



REGIONAL COUNCIL

Lockyer Valley Regional Council

Waste Management Strategy

2024-2030



Acknowledgement of Country

Lockyer Valley Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the region, the Ugarapul and Yuggera people and pays its respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders of other communities who may live here. Lockyer Valley Regional Council is committed to cultivating inclusive environments for all staff, customers, residents and visitors.

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About the Waste Management Strategy 2024-2030

Like many communities across Australia, Lockyer Valley Regional Council (Council) is facing new challenges with waste management, particularly solid waste. Changes in policy nationally and internationally are impacting waste management. Council recognises the necessity for sustainable waste management services for the community and the importance of meeting increased community expectations to manage waste in a more sustainable way.

The Waste Management Strategy 2024-2030 (Strategy) will guide Council's transition from providing an adequate waste management service, to one of leadership and innovation in resource recovery and waste prevention.



The Strategy identifies significant opportunities to help improve the environment by avoiding waste and building more capacity for local resource recovery via various initiatives.



The Strategy clearly identifies Council's overall recycling target of 50% by 2030, below the State target of 60%. Similarly, the State target of 70% Municipal Solid Waste diverted from landfill by 2030 will likely not be achieved without significant financial support from the State Government. Council is aiming to achieve 50% Municipal Waste Diversion by 2030.



The Strategy has been developed through the guiding principles of the waste hierarchy and circular economy and State and Regional waste management plans to direct Council's objectives and goals.



The Strategy incorporates actions for short, medium and long-term implementation with a priority focus on improving infrastructure and service delivery.

This will move Council towards targets in a financially sustainable manner and deliver improvements for the community.

Major priorities

- Introducing a kerbside organics collection service and landfill gas capture to mitigate future climate change
- Securing a future waste disposal solution when Gatton Landfill reaches end-of-life
- Improving and developing the quality of infrastructure for resource recovery across Council's transfer station network
- Expanding service delivery of resource recovery at Council transfer stations, to divert more waste from landfill
- Increasing education and community engagement around waste and resources
- Securing funding opportunities to improve resource recovery outcomes in a way that limits cost impact to ratepayers

Secondary priorities

- Minimising and addressing illegal dumping and littering
- Completing rehabilitation of legacy landfills
- Regional collaboration and building a circular economy network

How was the Strategy developed?

Council conducted a consultation process in November and December 2023 seeking the community's views on waste management.

More than 660 people responded to a range of questions aimed at guiding the development of the Strategy.

The consultation covered topics such as recycling, locations and operating times for waste facilities, fees, education, and management of organic waste.

The results of the consultation were provided to the consultant and have been used to influence the drafting of the Strategy.

To understand how community feedback has shaped this Strategy, visit <https://lockyervalley.engagementhub.com.au/waste-management-strategy-2024-2030>



Why do we need this Strategy?

The existing three-year Lockyer Valley Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan expired in December 2022. This new Strategy provides the framework for how Council and the community will work together to create a more sustainable way to manage waste. It highlights where we have come from, outlines where we are now and guides Council into the future, providing both a direction for the community and other stakeholders.

Waste management across the Lockyer Valley costs more than \$10M per year to maintain and is recovered through waste utility charges and disposal charges at Council facilities. Due to higher standards for disposal, expanding resource recovery services and an escalating waste levy applied from the State Government, the costs of waste management will likely increase in the future.

As a community, we will need to make choices about how we balance these costs with our desire for improved resource recovery that contributes to better environmental outcomes.

The Strategy is guided by a set of overarching principles which set a strategic direction for waste management in the Lockyer Valley, in the context of the future aspirations for waste management within Queensland. The development of this Strategy will fulfill the statutory requirement for Local Government to prepare and implement a waste reduction and recycling plan under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (WRRRA 2011).



What is waste?

The Strategy will focus on the strategic direction for solid waste management that is generated from households, commercial and industrial premises, and the construction and demolition sector.

The types of waste that are, or may be managed and addressed within this Strategy, include:

Waste from households
Kerbside recyclables - paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, steel and aluminium cans
Garden and food organics
Scrap metal
E-waste and whitegoods
Wood and timber
Building materials including concrete and masonry
Textiles and clothing
Clean soils, asphalt, silt and rocks
Fire extinguishers, paint, gas bottles and marine flares
Tyres
Bulky goods, furniture and mattresses
Product Stewardship Scheme items – drumMuster, Paintbank, FluroCycle, batteries, mobile phones, Container Deposit Scheme

Types of waste explained



Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is a combination of domestic waste and waste arising from other Council activities managed on behalf of the general public, such as parks, illegal dumping and road sweepings.



Commercial and Industrial (C&I) is waste generated by businesses, including waste from schools, restaurants, retail, office, agriculture, manufacturing, community groups and sporting clubs.



Construction and Demolition (C&D) is waste generated from construction and demolition activity, typically brick, timber, concrete and metals.



Challenges that impact the Strategy



Lockyer Valley is running out of landfill space to manage residual waste

Gatton Landfill is the main engineered landfill for the region that meets the best practice standards of contemporary landfills and can accept household waste. At current rates of generation and recycling, the Gatton Landfill is likely to reach capacity around 2032. Council needs to look at alternatives, either a new landfill site within the region, transporting waste outside the region, using alternative treatment technologies, or diverting some waste streams to other landfills.



Mitigating climate change impacts from waste management

Globally, the effects of climate change are considered the biggest threat to a sustainable future. Locally, Council can contribute to mitigating the impact of climate change by managing landfill gas. Organic waste, particularly garden and food waste sent to landfill, is a large producer of greenhouse gases. Diverting this waste via a kerbside organics service can maximise waste resources and mitigate gas production. Installing a landfill gas capture system at the landfill and flaring gas also benefits in greenhouse gas reduction.



Economic costs

The need to secure a future waste disposal option, improve the standard of infrastructure and rehabilitate the current and legacy landfill sites will require high capital investment to meet regulatory standards. This, coupled with higher compliance levels and the social aspiration for Australian-based resource recovery, increases the cost of recycling and recovery. This will put pressure on future charges and needs to be balanced with the community's capacity and willingness to pay.



Cultivating a circular economy in a regional context

Moving to a circular economy, in alignment with the State's aspiration, will create new industries and jobs through innovation. The challenge is how to do this in a smaller regional setting, to identify the most appropriate resource streams and then attract business to make investment. Council will need to explore solutions on how best to deliver a circular economy solution and utilise materials within Council operations. The region's proximity to South-East Queensland may be an impediment to a local solution. Where there is a local solution that can be achieved comparably, Council will always choose a local solution that has a local economic benefit.

Principles for decision making

Strategic alignment

The Strategy focuses on waste avoidance and diversion, waste disposal security and delivering well planned infrastructure and services that reflect the region's need for improved waste management. To support decision making, the ethos and principles outlined below will be applied to guide waste management, both now and into the future.

This Strategy joins other key strategies and plans that guide Council:

- Lockyer Valley Regional Council Corporate Plan 2022-2027;
- CoMSEQ Waste Management Plan;
- Darling Downs Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Management Plan;
- Queensland Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019; and
- National Waste Policy 2018 and Action Plan 2019.

Appendix D contains a detailed list of Federal, State, Regional and Council legislation, policy and plans that were considered in the context of developing this Strategy.

Alignment to the Corporate Plan

Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027 sets the strategic direction to achieve the vision for the future of the Lockyer Valley, and the key themes identified were considered in the development of the Strategy. It is important that decisions on waste are strategic and shape a future that is sustainable, both financially and environmentally, and moves the region on a pathway to accountable resource recovery. In considering decisions in the public interest, Council will be guided by these key principles as strategic waste initiatives evolve:

- Ensuring the decision is lawful;
- Ensuring the decision is reasonable and based on evidence, having all relevant facts available to make an informed decision;
- Considering the impact the decision will have on Council's financial sustainability;
- Considering the impact the decision will have on the whole community; and
- Considering how the decision aligns with Council's long-term direction.

Waste management hierarchy and principles

The Waste Management Principles outlined in the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* will guide Council in waste management decisions:

- The *polluter pays* principle – all costs associated with minimising the amount, containing, treating, and disposing of waste; and rectifying environmental harm caused by waste should be borne by those who generate the waste.
- The *user pays* principle – all costs associated with the use of a resource should be included in the price of goods and services that result from use.
- The *proximity* principle – waste and recovered resources should be managed as close to the source of generation as possible.
- The *product stewardship* principle – there is a shared responsibility between all persons who are involved in the life cycle of a product for managing the environmental, social, and economic impact of the product.

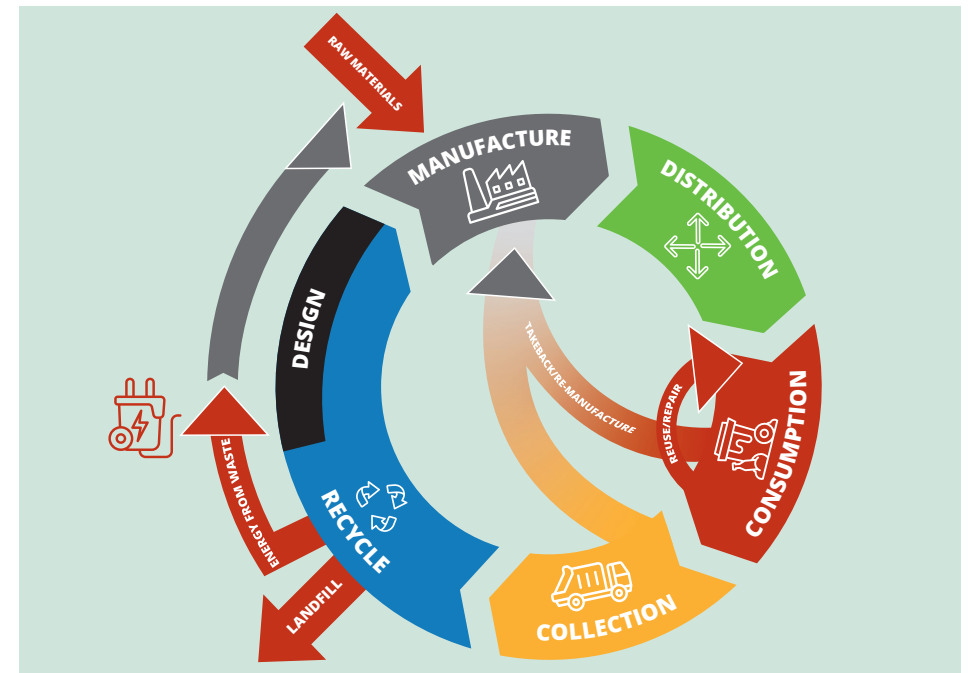


Circular economy

A circular economy is an alternative to the traditional, linear economy which refers to taking resources, making goods that are then bought and used to then be disposed of as waste. The circular economy aims to keep products, equipment, and infrastructure in use for longer, therefore improving the productivity of these resources. Waste materials and energy should become input for other processes: either a component or recovered resource for another industrial process, or as regenerative resources for nature (e.g. compost).

The circular economy is based on three key principles:

- Design out waste and pollution.
- Recover and regenerate materials at the end of each service life.
- Keep resources in their highest value for as long as possible.



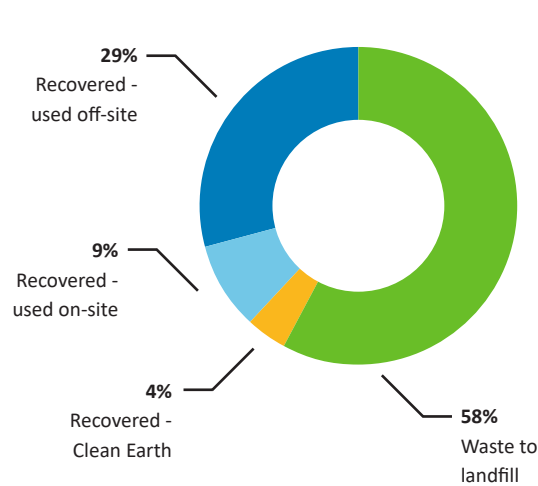
Where are we now?

Waste trends and performance

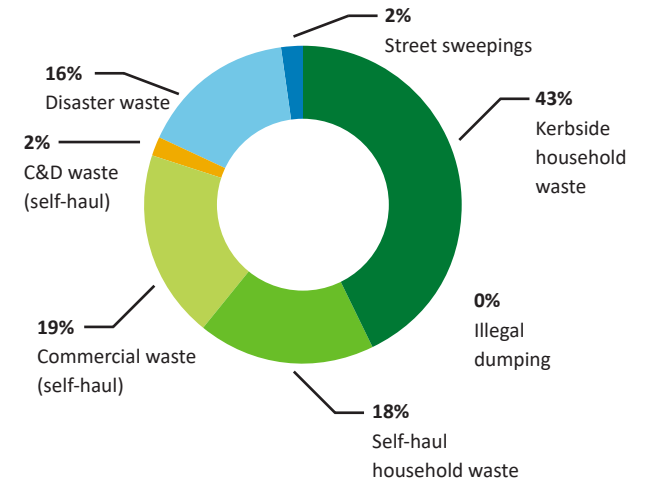
The quantities, types and sources of waste materials recovered and disposed of throughout the region are an important factor in determining future directions in waste and resource management. In 2022-23, Council accepted more than 44,000 tonnes of waste materials across the waste facility network, recovering 38% of all materials received. More than 30% of recovered materials are used at landfill sites for operational purposes, with clean-fill and mulched green waste/timber being the largest component of re-useable material.

In 2022-23, 23,447 tonnes of waste was landfilled, with kerbside household waste comprising 43% and self-haul household waste comprising 18%. Commercial waste accounted for 19% of waste to landfill.

Waste recovered and landfilled



Waste disposed by source





Waste trends and performance

Council is the exclusive waste manager for the region and therefore has a leadership role to promote sustainable resource recovery. The table below illustrates how materials were used across the region in 2022-23.

Waste to landfill source	Tonnes	% of waste to landfill
Kerbside household	10,076	43%
Self-haul household	4,208	18%
Commercial and industrial	4,485	19%
Construction and demolition	455	2%
Asbestos	3,830	16%
Street sweeping	379	<1%
Miscellaneous	20	<1%

Resource recovery is categorised into materials used for on-site operational purpose and resources exported to the recycling and re-processing industry, as illustrated:

Resource type	Tonnes	% of materials recovered
On-Site Operational Purpose		
Clean fill	2,837	18.8%
Green waste	412	2.7%
Timber mulch	39	0.3%
Glass fines	207	1.4%
Total – On-Site Operational Purpose	3,496	23%

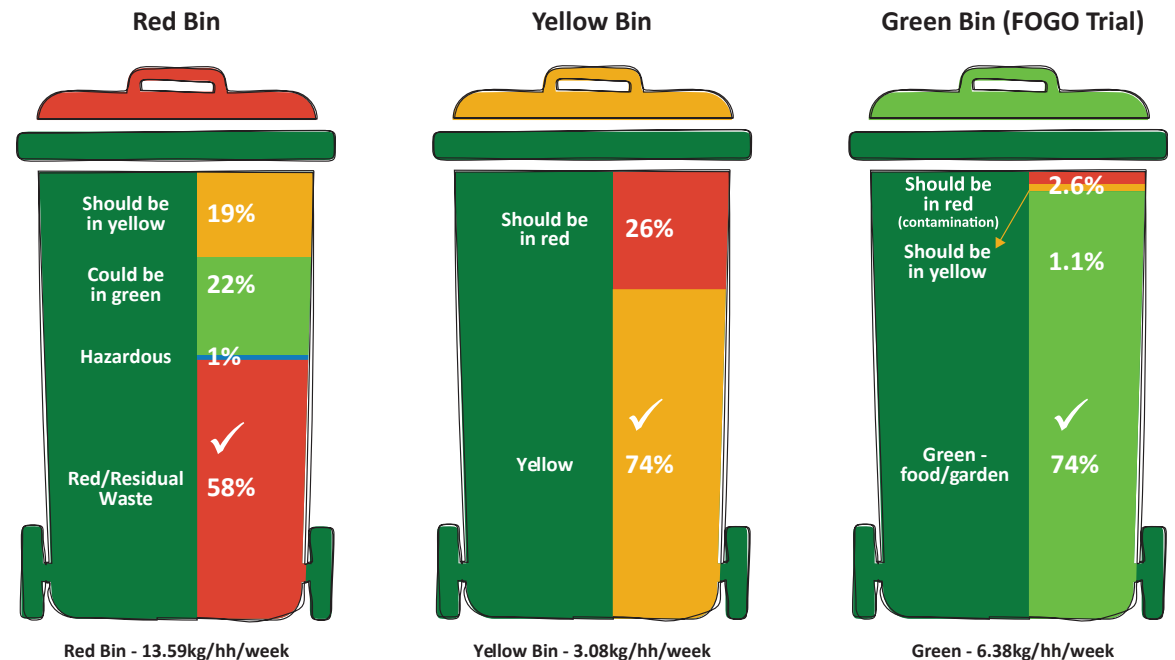
Resource type	Tonnes	% of materials recovered
External Resource Recovery		
Green waste	7,588	50.3%
Kerbside recyclables	2,817	18.7%
Scrap steel	698	4.6%
Cardboard and paper	76	0.5%
E-waste	38	0.3%
Batteries	22	0.1%
Plastics	20	0.1%
Waste oil	4,268L	Not included in total tonnes
DrumMuster	130	0.9%
Agricultural tape	173	1.1%
Tyres	29	0.2%
Other	1	<0.1%
Total – External Resource Recovery	11,592	77%
Total – All Resource Recovery	15,088	100%

The future of organics and recycling

Approximately 41% of the waste that is placed in the residential waste (red lidded) bin currently disposed to landfill could be diverted through composting or recycling. This behaviour change would increase the lifespan of the Gatton Landfill and deliver economic and employment opportunities for those involved in resource recovery.

Over the life of this Strategy, Council will need to consider the decision to implement a kerbside organics collection service, to enable a dedicated collection of garden organics and possibly food. Currently, all Lockyer Valley residents are provided with a weekly 240L residual waste (red lidded) bin and a fortnightly 240L recycle (yellow lidded) bin.

Council will also focus on education to address understanding of what resources go into which bins, with the objective of increasing diversion and reducing contamination.



The kerbside bin survey completed by EnviroCom in 2023 revealed the following insights:

- Kerbside diversion rate is 24% (excluding trial green bin)
- Overall recycling recovery rate is 57%

• **Average generation rate is 16.67kg/household/week across the red and yellow bins and consists of:**

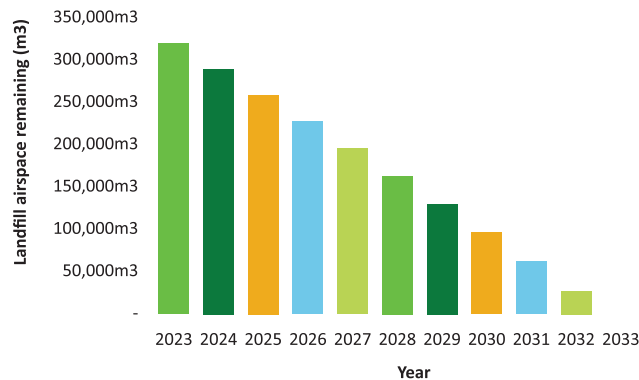
- 13.59kg general waste
- 41% of the contents could be in yellow or green (FOGO) bin
- 22% of this is either garden material or food that could go into a future green bin
- 3.08kg commingled recycling
- Contamination, as a proportion of the bin weight, has increased from 20% in 2021 to 26% in 2023
- Bin weights are decreasing as households take up the Container Deposit Scheme

Landfill capacity is running out

Council operates two active landfills, seven transfer stations and one rural bin station, with more than 85% of the population located within a 20-minute drive of a resource recovery centre.

A critical issue for the Lockyer Valley is landfill capacity. Council will need to consider the decision to stop landfilling waste at the Laidley Landfill, as it only receives less than 2000 tonnes per annum and it is more economical to operate one landfill. When Laidley Landfill is closed, it will be final capped to reduce leachate generation which has the potential to harm the environment.

This leaves the Gatton Landfill as the primary landfill for the region, and it is forecast to reach capacity around 2032, based on 314,000m² of landfill airspace remaining. The introduction of an organics collection and other resource recovery improvements will extend the life.



However, new landfill development generally takes eight to 10 years to approve and construct, so we need to consider what is the next best step to treat residual waste.

Securing a future waste disposal option is an essential element of waste infrastructure planning, to maintain public health and deliver environmental protection. Options that will be examined by Council during this Strategy, include:

- Diverting some of the existing kerbside collected residual waste to a landfill outside the region, to extend the life of the Gatton Landfill.
- Locating and developing a new landfill site within the region.
- Transporting waste out of the region to an existing landfill site, either in Toowoomba and/or the Ipswich region.
- Developing an energy from waste facility in the region, or transporting waste to an energy from waste facility outside the region.

This critical piece of planning and a preferred strategic direction will be completed by 2026, to ensure a solution can be planned and implemented by 2032. This is assuming the forecast closure of Gatton Landfill remains at 2032.



Our resource recovery targets – 2030

Council aims to contribute towards the Queensland Government’s 2030 reduction targets, but is unlikely to achieve the targets without significant financial support from the State Government to implement services such as a kerbside organics collection service. The Strategy’s targets and alignment to the Queensland Government are detailed below.

Waste reduction target for households (kg per capita)

	2023 baseline	2025 reduction target	2030 reduction target
State Target		10%	15%
Lockyer Valley Household Waste (kerbside and self-haul from households)	895kg/ household/ annum	850kg/ household/ annum (5% reduction)	805kg/ household/ annum (10% reduction)

Waste diversion from landfill (recovery rate as a percent of total household generated)

	2023 baseline	2025 reduction target	2030 reduction target
State Target		55%	70%
Lockyer Valley Household Waste (kerbside and self-haul from households)	43%	45%	50%

Recycling rates (as a percentage of total waste generated)

	2023 baseline	2025 reduction target	2030 reduction target
State Target		50%	60%
Lockyer Valley Household Waste (kerbside and self-haul from households)	43%	45%	50%





How we will get there

Council has adopted the waste hierarchy to guide our Strategy. This model aims to avoid the creation of waste in the first place, then seeks to reuse, recycle, or recover waste prior to considering a range of technologies to extract further value from resources.

The disposal of any residual waste product is the least preferred path for waste management.

Under each Focus Area within the Strategy, the waste hierarchy shown will guide Council to deliver positive actions for the efficient use of resources.

AVOID

Design out waste
Maximise product lifetime
Using less non-recyclable and hazardous material

REUSE

Cleaning
Repairing
Refurbishing

RECYCLE

Separating different waste streams
Turning waste into new products
Composting organics / food

RECOVER

Extracting full value from waste via a range of relevant technologies

TREAT

Reduce toxicity and release of pollutants in hazardous materials
Control pollution by appropriate storage of remaining toxic waste

LANDFILL

Dispose residual waste that has all value removed to landfill

Our partners

Council acknowledges it cannot achieve its goals alone and is part of a broader system. Council will foster key waste related partnerships including:

Local: Residents, business and industry, developers, visitors, volunteers, and waste-sustainability community groups

Regional: CoMSEQ Waste Group, Darling Downs/South-West Regional Waste Group

State: Department of Environment and Science, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP)

Council's Role

Partner with relevant stakeholders to deliver waste education, information, initiatives, and programs.

Improve waste infrastructure and service capacity to mitigate climate change.

Provide equitable waste services to the community.

Improve reuse and resource recovery solutions.

Demonstrate leadership in circular economy development through Council's operations.

Limit the impact of waste on the natural environment by maintaining compliance.

Manage waste in a sustainable way, both financially and operationally.

Assess our performance and set progressive improvement targets.

Community's Role

Our community plays a significant role in waste reduction by the choices they make in purchasing, resource reuse and recycling. Our community influences the quality of resources we can recover from kerbside waste, by effective waste behaviour that reduces contamination.

Dominated by the agriculture and horticulture industry, our local businesses can minimise waste creation and drive circular economy, particularly through organics recovery.

Local contractors partner with Council to deliver waste services. They can bring innovation and insight in the way Council manages waste and supports local job creation.

Visitors minimise litter in our natural and built environments.

Regional Waste Partner's Role

Drive investment, grant funding and action on regional waste projects.

Advocate for the region's waste management development through LGAQ, CoMSEQ and Darling Downs/South-West Regional Waste Group.

Inform and contribute to changes within the industry.

Lobby State and Federal government on policy and legislative changes required within the waste sector and be an active voice for Local Government.

Explore circular economy opportunities which leverage and benefit from regional economies of scale.



Focus Area 1: Avoid and reduce waste generation

A community that is encouraged to change behaviour and achieve waste avoidance, reduction and reuse



Objective

We implement and support education and behaviour change programs to maximise waste avoidance, reuse, and resource recovery.



Strategic Actions

We will create a Waste Education and Behaviour Change plan and resource it appropriately to achieve the Focus Area objective.

We will deliver programs targeting early learning, schools, industry/business, and visitors which identify and avoid waste generation and encourage greater separation of waste streams at source.

We will implement specific education programs for kerbside recycling and organics aimed to reduce contamination and educate residents to use the right bin.

We will advocate for and promote product stewardship schemes in our local community. In Queensland, this may result in programs for paint, batteries, solar panels, and mattresses.

We will perform waste characterisation surveys of kerbside and/or self-haul waste every year to collect data for use in developing targeted behaviour change programs.

We will continue a focus on illegal dumping and reducing litter and targeting known dumping locations.

We will engage with community and event planning to adopt waste practices that encourage resource recovery and separation at events.



Key Result Measures

Evolving waste education and information provided to the community to work towards the Queensland Government target of reducing amount of waste generation per capita by 2030.

Deliver outreach to broad range of community stakeholders via variety of marketing/education channels.

Targeted programs that demonstrate a measurable reduction in contamination.

Implement product stewardship programs as they are initiated, either from Federal or State Government programs.

Waste survey report completed and used to refine Waste Education and Behaviour Change programs.

Develop and implement a litter management plan.



Focus Area 2: Organics recovery and carbon management

A community that actively manages organics and limits the future climate change impact



Objective

We implement an organics recovery solution and reduce the generation of greenhouse gas.



Strategic Actions

We will recover garden organics via a proposed kerbside garden organics service. We will continue to assess the introduction of food organics.

We will manage the processing of collected organics within our local community.

We will install landfill gas capture system at the Gatton Landfill and treat with flaring and/or gas engine.

We will participate in State Government waste minimisation and organics recovery programs, as appropriate for our region.

We will collaborate and partner with local business to maximise local re-use of composted organics.



Key Result Measures

Implement kerbside garden organics service in the 2025-26 financial year.

Secured environmental approval and development infrastructure to process collected organics.

Implement and expand gas capture and treatment system at Gatton Landfill.

Food waste avoidance and ongoing outreach to community.

Local uptake of recovered organics into the agricultural/horticultural industry.



Focus - Kerbside organics implementation

The Queensland Government is strongly advocating for councils across Queensland to provide a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service to improve resource recovery. In addition to funding support for the program roll-out, the Queensland Government is increasing the waste levy from \$105/tonne to \$156.15/tonne in 2030-31 and reducing the subsidy from 95% to 20%. This will mean that by 2030, for every tonne of waste collected from households and disposed to landfill, it will cost an extra \$125/tonne.

Currently, there is a lot of uncertainty with regulation of organics processing and the standards that the final product must achieve. Due to this uncertainty, Council will introduce a kerbside Garden Organics (GO) service initially and keep assessing the viability of the food waste. If Council can treat this organic waste in an alternative way that is cheaper and recovers the resources, we can demonstrate sustainable waste and financial management. The environmental benefit is reduction in landfill emissions, production of a compost material that can be used locally in agriculture/horticulture and extending the life of the Gatton Landfill.

FOGO trial outcomes

Kerbside GO is one approach that could divert waste from landfill and avoid the increasing waste levy costs. Since August 2021, Council has completed a FOGO trial on 1000 households, with a weekly collection of FOGO and shifting the residual waste bin (red lid) to fortnightly.

Key learnings from the trial included:

- Diverted more than 390 tonnes in 12 months
- Contamination was 2-5%
- Need a focused behaviour change program to address the diverse needs of our population
- Address containerised food in FOGO bins, the fridge clean-out was the biggest contamination source
- Weekly or fortnightly collection of general waste to be explored
- Need ongoing market development for the composted material that meets stringent testing (i.e. PFAS)

Organics – the way forward

Council's strategies to reduce organics to landfill are:

- Commencement of a kerbside GO service in 2025-26 to the majority of domestic households (subject to State Government funding, approvals and procurement)
- Support of home composting initiatives
- Developing end-markets for composted materials, with a focus on using locally.

The kerbside GO service will be offered as a voluntary, user-pays service and enable interested residents to place their garden waste in a green lidded bin collected fortnightly. Council is still considering the collection of the residual bin and shifting this from weekly to fortnightly.

The most critical component of Council's organic service roll-out will be community education regarding what can be put into the GO bin, why the transition is occurring and home composting for residents in rural and remote locations who may not have access to a GO service. A comprehensive, widespread, and extended community engagement campaign is required for the introduction of a GO service to be successful.



Focus Area 3: Recovery of resources

A Council committed to improving resource recovery at our waste facilities



Objectives

Council demonstrates better practice waste management across all waste facilities.

We maximise resource recovery and extend the useful asset lives of our waste facilities, particularly the Gatton Landfill and Materials Recycling Facility.



Strategic Actions

We will prepare a business case for the recommencement of operations at the Gatton Material Recovery Facility (MRF), contingent on securing State Government funding.

We will develop an improved Tip Shop at Laidley Transfer Station for recovered goods for sale.

We will implement broader resource recovery of materials (i.e., mattresses, polystyrene, solar panels, light bulbs, gas cylinders, fire extinguishers, timber, etc.).

We will improve quality of recovered materials and prioritise re-use within Council's operations to demonstrate circular economy leadership.

We will improve the operational efficiency of Council's waste facilities.

Continue to review and deliver better practice options for disposal of residual waste.



Key Result Measures

Operate the Gatton MRF, creating local employment, avoid the need to transport material outside the region, and reduce recycling costs for ratepayers.

Increased waste diversion and recycling rates at waste facilities.

Higher uptake of product re-use with the local economy, particularly within Council's operation.

Continual focus on cost and operational efficiency of the whole waste facility network.

Ongoing assessment and if viable, adopt improved resource recovery and disposal of residual waste.

Focus Area 4: Sustainable waste services and infrastructure

A Council that plans our future waste services and infrastructure needs



Objectives

We demonstrate strategic service-delivery planning and investment in infrastructure.

We maximise the life of the Gatton Landfill.

Our waste operations are compliant.



Strategic Actions

We will rationalise the waste transfer facility network with appropriate opening times to service the community needs.

We will undertake a master planning and upgrade program to rationalise waste transfer facilities to achieve resource recovery gains and improved customer experience.

We will improve compaction rate and operational performance at Gatton Landfill to extend the remaining life.

We will undertake planning, approvals, and procurement to implement the preferred long-term residual waste disposal solution, based on continual monitoring of the Gatton Landfill life.

Assess the development of a new transfer station to service the growing Plainland area.

Seek amendments to the Environmental Authority for Council's waste operations that reflect outcome from preferred waste disposal options.

Closure of Laidley Landfill (not the transfer station) and complete ongoing rehabilitation and after-care of legacy landfills.

Review and improve the environmental management of Council's waste facilities. An example of this is a High-Efficiency Sediment Basin (HES) at Gatton Landfill to improve stormwater quality.



Key Result Measures

Although existing Council waste facilities are a 20-minute drive for 85% of residents, ensuring convenient access to waste management services is an important consideration in planning.

Community satisfaction levels to waste are maintained or improved.

Extend the life of Gatton Landfill beyond 2032.

Future residual waste disposal security is planned and ready for delivery, based on Gatton Landfill life.

Subject to budget, remediation of Laidley and legacy landfills will be carried out progressively to mitigate environmental and financial impacts on Council.

Waste facilities demonstrate better practice environmental management with nil non-compliances.

Focus - Lockyer Valley waste facilities

For this Strategy, Council’s aim is that 85% of residents are within a 20-minute drive of a waste facility. This benchmark will be used to guide the rationalisation of the waste facility network which costs more than \$1M per annum to operate. The objective of the rationalisation is to improve infrastructure, customer experience and the consistency of service across a smaller number of sites, to ensure we target resource recovery and manage capital investment in a financially sustainable way.



Current		
Site	Opening hours/week	Customers/day
Gatton	61	48
Laidley	61	48
Withcott	36	15
Murphys Creek	8	5
Grantham	24	6
Helidon	8	5
Lockyer Waters	20	4

The rationalisation will aim to deliver:

- Enable 85% of residents to access a facility within a 20-minute drive from their house.
- Opening days and hours that provide access for domestic and commercial customers on weekdays and weekends.
- Improvements to the front-end resource recovery infrastructure and consistency in recovery services offered.
- Extend the remaining life of Gatton Landfill, due to improved sorting and resource recovery.

As part of the network review, Council will consider the future growth of the Plainland area and what waste transfer station infrastructure is needed. This may mean considering suitable land and development of a transfer station (not landfill), if it achieves a better long-term community outcome.

Focus Area 5: Leading by example

A Council that leads by example



Objective

We collaborate at a regional level to create opportunities to manage waste and resources at scale and secure funding.

We explore opportunities to increase sustainability and build a circular economy.

We operate a financially sustainable waste business, based on the principles of full-cost pricing.



Strategic Actions

Collaborate on regional waste management and resource recovery solutions through CoMSEQ and Darling Downs/South-West waste management groups.

Source opportunities and obtain funding to deliver waste programs and initiatives.

Integrate circular economy principles into Council's waste operations business and the broader Council operation to utilise recovered materials locally.

Maintain the full-cost pricing approach to the waste business.

Develop and implement a data collection method for consistent reporting on Queensland Government targets and reporting on Key Result Areas specified in this Strategy.



Key Result Measures

Council is actively engaged in regional collaboration and solutions which maximise the potential for knowledge and cost sharing.

Council targets and secures funding to mitigate the cost impact of resource recovery on ratepayers.

Council advocates for investment in local circular economy.

Annual review and development of full-cost price model, rehabilitation model and 10-year capital works program.

Improved reporting of waste performance for management and the community.



Monitor and review

Review, measure and recalibrate

A review of the Strategy will be completed every three years to ensure it remains current and relevant and will be updated as necessary.

A biennial report card of progress in the Key Result Measures will be developed and Council will provide feedback to the Lockyer Valley community.

Council will aim to produce its first report in 2026 and the key result measures that will be tracked include:

- Waste generation
- Resource recovery metrics
- Contamination – recycling and organics
- Progress on Focus Areas and delivery of strategic initiatives
- Gatton Landfill life and utilisation rate
- Progress on the implementation of the kerbside organics service

Funding and financial sustainability

The targets and actions outlined in this Strategy are designed to be achievable and some are essential to Council's ongoing ability to deliver the essential service of waste management to the community. Many of the larger infrastructure projects require capital expenditure on waste facilities and will need to be included in Council's 10-year capital works program and long-term financial forecasts. The significant projects forecast during this Strategy include:

- Cell constructions at Gatton Landfill - > \$4M
- Gatton HES basin - > \$1.5M
- Laidley Landfill rehabilitation - >\$ 6M
- Legacy landfill rehabilitation (combined) - >12M
- Gatton MRF upgrade - > \$4M (subject to State funding)

The Queensland waste levy is a market-based instrument that incentivises avoidance of waste and recycling over landfill disposal and is retained by the State Government. A portion of the waste levy revenue is set aside for Local Government to fund waste, resource and circular economy programs and initiatives. Council will vigorously advocate and pursue funding from the State Government to implement initiatives outlined in this Strategy.

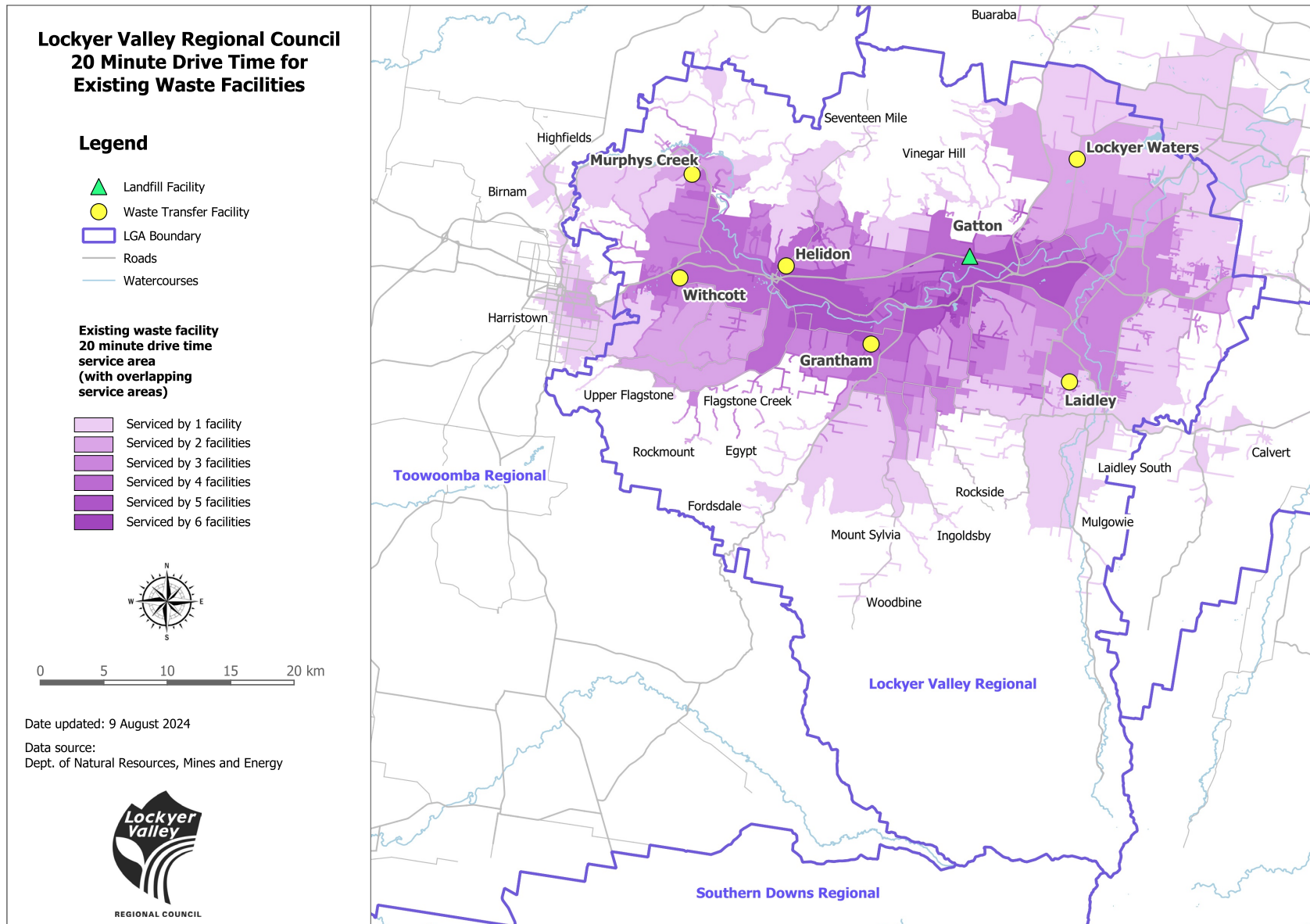
APPENDIX A – Waste facilities

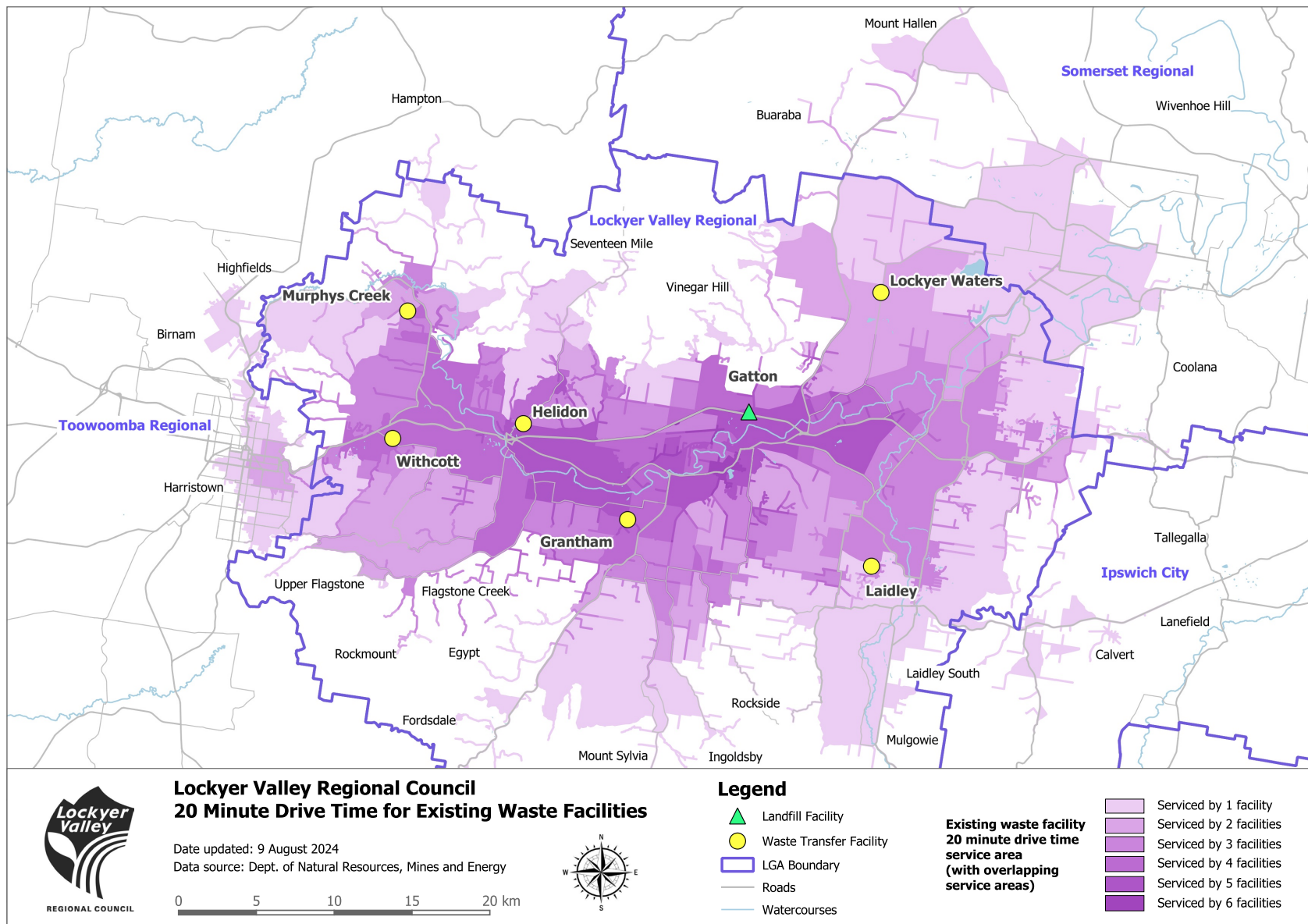
Council currently delivers the following services across the Lockyer Valley:

- Kerbside general waste collection
- Kerbside recycling collection
- Two landfill (waste disposal) facilities
- Five supervised transfer stations
- Recovery Shop at Gatton Waste Facility - smaller ones at every site
- Litter and illegal dumping removal
- Waste education

	Open hours per week	Customers accepted	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Weigh bridge	Front end recovery	Transfer station	Tip shop	Green waste pad	Bulky waste pad
Landfill and Transfer Station															
Gatton	63	All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laidley	63	All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supervised Transfer Stations															
Grantham	24	Domestic only	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Helidon	8	Domestic only	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Lockyer Waters	20	Domestic only	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Murphys Creek	12	Domestic only	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Withcott	36	Domestic only	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓

APPENDIX B – Waste facility coverage maps





APPENDIX C - Policy and legislative framework

Government level	Waste targets and responsibility
Federal	<p>Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020</p> <p>Established a national framework to manage waste and recycling. It includes export bans on recyclable products and aims to stimulate economic activity and job creation while setting targets for waste reduction and increased recycling.</p>
	<p>National Waste Policy 2018</p> <p>Adopts five principles that support the vision of a circular economy where we maintain the value of resources for as long as possible. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid waste • improve resource recovery • increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products • better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment, and the economy • improved information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions
	<p>National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019</p> <p>Established targets and actions to implement the 2018 National Waste Policy to guide investment and national efforts to 2030 and beyond. Targets and actions focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • export ban of waste plastics, paper, glass and tyres • waste generation and resource recovery rates from all waste streams • use of recycled content by governments and industry • problematic and unnecessary plastics • organic waste sent to landfill • data for industry and community decision making

Government level	Waste targets and responsibility
Federal	<p>2025 National Packaging Targets</p> <p>These targets apply to all packaging that is made, used, and sold in Australia and Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) is responsible for facilitating their delivery. Supported by Australian industry and government to deliver a new and sustainable approach to packaging, the 2025 targets are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging • 70% of plastic packaging being recycled or composted • 50% of average recycled content included in packaging (revised from 30% in 2020) • the phase out of problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics packaging <p>National Plastic Plan 2021</p> <p>A plan to address plastic waste at the source through prevention, take responsibility for our plastics through better recycling and address challenges of plastics in our homes and in our oceans and waterways. The RecycleMate App encourages people to find out what they can and can't recycle more easily.</p> <p>Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF)</p> <p>The RMF will generate more than \$600M of recycling investment in new infrastructure to sort, process and remanufacture materials such as mixed plastic, paper, tyres, and glass.</p>

Government level	Waste targets and responsibility
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State	<p>Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011</p> <p>All local governments are required to adopt a Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan that sets out clear guidelines and targets to meet the objectives under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act. Information required includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population growth forecast • residential and commercial development • waste types and quantities handled • services and facilities in place to manage the various types of waste according to the waste and resource management hierarchy • an action plan to chart a course towards meeting the State’s waste and resource management strategy goals and targets
	<p>Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2019</p> <p>A strategic plan for a better way of managing waste in Queensland by harnessing the potential value of resources that have traditionally been discarded. Key targets are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% reduction in household waste by 2050 • 90% of waste is recovered and does not go to landfill by 2050 • 75% recycling rates across all waste types by 2050
	<p>Waste Disposal Levy 2019</p> <p>The State Government introduced a waste levy in July 2019 to disincentivise disposal of waste to landfill. To protect ratepayers from rising disposal costs, the State has been reimbursing local governments for the levy fees incurred on household waste, however, this payment is set to reduce significantly over the coming years.</p>
	<p>Resource Recovery Industries 10-year Roadmap and Action Plan 2019</p> <p>Sets out a plan to support industry growth and job creation in resource recovery, including framework for grant funding. Interacts with resource recovery precinct planning provides for beneficial co-location of recycling and post-recycling.</p>

Government level	Waste targets and responsibility
State	<p>Single-Use Plastics Bans</p> <p>The State Government banned single-use plastic bags in July 2018 and passed laws in December 2020 to ban other single-use plastic products, including straws, from 1 September 2021. Other single-use plastic items are continually being reviewed for inclusion in the ban.</p>
	<p>Recycling Modernisation Fund</p> <p>A joint initiative of the Queensland and Australian governments providing \$40M in funding support for industry infrastructure expansions or upgrades to address gaps in the State’s waste reprocessing capacity.</p>
	<p>Organics Strategy 2022-2032</p> <p>Provides the overarching framework and action for improved management of organic materials along the organics supply chain and consumption chain.</p>
	<p>Organics Action Plan 2022-2032</p> <p>Provides a clear roadmap for how Queensland plans to avoid generating organic waste, reduce the impacts of organic waste on the environment and communities, transition to a circular economy and build economic and market opportunity for the organics recycling industry.</p>
	<p>Energy from Waste Policy 2021</p> <p>Non-statutory policy that sets the framework for role of EfW in Queensland and key performance and compliance indicators.</p>
	<p>Containers for Change collection scheme</p> <p>Queensland container refund scheme facilitates a 10c refund for eligible drink containers at approved container refund points. Recently approved inclusion of wine and spirit bottles from November 2023.</p>

Government level	Waste targets and responsibility
Regional Plans	<p>CoMSEQ and Darling Downs</p> <p>Non-statutory plan for the Council of Mayors of South-East Queensland (CoMSEQ) and Darling Downs group of Councils.</p>
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	<p>Corporate Plan 2022-2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockyer Nature (3) – Council and the community actively reduce waste, recycle, and reuse more.





Sort your waste and save!



**FREQUENTLY STOPPING & REVERSING
CAUTION DUAL CONTROL VEHICLE**

**DO NOT OVERTAKE
TURNING VEHICLE**

**JJ'S
Waste &
Recycling**

**JJ'S
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Recycling**



REGIONAL COUNCIL

PO Box 82, Gatton Qld 4343

P 1300 005 872

E mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au

www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au