

# Central Coast Council

## Waste Management Strategy 2021–2026

November 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

The Central Coast Council (Council) recognises that the future of waste management, from a local, regional, state and national perspective is changing.

The Tasmanian Governments Waste Action Plan 2019 outlines the key target areas for improving the way in which waste materials are used in a suitable manner.

The Tasmanian Government is to introduce a legislated waste levy and container refund scheme in 2022. These two major changes will affect the future landscape of the waste industry, providing an increase in opportunities, diversion techniques and infrastructure.

Councils waste management services and infrastructure are both wide and varied. The implementation of a kerbside food organics garden organics (FOGO) service has increased a large percentage of the organics stream away from landfill. Council operates a network of transfer stations and an inert landfill, provides public area collections and is actively involved in the regional waste group and an owner and active member of Dulverton.

The purpose of the strategy is to reduce the environmental and financial impacts of waste generation whilst placing Council in the best place possible to optimize opportunities in policy change, grants and contract alignment to improve waste diversion outcomes.

### **Vision**

The Central Coasts Councils Waste Management Strategy 2021–2026 provides a framework to guide efficient, environmentally responsible and cost effective decisions for the delivery of Council managed waste services.

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular economy is aimed at minimising waste and recognising that most waste is, or could be, designed to be reused or recycled rather than simply used and disposed of. Waste materials should become inputs for other processes, either as a component or as a recycled raw material. This approach contrasts the traditional linear economy which has a “take, make, dispose” model of production.

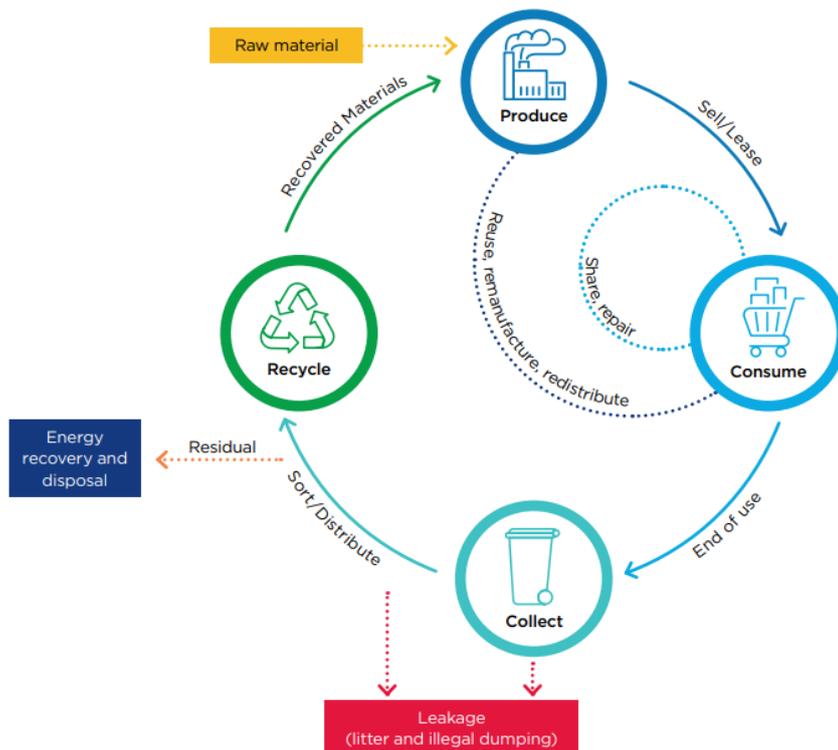


Figure 1: Circular Economy (NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041).

## WASTE HIERARCHY

The waste management hierarchy is a crucial tool used that underpins the decision making process when it comes to avoiding waste and maximising economic value.

Whilst Council is a leader and advocating for change is embedded in the strategic direction and actions, much of the higher-level actions (avoid, reduce, reuse) lies in the responsibility of the individual.

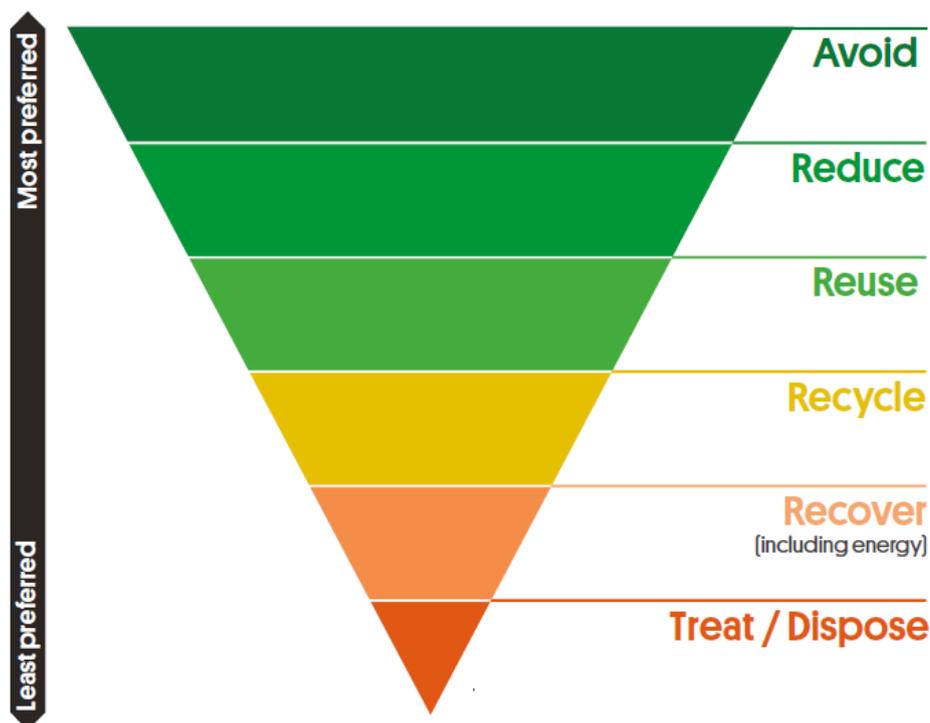


Figure 2: Waste Hierarchy (Green Industries SA, Strategic Plan 2021-2025).

## RELEVANT POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The alignment of the Central Coast Councils waste management strategy is to align practices with state and regional policy. With the current status of the Tasmanian Governments introduction of the legislated statewide levy and the changes to the voluntary regional waste levy, Council has aligned with the Tasmanian Governments Draft Waste Action Plan 2019.

### Tasmanian Draft Waste Action Plan

The Tasmanian, Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) Draft Waste Action Plan 2019 sets out a broad framework for waste management and resource recovery.

The focus areas are:

1. Moving to a Circular Economy
2. Governance
3. Data, targets, and innovation networks
4. Infrastructure planning
5. Support for the Resource Recovery Industry
6. Education and community engagement
7. State and National Policy and Regulatory setting.

Table 1: Targets of the Tasmanian Draft Waste Action Plan 2019.

ACTION	TARGET
1. Reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill	25% by 2025 50% by 2030
2. Have the lowest incidence of littering in the country	By 2030
3. Achieve an average recovery rate from all waste streams	40% by 2025 80% by 2030
4. Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics	By 2030
5. Ensure 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable	By 2025
6. Reduce waste generated in Tasmania	5% by 2025 10% by 2030

## **STATEWIDE WASTE LEVY**

The Central Coast Council is part of the voluntary regional waste levy and is an active member. The regional waste group has contributed to regional programs as well as a Statewide educational program called Rethink Waste.

The waste levy will enable funding to be available for projects directly relating to the Draft Waste Action Plan 2019.

The Tasmanian Government is developing an organics and infrastructure strategy, which will be implemented as part of the overarching strategic plan

## **CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME**

The Container Refund Scheme (CRS) will provide opportunities for the community to deposit eligible containers and redeem monetary incentives.

The CRS will be a key part of the Tasmanian Government meeting littering targets and to generate cleaner streams of recyclable materials.

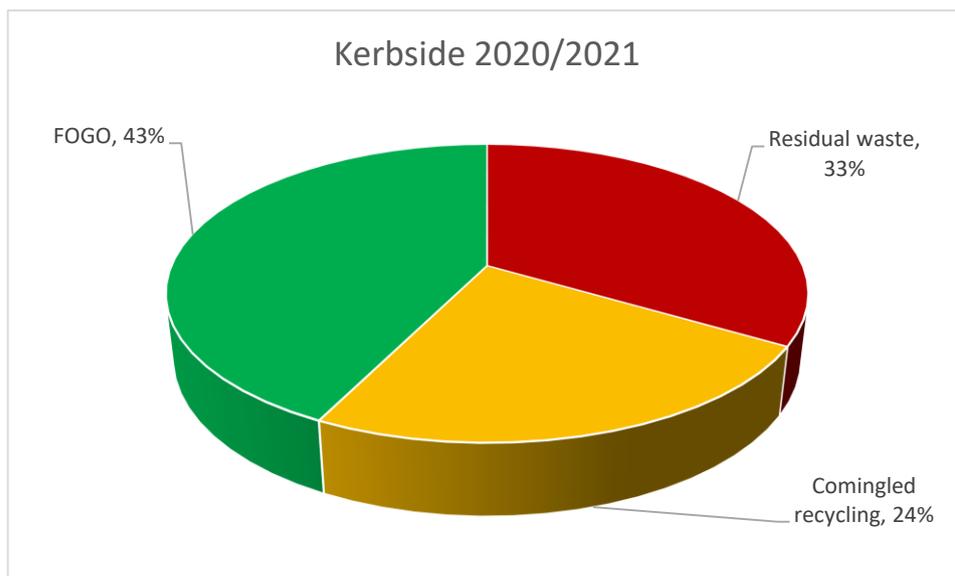
The transition of eligible containers from the kerbside comingled recycling bins to the CRS drop off points will potentially see a decrease in the materials collected through the kerbside system.

## TARGETS

The Central Coast Council has achieved a high level of diversion, through the practices implemented at the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre and the introduction of a kerbside food organics garden organics (FOGO) service.

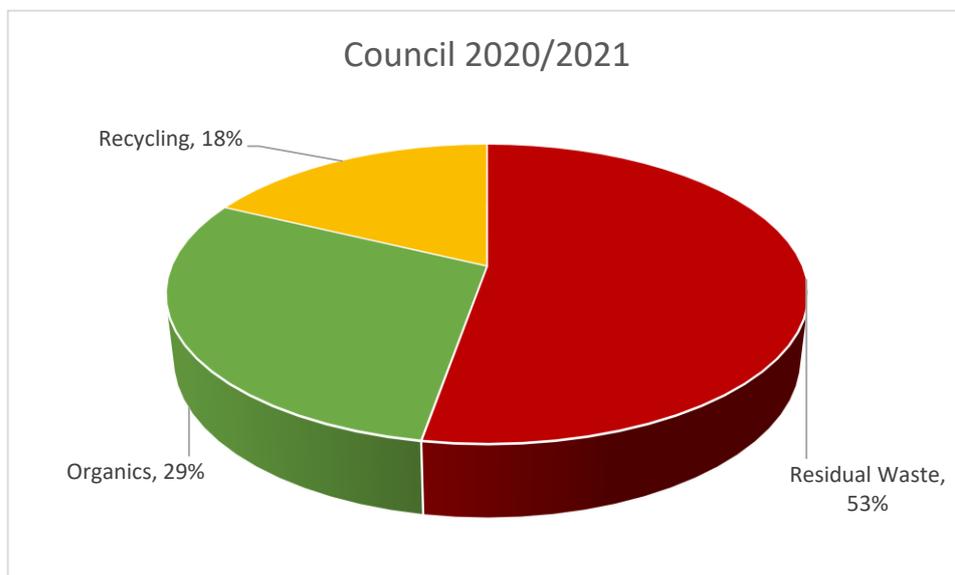
Diversion from the kerbside stream achieved 67%. Opportunities still exist for further diversion, such as the food organics in the waste stream.

Figure 3: Kerbside 2020/2021 diversion breakdown



The overall, Council wide diversion is achieving 47%. This includes all waste materials managed by Council, including kerbside, transfer stations and the inert landfill.

Figure 4: Council 2020/2021 diversion breakdown



The Central Coast Council, through the objectives selected and the actions to be implemented have set a series of measureable targets.

Table 2: Targets

ACTION	TARGET
1. Divert materials from landfill (Council wide)	75% by 2026
2. Compliant with relevant environmental legislation and licences 3. Educate, promote and engage with the community 4. Maintain and promote partnerships	100%

## OBJECTIVES

The Central Coast Council has developed five key objectives that will drive diversion from landfill, increase resource recovery and recycling through better management and a circular economy and to educate, engage and inform the community.

### Objective 1: Waste Diversion

Diversion of waste from landfill, and to also look at the best use of these materials as a resource. This can be achieved through recycling, reuse and reprocessing.

The waste industry is changing rapidly in response to policy and regulation change from state directives. These include landfill levies and future grant opportunities.

#### Objective 1 Actions:

##### Action 1.1

- Increase Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection throughout the municipality

##### Action 1.2

- Continue to support the re-sale shop and other re-sale opportunities

##### Action 1.3

- Develop and implement a two year plan for the upgrading of the Public Area waste systems

##### Action 1.4

- Implement a robust data collection and analysis program of all Councils waste programs

## Objective 2: Infrastructure and Service Planning

Key assets within Council include the inert landfill and transfer station network as well as the public areas infrastructure.

Future opportunities to further enhance the inert landfill and transfer station network that provide a benefit to Council and the community through enhanced capabilities.

### Objective 2 Actions:

#### Action 2.1

- Develop a Master Plan for the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre

#### Action 2.2

- Implement improved Public Area waste systems, including locations, infrastructure etc.

#### Action 2.3

- Review all materials accepted at the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre

#### Action 2.4

- Review all materials accepted at the Rural Transfer Stations

### Objective 3: Environmental Compliance

Ensuring the inert landfill is compliant with the EPA licence to operate is critical in the success of this asset.

#### Objective 3 Actions:

##### Action 3.1

- Annual reporting against the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre EPA environmental licence conditions

##### Action 3.2

- Minimise the impacts of litter and illegal dumping on the environment

##### Action 3.3

- Monitor and report on historic, closed landfill sites within the municipality, including Penguin, West Ulverstone, South Riana, Preston and any others

## Objective 4: Education and Engagement

Promotion of activities within the waste industry will provide an opportunity for the community to be actively involved and understand the evidence based reasons behind policy change. Informed understanding and engagement will provide education on the value of resources in the community.

### Objective 4 Actions:

#### Action 4.1

- Provide adequate resources to ensure the successful delivery of the waste management strategy

#### Action 4.2

- Promote Circular Economy through Councils internal and external purchasing policy

#### Action 4.3

- Exceed the communities requirements of waste services provided

#### Action 4.4

- Inform the community of the impacts on the environment from litter and illegal dumping

## Objective 5: Partnerships

Continuing to prosper and grow partnerships within the region and also on a statewide basis will ensure that the municipality continues to lead.

### Objective 5 Actions:

#### Action 5.1

- Continue ownership of the Dulverton Waste Management business and be an active participant

#### Action 5.2

- Establish formal arrangements with the region to manage / contract selected waste streams

#### Action 5.3

- Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement a successful legislated Statewide Waste Levy

#### Action 5.4

- Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement a successful Container Refund Scheme

#### Action 5.5

- Monitor opportunities to be a participant in national Product Stewardship Schemes

## IMPLEMENTATION TIMEFRAMES

The actions outlined under each of the objectives have been developed to align with the Tasmanian Governments key areas and targets. The timeframes have been assigned to ensure adequate resources are available for outcomes to be achieved.

Table 3: Actions for each objective with associated implementation timeframes

ACTION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
1.1 Increase Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection throughout the municipality					
1.2 Continue to support the re-sale shop and other re-sale opportunities					
1.3 Develop and implement a two year plan for the upgrading of the Public Area waste systems					
1.4 Implement a robust data collection and analysis program of all Councils waste programs					
2.1 Develop a Master Plan for the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre					
2.2 Implement improved Public Area waste systems, including locations, infrastructure etc.					
2.3 Review all materials accepted at the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre					
2.4 Review all materials accepted at the Rural Transfer Station					

ACTION	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
3.1 Annual reporting against the Lobster Creek Resource Recovery Centre EPA environmental licence conditions					
3.2 Minimise the impacts of litter and illegal dumping on the environment					
3.3 Monitor and report on historic, closed landfill sites within the municipality, including Penguin, West Ulverstone, South Riana, Preston and any others					
4.1 Provide adequate resources to ensure the successful delivery of the waste management strategy					
4.2 Promote Circular Economy through Councils internal and external purchasing policy					
4.3 Exceed the communities requirements of waste services provided					
4.4 Inform the community of the impacts on the environment from litter and illegal dumping					
5.1 Continue ownership of the Dulverton Waste Management business and be an active participant					
5.2 Establish formal arrangements with the region to manage / contract selected waste streams					
5.3 Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement a successful legislated Statewide Waste Levy					
5.4 Work in partnership with the Tasmanian Government to implement a successful Container Refund Scheme					
5.5 Monitor opportunities to be a participant in national Product Stewardship Schemes					

## **REFERENCES**

TAS DPIWE, Draft Waste Action Plan 2019.

NSW DPIE, NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy – 2041.

Green Industries SA, Strategic Plan 2021–2025.