to separate and recover their waste
- Focus Area 3: Reducing or removing problem wastes to improve resource recovery and produce environmentally safe recyclable materials
- Focus Area 4: Facilitating investment in waste infrastructure
- Focus Area 5: Reduce litter and combating illegal dumping

The recommendations of the *NSW Reducing Waste Implementation Strategy* that are relevant for local government have been taken into account in the development of this Strategy.

2.2.5 Preferred Resource Recovery Practices by Local Councils: Best Bin Systems

Preferred Resource Recovery Practices by Local Councils: Best Bin Systems was published by the NSW EPA in August 2012. It contains targets for recovery performance which Council may consider using to benchmark the new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract performance. Key benchmark data includes:

- Recycling contamination: Baseline Target $\leq 5.0\%$, Interim Target $\leq 3.5\%$
- Garden Organics contamination: Interim Target $\leq 1\%$
- Recycling Recovery Rate (% by weight of materials recovered for processing): Interim Target $\geq 75\%$
- Garden Organics Recovery Rate (% by weight of materials recovered for processing): Interim Target $\geq 85\%$

This document also contains information on bin configurations and bin colours that are consistent with those currently used in Wollondilly.

2.3 Federal Government Strategic and Policy Direction

2.3.1 National Waste Policy

The Federal Government has developed a National Waste Policy (NWP). This Policy, which was agreed upon by all State Environmental Ministers in November 2009, sets Australia's waste management and resource recovery direction to 2020.

This ten-year plan establishes a strategic direction for Australia to produce less disposable waste and to better manage its waste.

The critical aspect of its design is that it recognised that waste can be a resource and that, if waste is correctly managed, it is quite capable of delivering the triple bottom line outcomes for economic, environmental and social benefits.

The policy establishes nationally coordinated action across six key areas:

1. **Taking responsibility** - Shared responsibility for reducing the environmental, health and safety footprint of products and materials across the manufacture-supply-consumption chain and at end-of-life.
2. **Improving the market** - Efficient and effective Australian markets operate for waste and recovered resources, with local technology and innovation being sought after internationally.
3. **Pursuing sustainability** - Less waste and improved use of waste to achieve broader environmental, social and economic benefits.
4. **Reducing hazard and risk** - Reduction of potentially hazardous content of wastes with consistent, safe and accountable waste recovery, handling and disposal.

5. **Tailoring solutions** - Increased capacity in regional, remote and Indigenous communities to manage waste and recover and re-use resources.
6. **Providing the evidence** - Access by decision makers to meaningful, accurate and current national waste and resource recovery data and information to measure progress and educate and inform the behaviour and the choices of the community.

A key commitment of the National Waste Policy was to establish a national framework underpinned by legislation that supports voluntary, co-regulatory and regulatory (mandatory) product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes to provide for the impacts of products being responsibly managed during and at end of life.

In keeping with Strategy 1 of the NWP, the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme was introduced in 2011. This scheme provides Australian householders and small business with access to free recycling services for televisions and computers, printers and computer products (such as keyboards, mice and hard drives) regardless of their brand and age. The Scheme does not cover other electronic waste (e-waste) products.

Wollondilly became a partner in this scheme in 2012. This meant that the previous \$20 fee to drop off televisions at the Bargo Waste Management Centre has been replaced with a free drop off service. The scheme has also meant that computer e-waste is also free.

It is hoped that other products such as mattresses and batteries will soon be covered under a national scheme and thus benefit Shire residents.

2.4 Legislative Framework for the Strategy

The Commonwealth and State Governments provide a statutory framework that impacts the Wollondilly Shire Local Government Area. This section examines some of this legislation and its ramifications on Council and the Wollondilly Community.

2.4.1 Clean Energy Act 2011

The *Clean Energy Act 2011* states that landfill facilities with direct emissions of 25,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂-e) a year or more will be liable under the carbon price for their methane emissions from landfill.

The Bargo Waste Management Centre currently emits less than this CO₂ equivalent and will therefore not be required to pay under this legislation.

Council will, however, be charged a carbon price for residual material landfilled under their kerbside waste processing contract.

2.4.2 NSW Local Government Act 1993

The *Local Government Act 1993* sections 496 and 504 refer to the making and levying of annual charges for domestic waste management services.

2.4.3 NSW Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 sets out requirements for local government tendering, including the tendering for waste services.

2.4.4 NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO) and the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005

The *POEO Act 1997* aims to reduce risk to human health and prevent the degradation of the environment by the use of mechanisms that promote pollution prevention, the elimination of harmful waste, the reduction in the use of materials, and the reuse, recovery or recycling of materials.

It establishes regulatory mechanisms such as the Waste and Environment Levy, also referred to as the Section 88 Levy. Under the POEO Act, licensed waste facilities in NSW must pay a contribution for each tonne of waste received for disposal at the facility. This levy aims to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of and promote recycling and resource recovery.

The details and calculation of the levy payable by licensed waste facilities is set out in the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005*.

The Section 88 Levy became payable within Wollondilly Shire on the 1 July 2009.

The present levy for 2013/14 is \$53.70 having increased 26.7% from the following year. This is an important consideration for Council when it sets its annual waste fees. This levy is also applied to residual material landfilled under Council's kerbside waste processing contract.

3 Waste Minimisation and Resource Recovery Strategy

3.1 Domestic Kerbside Waste Services

3.1.1 Kerbside Garbage Bin Services

Garbage Bin Size and Capacity

Residents can currently choose between either a 120 litre or 80 litre garbage bin, with the cost for the 80 litre bin being less. Additional garbage bins are available at an additional cost. Bins are emptied weekly.

Waste processing and residual disposal is a significant cost to Council. This is due to the high cost of processing garbage and also the cost of residual waste disposal, including the NSW Government's Waste and Environment Levy on materials landfilled.

In line with NSW Government strategy, higher costs are associated with higher volumes of garbage and these costs are passed on to the resident.

The 2013 Community Attitudes Survey indicated that the majority of residents are satisfied with the current garbage bin service (79.5%). Some respondents, however, expressed a desire for a larger bin. In addition, Wollondilly residents are currently paying for over 500 additional 120 litre bins.

Resource Recovery from the Garbage Bin

Council has entered into a 15-year contract for the processing of garbage bin waste through an Alternative Waste Technology, which has considerably increased Council's diversion of waste from landfill. The fifteen year contract period commenced on the 1 June 2009 and terminates on the 31 May 2024.

Council will continue to utilise this service and work with the processing contractor to maximise the recovery from the garbage bin. This may include encouraging the processing contractor to perform trials of innovative recovery measures and monitoring the kerbside bins for unwanted contaminants, such as car batteries.

Kerbside Garbage Bin Services – Action Plan

Action and Timeframe	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 1.1a:</u> For properties that have more than 1 x 120L bin, consider replacing 2 x 120L bins with a 240L bin</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Development of new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract (August 2013 – February 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some residents have expressed a desire for a larger bin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More convenient for residents Reduces bin storage space requirements Greater garbage capacity would still be at greater cost to resident
<p><u>Action 1.1b:</u> Consider sharing of 240L bins in Multi-Unit Dwellings</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Development of new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract (August 2013 – February 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bin storage space may be an issue for some residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More convenient for residents Reduces bin storage space requirements
<p><u>Action 1.1c:</u> Consider sharing of larger bins in Multi-Unit Dwellings (360L or larger)</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Development of new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract (August 2013 – February 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may be viable if the number of high density Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUDs) increases in the future Implementation would depend on costs and number of applicable MUDs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces bin storage space requirements
<p><u>Action 1.1d:</u> Work with the processing contractor to maximise the recovery from the garbage bin</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing garbage through an Alternative Waste Technology has significantly improved landfill diversion New methods for increasing diversion may become available in the future Contaminants in the garbage stream can reduce resource recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased diversion of garbage from landfill.

3.1.2 Kerbside Recycling Bin Services

Recycling Bin Size, Capacity and Frequency

Residents are currently provided with a 240 litre recycling bin, which is emptied fortnightly. Additional recycling bins are available at an additional cost. Additional recycling bins are significantly cheaper than additional garbage bins, which makes separation of recyclables financially attractive to residents.

The 2013 Community Attitudes Survey indicated that the majority of residents are satisfied to very satisfied with the current recycling bin service (81.6%). Some respondents indicated that they wanted more frequent collections, presumably to increase their overall recycling capacity. Although not as popular with respondents, increasing the size of the recycling bin to 360 litres would increase recycling capacity and is likely to be more cost effective than more frequent collections.

Based on the 2012 Kerbside Audit results, the presentation rate for bins was 94.42% and the average volume was 90% full, proving the value of the recycling service.

According to 2012 Kerbside Audit results, 14% of the garbage bin is currently recyclables. Providing more recycling capacity may make it easier for residents to recycle and decrease the recyclables in the garbage bin. Maintaining the price differential between extra garbage capacity and extra recycling capacity will also encourage recycling.

Resource Recovery from the Recycling Bin

Council has entered into a 15-year contract for the sorting and processing of recyclables. The fifteen year contract period commenced on the 1 June 2009 and terminates on the 31 May 2024.

The current 2012-13 recovery at the processing facility is 94.5% with 5.5% of contamination.

Council will continue to utilise this service and implement measures to increase the recycling recovery rate and decrease the recycling contamination rate.

Kerbside Recycling Bin Services – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 1.2a:</u> Consider the provision of 360L recycling bins to residents on request (at a price proportional to the provision of additional bins, adjusted by volume). Larger bins should also be considered for future high density multi-unit dwellings.</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Development of new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract (August 2013 – February 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some residents have expressed a desire for more frequent collections • Recycling bin presentation rates and percentage full upon presentation are high • Providing larger bins would give residents the option of greater recycling capacity and expected to be more cost effective than more frequent collections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents provided with the option to recycle more • Residents may opt for the most cost effective recycling bins (compared to the cost of larger/additional garbage bins) and therefore increase their recovery of recyclables • Reduces bin storage space requirements
<p><u>Action 1.2b:</u> Continue to ensure that there is a significant price differential between extra garbage capacity and extra recycling capacity to encourage recycling (via the recycling bin) over disposal (via the garbage bin)</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14% of the garbage bin is currently recyclables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource recovery rate maintained or increased • Percentage of recyclables in the garbage bin decreases or remains constant

3.1.3 Kerbside Garden Organic Bin Services

Garden Organics Bin Size, Capacity and Frequency

Residents living in urban areas are currently provided with a 240 litre garden organics bin, which is emptied fortnightly. Additional garden organics bins are available to these residents at an additional cost. Additional garden organics bins are significantly cheaper than additional garbage bins, which makes separation of garden organics financially attractive to residents.

The 2013 Community Attitudes Survey indicated that the majority of residents that receive a garden organics service are satisfied to very satisfied with the current service (72.5%). Some respondents indicated that they wanted more frequent collections and more bins. Increasing the size of the garden organics bin to 360 litres would increase garden organics capacity and is likely to be more cost effective than more frequent collections.

Based on the 2012 Kerbside Audit results, the presentation rate for bins was 51% and the average volume was 74% full, indicating that the need for extra garden organics capacity may not be as urgent as for recycling. It is acknowledged, however, that the audit was undertaken in late August/early September and the bins may be more full during the summer months.

Based on the 2012 Audit results, the garden organics recovery rate is currently 98%, which is significantly higher than the NSW EPA Interim Target of greater than or equal to 85%. This suggests that the current situation is working well.

Resource Recovery from the Garden Organics Bin

Council has entered into a 15-year contract for the sorting and processing of garden organics. The fifteen year contract period commenced on the 1 June 2009 and terminates on the 31 May 2024.

The current 2012-13 recovery at the processing facility is 98.8%.

Council will continue to utilise this service and implement measures to maintain the garden organics recovery rate and decrease the garden organics contamination rate.

Kerbside Garden Organic Bin Services – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 1.3a:</u> Consider the provision of 360L garden organics bins to residents on request (at a price proportional to the provision of additional bins, adjusted by volume). Larger bins should also be considered for future high density multi-unit dwellings.</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Development of new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract (August 2013 – February 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some residents have expressed a desire for more frequent collections and more bins • Providing larger bins would give residents the option of greater garden organics capacity and is expected to be more cost effective than more frequent collections or additional bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents provided with the option to recover more organics • Reduces bin storage space requirements
<p><u>Action 1.3b:</u> Continue to ensure that there is a significant price differential between extra garbage capacity and extra garden organics capacity to encourage garden organics recovery (via the garden organics bin) over disposal (via the garbage bin)</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current recovery rate of 98% indicates the value of continuing with the current strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High resource recovery rate maintained
<p><u>Action 1.3c</u> Develop strategies to encourage home/schools composting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Adopt an Environment in Bargo and Appin Primary schools • Other schools as becomes feasible • Launch Adopt an Environment Home Composting Program <p><u>Timeframe:</u> May 2014 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is committed to encouraging the community to increase their reuse of materials • To provide schools and residents with alternatives to increased garden organics bin capacity • Council wishes to educate the community on the benefits of reusing food scraps and garden waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased waste avoidance • Anti litter message promoted • Recycling and reuse increases • Waste disposal volumes reduced

Kerbside Garden Organic Bin Services – Action Plan (continued)

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 1.3d</u> Develop report on the viability of a kerbside green waste mulch back service <u>Timeframe:</u> September 2014 – December 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the 2013 Community Attitudes Survey, 53% of respondents said they would use a Council-provided mulch back service • Strategies are required to recover woody waste that is not suitable for composting through the kerbside waste processing contractor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased waste avoidance • Increased community satisfaction • Increased waste diversion from landfill
<p><u>Action 1.3e</u> Strengthen promotion of green waste drop off for reuse at the Bargo Waste Management Centre <u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce residents' need for extra garden organics collection capacity • To provide more disposal options for residents • Strategies required to recover woody waste that is not conducive for composting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased waste avoidance and reuse • Increased waste diversion from landfill

3.1.4 Domestic Kerbside Clean Up Services

Biannual Domestic Cleanup Service

Two scheduled clean ups are currently provided to residents per year. The allowable volume per resident per clean up is 1.5 cubic metres. The clean up happens for the entire Wollondilly area during the same period twice a year.

The 2013 Community Attitudes Survey indicated that the majority of residents that use the clean up service are satisfied with the current service (76.5%).

Clean up volumes have increased significantly in recent years and this has impacted on the ability of Council to provide the service within a reasonable time frame. The time taken for collection may also contribute to the issue of unwanted rubbish on the footpaths cited by some survey respondents. In addition, the presence of clean up material on the kerb for a prolonged period of time may be encouraging further waste presentation, leading to increased volumes.

Council intends to work with the current contractor to reduce the time taken to complete the clean ups under the current Waste and Recycling Collection Contract.

In the new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract, Council intends to investigate methods for reducing the time taken to complete clean ups.

Currently residents are encouraged to place metals and car batteries in separate piles next to the general clean up material, so that the metals and batteries can be recycled. Currently, no

material is presented or the material is picked up by people unrelated with Council prior to the clean up. Council is investigating other strategies for increasing the proportion of the clean up that is recycled. This includes may include strategies to increase the recovery of mattresses, metals, cardboard and paper, e-waste and reusable items.

Disposal is a significant cost to Council and increasing the recovery of this material would reduce disposal costs, in addition to the important environmental benefits.

Clean up volumes may have increased in part because of the closure of Warragamba Waste Management Centre and increased disposal costs due to the introduction of the Section 88 Waste and Environment Levy.

Kerbside Clean Up Bin Services – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 1.4a:</u> Work with the current contractor to reduce the time taken to complete the clean ups under the current Waste and Recycling Collection Contract</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community survey respondents have highlighted concerns with the length of the clean up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up material out on street for shorter periods of time
<p><u>Action 1.4b:</u> In the new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract, investigate methods for reducing the time taken to complete clean ups</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community survey respondents have highlighted concerns with the length of the clean up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up material out on street for shorter periods of time
<p><u>Action 1.4c</u> Investigate strategies for increasing the proportion of the clean up that is recycled</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council needs to increase recovery of kerbside materials in order to meet recovery targets Cost of clean up material disposal is a significant cost to Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased resource recovery Potentially reduced clean up disposal costs

3.1.5 Domestic Waste Services Education and Information

A separate draft Community Education Strategy covering the domestic waste services is being prepared as part of the preparation for the new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract.

The Community Education Strategy will include identification of opportunities to incorporate the Adopt an Environment logo and message into education programs and materials.

Domestic Waste Services Education and Information – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 1.5a:</u> Develop a draft Community Education Strategy <u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – April 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inform the new Waste Collection Tender and Contract development process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most appropriate education programs developed to complement the new Waste and Recycling Collection Contract Improved use of the kerbside waste service by residents Improved resident knowledge and satisfaction with the kerbside waste service

3.2 Street and Open Space Litter and Recycling Bins

3.2.1 Litter Bin Service

There are currently 347 litter bins located across the Shire.

Council has conducted a small survey regarding the current street and open space litter bin service. The following groups were included in the survey:

- Douglas Park Sportsground Section 355 Management Committee
- Wilton Recreation Reserve Section 355 Management Committee
- Bargo Sportsground Management Committee
- Warradale District Soccer Club
- Local Business Owners
- Community Representatives.

Although there was general satisfaction with the number of bins, location of bins and frequency of emptying, some improvements were suggested to the service provision. One suggestion was to investigate changing the style of bin used to:

- Reduce litter blown from the bins
- Reduce litter removed from the bins by birds, etc
- Prevent the disposal of large domestic and commercial waste items in the litter bins.

Council intends to conduct trials with bins that can address these issues. Based on the results of these trials, Council will investigate replacing existing bins with bins specifically designed to reduce litter and disposal of unauthorised waste.

Litter Bin Service – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 2.1a:</u> Investigate potential bin designs to address issues with littering and unauthorised litter bin use</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with wind blown litter from current bins • Issues with birds etc taking litter out of current bins • Issues with disposal of household and commercial waste in current bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced litter around bins • Reduced disposal costs for unauthorised waste • Visual amenity of bins and around bins improved

3.2.2 Public Place Recycling

One very large impediment to public place recycling is contamination. That is the problem of people either uncaringly or unwittingly putting garbage in with recycling. Contamination has to date prevented numerous NSW councils, including Wollondilly Shire, from introducing recycling into the street and park litter bin landscape.

Wollondilly Shire residents certainly know how to recycle, as is proven by our relatively low contamination rates.

Residents now expect to be able to recycle in other places when they leave their home including public places.

The first permanent public place recycling bins have been constructed ready for installation in Appin, at the request of the Appin Scout troop.

Council in response planned, designed, constructed and will install a purpose made enclosure at this site. The scouts have agreed to present and return the bins for collection by the current Waste and Recycling Collection Contractor on the appropriate kerbside bin collection days. Furthermore, it is the Appin Scouts, with the support and encouragement of Council, who will develop and promote not only litter reduction but public place recycling. This also coincides with the planned launch of Adopt an Environment program in Appin Primary School.

Eager to expand this, a further larger scale trial is planned for the Botanic Gardens and adjacent recreational areas in Picton.

The public place waste and recycling system will be designed so that it is:

- Easy to use by members of the public
- Easy to service and maintain
- Easy to collect
- Easy to process

Strategies for reducing contamination as part of these trials, such as bin configuration, education and inspection of recycling after collection are being examined. The results of the trials will be used to determine the most appropriate public place recycling system for the Wollondilly Shire.

Public Place Recycling – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 2.2a:</u> Public Place Recycling Trial at Appin, in cooperation with Appin scout troop <u>Timeframe:</u> September 2013 – January 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request by Appin scout troop for public place recycling • Community desire for public place recycling • High cost of waste disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility of public place recycling at Appin and in other locations determined • Potentially lower disposal costs
<p><u>Action 2.2b:</u> Public Place Recycling Trial at Botanic Gardens and adjacent recreational areas in Picton <u>Timeframe:</u> October 2013 – January 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community desire for public place recycling • High cost of waste disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility of public place recycling at Picton and in other locations determined • Potentially lower disposal costs
<p><u>Action 2.2c:</u> Investigate public place recycling viability at other sites within the Shire <u>Timeframe:</u> January 2014 – January 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community desire for public place recycling • High cost of waste disposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public place recycling options determined • Potential increase in public place recycling • Potential increase in municipal waste diversion from landfill • Potentially lower disposal costs

3.2.3 Waste Wise Events

A number of large community outdoor events are held within the Shire each year and each of these events generates recyclable material, as well as rubbish. During 2013, Council assisted with waste and recycling at NAIDOC week. Such was the success of this, that the organisers of DamFest and Australia Day have also requested the same assistance. At NAIDOC Day, approximately two thirds of the material deposited in bins was recycled.

The NSW Government has developed a series of documents that provide for best practice resource recovery and litter minimisation at these large outdoor events. These documents are presented under the WasteWise Event banner. A 'Waste Wise Events Guide' is available to provide assistance to community organisations in reducing waste and maximising resource recovery.

At the present time, development applications (DAs) for new large outdoor events are approved with a condition requiring compliance with the NSW Government's 'Waste Wise Events Guidelines.'

Existing large outdoor events with existing use rights need to be evaluated to ensure that best practice resource recovery and waste minimisation principles are being applied.

Council will ensure that the best practice principles contained in the NSW Government's Waste Wise Events Guide' are applied to maximise resource recovery and minimise rubbish generation at large outdoor events.

Waste Wise Events – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 2.3a:</u> Council to provide assistance with waste and recycling services at outdoor events such as NAIDOC Day, DamFest and Australia Day</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success of NAIDOC Day in recovering materials for recycling • Interest from the organisers of other events • Consistent with Council's objective to increase resource recovery and recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased recycling at events • Community awareness of the benefits of resource recovery
<p><u>Action 2.3b:</u> Council to continue to ensure that the best practice principles contained in the NSW Government's 'Waste Wise Events Guide' are applied to maximise resource recovery and minimise rubbish generation at large outdoor events.</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community desire for public place recycling • Consistent with Council's objective to increase resource recovery and recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased recycling at events • Community awareness of the benefits of resource recovery

3.3 Illegally Dumped Material Collection and Prevention

3.3.1 Illegally Dumped Material Collection and Recovery

Illegally dumped material is currently collected and disposed of by Council. This is a significant cost to Council in terms of collection and disposal.

Historically, all illegally dumped material was disposed of to landfill. Recently, Council instigated a trial to investigate options for recycling of illegally dumped material. Over the first 12 weeks of the trial, 45 tonnes of illegally dumped material was collected, with 68% of this material recycled. This represents a significant disposal cost saving to Council.

Illegally dumped materials recovered for recycling at the Bargo Waste Management Centre included:

- Paper and cardboard
- Plastic
- Glass
- Metal / Steel
- Tyres
- Computers and television
- Green waste
- Mattresses
- Gas bottles
- Concrete, brick and tiles.

Council intends to incorporate recovery requirements into future permanent illegally dumped material collection and recovery procedures.

Illegally Dumped Material Collection and Recovery – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 3.1a:</u> Council to incorporate recovery requirements into future permanent illegally dumped material collection and recovery procedures <u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of illegally dumped waste is a significant cost to Council • Recovery of illegally dumped material is consistent with Council’s objective to increase resource recovery and recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased resource recovery • Reduced waste to landfill

3.3.2 Strategy to Combat Illegal Dumping

The recent trial also included more detailed reporting on illegal dumping incidents, which may assist with future education and illegal dumping prevention and prosecution.

Illegal dumping education should be the responsibility of Council, environmental authorities and the State.

Council intends to develop a strategy to combat illegal dumping that reflects the *NSW EPA Strategy to Combat Illegal Dumping 2013*. The EPA Strategy focuses on them supporting councils with:

- **Partnerships** – Developing strong and collaborative partnerships with Council, Regional Illegal Dumping Squads, industry and the community
- **Capacity Building** – Providing Council with the knowledge and skills we need to implement practical regional solutions.
- **Strategic Enforcement** – Detection, investigation and prosecution.
- **Education** – On impacts of Illegal Dumping
- **Community Engagement** – Identifying hotspots and developing strategies.
- **Building an evidence base through data collection and analysis** – Enhancement of intelligence data to ensure targeted strategic action.

Strategy to Combat Illegal Dumping – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 3.2a:</u> Develop a strategy to combat illegal dumping, which is consistent with the NSW EPA strategy <u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of illegally dumped waste is a significant cost to Council • Illegally dumped waste is visually undesirable and potentially dangerous to the public • The presence of illegally dumped materials is inconsistent with Council’s vision to value and protect the local environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced incidents of illegally dumped waste • Increased prosecution of illegal dumpers • Council’s vision to value and protect the local environment promoted • Community takes more responsibility for correct waste disposal

Strategy to Combat Illegal Dumping – Action Plan (continued)

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 3.2b:</u> Develop methodology for more detailed reporting of waste incidents between Council sections to improve Council's ability to educate and prosecute</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above
<p><u>Action 3.2c:</u> Investigate opportunities for regional cooperation to combat illegal dumping</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Potential funding opportunities and economies of scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Potential for greater impact and lower costs for programs implemented regionally
<p><u>Action 3.2d:</u> Take advantage of funding opportunities to reduce the cost of combating and managing illegal dumping</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Funding is potentially available from the NSW EPA in the near future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Potential to reduce the cost of combating and managing illegal dumping

3.4 Litter Management

3.4.1 Adopt an Environment Litter Reduction Program

According to the EPA, the single most common litter is the cigarette butt, which comprises almost half of the litter thrown away. Other common litter includes small pieces of paper, chip and confectionery wrappers, fast-food packaging materials, bottle caps, plastic straws, glass pieces, glass alcohol bottles and soft drink containers (both plastic and metal).

New sources of litter are becoming increasingly evident. Changing consumer patterns in relation to take-away food, increased use of unsolicited advertising materials and the introduction of automatic teller machines are examples of activities that now impact on litter.

Lifestyles have also changed - we are busier, engage in more snacking and grazing, and are increasingly relying on fast foods. This means more potential for litter in more places, more often.

The Adopt an Environment Litter Reduction Program aims to take on the problem of street and public place littering.

In order to tackle the litter problem, Council needs to understand it and who litters. There is no known gender, age or class differentiation in littering behaviour although young men are more likely to admit to littering.

Research carried out by the NSW EPA states that littering behaviour is affected by:

- People thinking the item is not litter (cigarettes, food scraps)
- People not being willing to look for a bin
- Lack of social pressure to do the right thing
- Absence of realistic penalties or consistent enforcement
- Social rebellion
- Lack of knowledge of the environmental effects of littering
- Poor packaging design
- Amount of litter already present at a particular site
- Presence and wording of signs referring to litter
- Number/placement and appearance of bins at/near the site.

As a council we are able to address some of these behaviours more easily than others. The Adopt an Environment Program will utilise best available data on littering behavior and prevention to develop the most appropriate strategy for the Wollondilly Shire.

The Adopt an Environment Program aims to reduce littering by becoming more active in influencing people's littering behaviour through an integrated approach of education, enforcement and infrastructure provision (e.g. bins, recycling facilities and clean up activities).

The NSW EPA is currently working on a Litter Strategy. Council will review this strategy and ensure that appropriate elements of the strategy are incorporated in the Adopt an Environment Program.

One of the main aspects of the Adopt an Environment Littering Program is to ensure that staff have the necessary knowledge, skills and resources to enforce the litter laws and implement local litter prevention activities through education. Council has the primary responsibility for enforcing littering laws and must take the leading role in litter management.

Adopt an Environment Litter Reduction Program – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 4.1a:</u> Develop Adopt an Environmental Litter Reduction Program consistent with NSW EPA strategy and legislation</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering is visually undesirable and potentially dangerous to the public and the environment • The presence of litter is inconsistent with Council’s vision to value and protect the local environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced incidents of littering • Increased prosecution of litterers • Council’s vision to value and protect the local environment promoted • Community takes more responsibility for correct waste disposal

3.5 Council Leading by Example

3.5.1 Waste Management at Council Buildings

Council has adopted a number of sustainability and environmental plans and strategies including:

- Wollondilly Environmental Management Strategy (2009)
- Sustainable Wollondilly Plan (2008)
- Purchasing Policy (2010 Reviewed).

These documents are due to be reviewed and updated with strategies to ensure they accurately reflect community and Council values. That aside, the above have provided direction for Council’s staff and have highlighted areas to be progressed over time. In 2013, new work station bins for waste and recycling were introduced to allow staff to be responsible for their own waste management.

Council is considering further actions to improve the environmental performance and visual amenity of current waste and recycling management systems at Council buildings.

Waste Management at Council Offices – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 5.1a:</u> Council to investigate further action to improve the environmental performance and visual amenity of current waste and recycling management systems at Council buildings. <u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council needs to demonstrate the same responsible waste behaviour as is expected of the community • Opportunity to increase Council’s overall resource recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council demonstrates to the community that it practices good waste management behaviour • Potentially increased resource recovery • Potentially reduced disposal costs from Council wastes
<p><u>Action 5.1b</u> Update Wollondilly Environmental Management Strategy <u>Timeframe:</u> February 2014 - December 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council needs to ensure that documents are up to date and relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council demonstrates to the community that it practices good waste management behaviour • Potentially increased resource recovery • Potentially reduced disposal costs from Council wastes
<p><u>Action 5.1c</u> Update Sustainable Wollondilly Plan <u>Timeframe:</u> February 2014 - December 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council needs to ensure that documents are up to date and relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council demonstrates to the community that it practices good waste management behaviour • Potentially increased resource recovery • Potentially reduced disposal costs from Council wastes.
<p><u>Action 5.1d</u> Update Purchasing Policy <u>Timeframe:</u> February 2015 - December 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council needs to ensure that documents are up to date and relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased market for sustainable products • Reduced Council impact on the environment • Council seen to be leading by example

3.5.2 Use of Recycled Organics

Council has undertaken two trials of composts made from recycled organics collected from the domestic garden organics service and processed at the Macarthur Resource Recovery Park.

The recycled organics were applied to the following playing fields during January 2011:

- Tahmoor Sports Ground
- Victoria Oval Picton.

The results have been positive and have shown that recycled organics can assist with the maintenance of sporting fields within the Shire. The only issue related to a number of small sections of woody material and this issue can be resolved for future applications of the material.

The ASA compliant compost could also be used on selected Council parks and gardens.

Council will investigate the future use of recycled organics from the Bargo Waste Management Centre at selected parks, garden and playing fields within the Shire. Signs and other educational methods might be employed telling the community that Council is using recycled organics. The community, unless advised, will never know that Council is using these products.

In this way, Council is not only supporting but leading by example through the use of recycled organics.

Use of Recycled Organics – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 5.2a:</u> Council will investigate the future use of recycled organics from the Bargo Waste Management Centre at selected parks, garden and playing fields within the Shire</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> December 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to increase markets for organic materials processed at the Bargo WMC • Council should demonstrate to the community their confidence in the recycled organics produced the Bargo WMC • Council should lead recycling by example 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased markets for organic materials processed at the Bargo WMC • Increased community confidence in the material produced at the Bargo WMC • Community encouraged to use recycled organics • Reduced fertiliser and other compost costs to Council as Bargo material is “Free.” • Improved health of parks etc in the Shire • Council seen to be leading by example

3.5.3 Council's Works Section

Council's Works Section has introduced a number of strategies to use recovered/recycled material and to minimise waste generation.

Council's Works Section – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 5.3a:</u> Works Section to continue to implement strategies to use recovered/recycled material and to minimise waste generation</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's Works Section has the opportunity and current momentum to make use of recovered/recycled materials and to minimise waste generation • The activities of Council's Works Section is highly visible to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential cost savings to Council in terms of purchase of materials and disposal of waste • Council seen to be leading by example

3.5.4 Council Operations Sustainability Actions

Council has introduced a number of sustainability actions to minimise waste and increase resource recovery. These actions include:

- A cartridge recycling container is located in the customer service area and all spent printer cartridges from Council's Information Technology Section are sent to a printer cartridge recycling organisation, which reuse/refill the cartridges. Council also purchases some recycled printer cartridges.
- A mobile phone recycling container is located in the customer service area to enable the recycling of disused mobile phones.
- Council's photocopying paper has an 80% recycled fibre content
- Council purchases selected 'green' stationery.

Council has a Sustainability Group that meets from time to time to consider new sustainability initiatives. While considerable progress has been made, a sustainability review of Council's operations may identify further opportunities for improved waste minimisation and resource recovery.

Council Operations Sustainability Actions – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 5.4a:</u> Conduct annual sustainability reviews of Council’s operations</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Annually</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although significant progress has been made, there may be more opportunities to improve waste minimisation and resource recovery in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced waste generation and increased resource recovery • Council seen to be leading by example

3.5.5 Sustainable Procurement

Wollondilly’s Environmental Management Strategy and Policy (2009) nominated as one of its actions the development of a Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy

Council’s Purchasing Policy contains a section on Environmental Considerations.

Under Purchasing Goals, the policy states that employees and contractors shall pursue the following goals and adhere to the specific objectives when purchasing products and services (noting that these impacts should be considered during the entire life cycle of the product, i.e. the production, distribution, usage and end of life stages).

- **Minimise Unnecessary Purchasing** – Only purchase when a product or service is necessary.
- **Minimise Waste** – Purchase in accordance with avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle strategies.
- **Save Water and Energy** – Purchase products that save energy and/or water.
- **Minimise Pollution** – Avoid purchasing products that pollute soils, air or waterways.
- **Non Toxic** – Avoid purchasing hazardous chemicals that may be harmful to human health or ecosystems.’

While this Policy provides a useful guideline, the Local Government and Shires Association has developed a local government purchasing-for-sustainability program titled “Sustainable Choice”. The program aims to increase the level of sustainable purchasing within the local government sector by supporting individual councils and skill sharing between councils on sustainable products and services. There are presently 67 councils from NSW participating in the scheme including Campbelltown and Camden Councils.

Involvement of Council would assist in the development of purchasing procedures that minimises waste and increases resource recovery.

Council has the opportunity to investigate the possibility of participating in the “Sustainable Choice” procurement program conducted by the Local Government and Shires Association.

Sustainable Procurement – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 5.5a:</u> Continue to adhere to the sustainable procurement guidelines in Council’s Purchasing Policy <u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council must be seen to lead by example • Council can make a significant contribution to the environment through sustainable procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased market for sustainable products • Reduced Council impact on the environment • Council seen to be leading by example
<p><u>Action 5.5b:</u> Council to explore benefits of participating in the LGSA “Sustainable Choice” procurement program. <u>Timeframe:</u> Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council must be seen to lead by example • Council can make a significant contribution to the environment through sustainable procurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased market for sustainable products • Reduced Council impact on the environment • Council seen to be leading by example

3.6 Organics Reuse

3.6.1 Home Recycling of Organics

To increase the community awareness of the use of recycled organics in the domestic garden setting, a promotional program is being developed with funding from the Council’s WaSIP grant. This program should enforce education of home composting and worm farming.

Council also provides free mulch from the Bargo Waste Management Centre (WMC).

Promotion of Recycled Organics – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 6.1a:</u> Promote free mulch from Bargo WMC</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to increase markets for organic material processed at the Bargo WMC • There is a need to educate the community regarding the benefits of reusing their organic materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased markets for organic material processed at the Bargo WMC • Increased community confidence in the material produced at the Bargo WMC • Community encouraged to use recycled organics
<p><u>Action 6.1b:</u> Promote home composting/worm farming</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to increase skills of home composters • There is a need to educate the community on the benefits of reusing their organic materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less garden organics entering waste stream • Potential to plot this reuse waste component for diversion purposes • Increased community engagement

3.7 Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Waste Services

3.7.1 Kerbside Garbage Bin Services

The commercial garbage service offered by Council is taken up by 272 properties. Two hundred and sixty two of these properties have 120 litre bins, whilst 10 have 80 litre bins. Services are part of the same contract as the domestic kerbside garbage services and the services are identical to those offered to domestic properties. Commercial properties pay a higher rate than do residential properties to reflect a return on investment, making the rate approximately 8% higher than the domestic rate. Many shops utilise other contractors to provide waste and paper recycling containers and do not use the Council's service.

With the anticipated growth in the planned industrial estates and the corresponding waste collection service, this demand has the potential to represent an important new service provision area for Council and its rate paying industries.

How this service is to be provided is therefore an important consideration.

Suggested changes to the bin capacity and processing are the same as for the domestic service.

3.7.2 Kerbside Recycling Bin Services

Commercial kerbside recycling bin services are part of the same contract as the domestic kerbside recycling services and the services are identical to those offered to domestic properties.

Suggested actions regarding the bin capacity and price differential between waste and recycling are the same as for the domestic service.

3.7.3 Kerbside Garden Organics Bin Services

Commercial kerbside garden organics bin services are part of the same contract as the domestic kerbside garden organics bin services and the services are identical to those offered to domestic properties.

Suggested actions regarding the bin capacity and price differential between waste and garden organics are the same as for the domestic service.

3.7.4 Encouraging Commercial Businesses to Recycle

In the future, and pending appropriate funding arrangements, Council may consider further engagement with commercial businesses to encourage recycling and resource recovery. This could include highlighting the price differential between garbage and recycling/garden organic bins and conducting/facilitating commercial waste audits.

There is potential for this to occur through the NSW EPA's Bin Trim program.

Encouraging Commercial Businesses to Recycle – Action Plan

Action and Timeframe	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 7.4a:</u> Council to consider further engagement with commercial businesses to encourage recycling</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Pending EPA funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some commercial businesses may be able to increase their recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved resource recovery from commercial premises

3.7.5 Bargo Waste Management Centre

Council also accepts commercial and industrial waste at the Bargo Waste Management Centre and has a reduced rate for sorted concrete, brick and tile product. See Section 3.11 for Bargo Waste Management Centre Action Plan.

3.8 Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Services

Ideas which have been discussed involve a transfer station type of enclosure/facility where builders can confidently deposit materials for recycling/reprocessing and dispose of that proportion which cannot be reused or recycled.

C&D Waste Services – Action Plan

Action and Timeframe	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 8.1a:</u> Investigate feasibility of developing a builders' waste transfer station (regional)</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> Pending EPA Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to increase C&D Waste diversion • Desire to build image of environmentally active new suburb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced landfill • Better disposal options for builders waste • Reduce illegal dumping

3.9 Education and Communication

3.9.1 Community Education Strategy

The draft Community Education Strategy discussed in Section 3.1.5 will also include programs independent of the Waste and Recycling Collection Contract. These programs will be managed by Council.

Community Education Strategy – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 9.1a:</u> Ensure Council managed programs independent of the collection contract are included in the draft Community Education Strategy (see Action 1.5a).</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – February 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to inform and education the community regarding waste minimisation and resource recovery issues beyond the scope of the collection contract 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved community knowledge and satisfaction with the broad range of waste services offered by Council

3.10 Problem Waste Management

3.10.1 Sharps Collection and Disposal Service

Sharps waste is a form of medical waste composed of used sharps, which includes any device or object used to puncture or lacerate the skin. Sharps waste is classified as biohazardous waste and must be carefully handled.

Council presently provides a free Sharps Collection and Disposal Service with 7 participating Chemist Shops within the Shire. This collection and disposal is contracted to SteriHealth.

The service is a valuable service for those who require a safe medical needle exchange such as diabetes patients. It also prevents needles from being placed into garbage bins and hence entering the AWT system.

Sharps Collection and Disposal Service – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 10.1a:</u> Continue to fund and promote the sharps collection and disposal service</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharps waste is not suitable for the kerbside waste system due to WHS risks during collection and processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community is provided with a safe option for disposal of sharps Risk of sharps injuries to waste collection and processing staff is minimised

3.10.2 Rural and Household Chemical CleanOut Waste Collections

The correct way to dispose of potentially hazardous chemicals is through the State Government sponsored CleanOut Programs. CleanOut is a free service for the safe disposal of common household chemicals which could cause harm to human health and the environment if not disposed of correctly.

Each year the EPA, in conjunction with Council, conducts CleanOut in Picton at the rear of the Council Administration Building. The following material categories are collected:

- Paints
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Poisons
- Household cleaners
- Oils and fuels
- Batteries
- Pool chemicals
- Hobby chemicals
- Acids and alkalis
- Gas bottles
- Fire extinguishers
- Fluorescent tubes.

The CleanOut was traditionally funded by the Sydney Catchment Authority but from 2013 it is now funded by the NSW EPA. The potential changes flagged by the NSW EPA are that centres

may be provided for all year round drop offs for certain less dangerous and easy to identify chemicals such as paint and oils.

Rural and Household Chemical CleanOut Waste Collection – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 10.2a:</u> Continue with existing Household Clean Out Program. <u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce hazardous chemicals entering waterway/environment To provide residents with safe disposal options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaner water ways Safer outcomes for residents who store hazardous chemicals at home

3.10.3 DrumMUSTER

DrumMuster provides farmers and chemical users with a free, environmentally responsible means of disposing of their empty chemical containers.

Washed empty containers can be deposited at the Bargo Waste Management Centre Monday to Sunday between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm.

DrumMUSTER – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 10.3a:</u> Continue to support DrumMuster Program <u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide residents with safe disposal options for empty chemical containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer farms Increased recycling

3.11 Bargo Waste Management Centre

The Bargo Waste Management Centre (WMC) is located off Anthony Road Bargo and comprises a resource recovery centre and a landfill. The Council-owned site has any area of approximately 5ha with the landfill occupying approximately 4ha of the site.

The centre has been operating as a resource recovery centre and landfill since the 1960's and is subject to an Environmental Protection Licence and Landfill Environmental Management Plan. The Centre is currently operated by a contractor.

The Bargo WMC currently accepts non-putrescible materials for both recycling and landfill disposal, in addition to green waste mulching and reuse.

Potential strategies for improving waste management and increasing resource recovery are discussed in this section.

3.11.1 Mattress Recovery

Council, using a WaSIP grant, has commenced a trial for the recovery of mattresses in conjunction with the Mission Australia Soft Landing Mattress Recycling Program. The mattresses are stored in a 13 metre shipping container and collected by Mission Australia when the container is full. The mattresses are processed at Mission Australia in Bellambi with the following material recovered:

- Steel for recycling
- Bed padding/fibres for punching bags
- Coconut husk for pot plants
- Foam for carpet underlays.

During 2012, a total of 666 mattresses were recovered and not landfilled.

Each double mattress that is recovered saves approximately 0.75 cubic metres of landfill. Mattress are difficult to compress in a landfill and can create difficulties with landfill material compaction equipment.

From 2013/14 Council introduced a new recycling fee of \$22.00 per mattress to help pay for this scheme.

Mattress Recovery – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 11.1a:</u> Continue to run mattress recycling program.</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattresses are difficult to dispose of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattress recycling results in reduced landfilling • Increased employment for recyclers

3.11.2 E-Waste Recycling

Computers and televisions, as previously mentioned, are now received at the facility for free under the Federal Government’s National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme. This e-waste is diverted from the landfill and placed in 3m³ containers. When the containers are full they are removed and recycled at no cost to Council.

E-Waste Recycling – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 11.2a:</u> Continue to provide drop-off facilities for computers and televisions to support the product stewardship scheme.</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013 – June 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product stewardship scheme funds the collection of computers and televisions from drop off facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced e-waste to landfill Increased resource recovery Reduced disposal costs to the community

3.11.3 Textiles Recovery

Audits at the tip face of the Bargo landfill have indicated a significant quality of textile material (6.2%).

Council is considering conducting a trial, in conjunction with a clothing/fabric recovery organisation/charity, to determine if it is practical to commence this material collection and recycling at the Bargo WMC.

Clothing and Fabric Recovery – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 11.3a:</u> Consider a trial to determine the feasibility of fabric recovery at the Bargo WMC</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> January 2015- December 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 6% of material tipped at the tip face of the Bargo landfill is textiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased resource recovery Reduced disposal costs

3.11.4 Landfill Cover

Council's Environmental Protection Licence for the Bargo WMC requires a covering of 150mm of virgin excavated natural material to be placed over all exposed waste prior to ceasing operations each day.

Two methods to reduce soil use are being considered:

1. Obtain acceptable movable cover system to enable waste to be covered without the use of soil, which may need to be purchased by Council in the future.
2. Mine soil cover material from existing landfill during side slope remediation works.

When the two methods have been evaluated, a decision will be made to implement the most cost effective system to ensure that Council complies with the EPA Licence in the most cost effective manner.

Landfill Cover – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 11.4a:</u> Investigate the most cost effective and environmentally sound landfill cover options for Council.</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> January 2014 - June 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill cover material may be a significant cost to Council in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of environmentally sound landfill cover is minimised

3.11.5 Landfill

The Bargo landfill is an important community resource and it is imperative that the life of this resource is maximised. This can only be achieved by reducing the potentially reusable or recyclable material that goes to landfill. One such way is to develop transfer stations options. Transfer stations have a key role to play in waste management infrastructure. Transfer stations serve as a link between a solid waste collection program and a waste disposal/processing facility. They play an important role in a community's total waste management system by providing an effective means of consolidating and managing recyclables and waste.

Landfill – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 11.5a:</u> Investigate the most cost effective and environmentally sound transfer station options for Bargo Waste Management Centre.</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> January 2014 - June 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase lifespan of landfill • To enhance visitor satisfaction • To improve diversion • To develop community business opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer landfill life • New community enterprises established • Reuse options for saved material provided • Reduced landfill costs

3.12 Regional Opportunities

3.12.1 Regional Resource Recovery Strategy

The three Councils comprising the Macarthur Region of Councils namely Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly together with Wingecarribee Shire Council entered into a fifteen year

contract with SITA (formerly WSN) for the processing of waste, recyclables and garden organics. As part of this Contract, a Contract Management Committee Meeting is held between representatives of the participating Councils and SITA to oversee the operations of the Contract.

While this Contract Management Committee is working well, a structure has not been formed to enable the preparation and implementation of a Regional Resource Recovery Strategy.

The opportunity exists to form another group with a wider resource recovery focus. This new group could develop a regional resource recovery strategy and explore opportunities for regional resource sharing and regional projects, including regional education initiatives. One such initiative has just been undertaken by Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly councils, who have formally made an application to the NSW EPA for a Regional Coordinator to work under the scope of the Waste Less Recycle More Program funding.

For this reason, Council WMRRS has been made consistent with existing EPA programs and initiatives. The NSW EPA is proposing to provide funding for the regional coordinator, infrastructure planning and development of Regional Waste Avoidance and Recovery Strategies.

The NSW EPA has developed a Regional Action Plan for South Western Sydney that includes the local government areas of Parramatta, Holroyd, Blacktown, Bankstown, Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains, Baulkham Hills, Auburn, Hornsby, Fairfield, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly.

Wollondilly Shire has recently offered these South Western Sydney Councils use of Council developed educational webclips in the spirit of regional cooperation.

The Regional Waste Avoidance and Recovery strategies are intended to cover recycling, illegal dumping and littering.

Regional Resource Recovery Strategy – Action Plan

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 12.1a:</u> Submit a regional plan to the NSW EPA for a Regional Coordinator</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> August 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Government is encouraging regional cooperation on resource recovery issues • Council has a 15 year AWT contract with neighbouring Councils • There are many benefits of resource and cost sharing in terms of resource recovery initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional strategies developed • Resource and cost sharing may provide better outcomes for Councils • Regional projects may be eligible for NSW EPA funding

Regional Resource Recovery Strategy – Action Plan (continued)

Action	Reasons	Potential Outcomes
<p><u>Action 12.1b:</u> Explore NSW EPA funding opportunities for regional strategies and programs</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> After appointment of Regional Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council may be better placed to apply for contestable grants, such as RID Squad programs, anti litter programs and transfer/drop off station programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above
<p><u>Action 12.1c:</u> Explore NSW EPA funding opportunities for combating illegal dumping</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> After appointment of Regional Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal dumping is an environmental crime and can cause serious environmental pollution, pose a risk to human health, and impact local amenities and community pride • Cleaning up illegally dumped material is a significant cost for local communities and councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal dumping is reduced • Reduced collection and disposal costs to Council
<p><u>Action 12.1d:</u> Explore NSW EPA funding opportunities for tackling littering</p> <p><u>Timeframe:</u> After appointment of Regional Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This \$20 million fund is aimed at revitalising anti-littering efforts across NSW in collaboration with local communities and councils • NSW 2021 sets the target of NSW having the lowest litter count per capita in Australia by 2016 • The most effective litter prevention outcomes will be achieved by state government agencies, councils and community organisations working together in partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering is reduced • Reduced collection and disposal costs to Council

4 Risk Management

Decisions regarding the management of waste often have to be made under conditions of considerable uncertainty. Community attitudes towards environmental sustainability in general, and waste management in particular, continue to evolve as does the legislative, regulatory and commercial environment surrounding waste management. Accordingly, there are many risks that may impact on Council's ability to successfully achieve its waste minimisation and resource recovery objectives.

Council has an adopted Enterprise Risk Management framework that aims to ensure risk management principles and practices are applied in a consistent manner across the entire organisation, as well as to specific functions, projects and activities.

To increase the chances of Council achieving its waste minimisation and resource recovery objectives, it will be necessary to continually identify, analyse, treat and monitor risks across the life of this Strategy.

More detailed risks assessments will be conducted on specific aspects and activities of the Strategy as and when required. In particular, a detailed risk assessment will be conducted for the Waste and Recycling Collection Contract tender process.