

Waste Strategy 2023 - 2027



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Walcha Council

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1 Executive Summary

This document sets out Walcha Council's ambitions for sustainable waste management, incorporating increased resource recovery and recycling.

There is an ongoing need to realise improvements through planned initiatives and programs to ensure Council's investment in waste management services achieve a cost neutral sustainable outcomes.

Waste management practices are increasingly influenced by NSW EPA and national waste policies. However, planned actions are also formulated with regard to local considerations, budgets and capabilities.

This plan sets out a strategy to enhance the provision of waste services that is more sustainable to the community, Council and the environment.

The Waste Strategy comprises seven key strategic themes that are consistent with the Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) Strategy which Walcha is a part of this set of Themes, Objectives and Aims forms the basis of Council's strategic intent.

2 Strategic and Operational Objectives

The Waste Strategy comprises seven key strategic themes that have developed Council's strategic and operational objectives for waste management. The areas in which Council target to improve its serviceability in the area of waste are:

2.1 Theme 1. Avoid and Reduce Waste Generation

Council's objective is to guide the community in reducing the generation of unnecessary waste.

AIM: To reduce overall waste generation and increase landfill life.

ACTION: Community Communication & Education

Launch a competition in Walcha to have school kids develop a poster for the community education message (within Council's guidelines). Update community posters and signage on bins to provide clear and consistent identification of what goes in each bin. Update website and promote Recycle Mate App. One-page flyer that is poster and insert for the Apsley Advocate (3 age brackets).

Increasing recycling rates will:

- reduces the requirement for weekly landfill collections,
- increases the remaining service life on the landfill,
- reduces cost to operate landfill,
- increase income from recycling product sales,

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- better for the environment.

2.2 Theme 2. Increase Recycling

Council's objective is to maximise separation, processing, recycling and/or reuse of all waste materials.

AIMS:

- Improved recycling of business waste,
- Increased recycling collected from households in kerbside bins,
- Increased opportunities for recycling in public places,
- Increased business interest in, and understanding of, the value of recycling,
- Reduced disposal of organic waste to landfill,
- Reduced disposal of residual waste (general waste), from recycling activities and to landfill,

ACTIONS:

- Develop business plan to inform if Council should change from commingled recycling to separate crate collection services,
- Aim to establish a redemption system for eligible beverage containers,
- Transitioning to household FOGO services by 2030.

2.3 Theme 3. Increase Community Recycling (CRC) Problem Waste Capture

Council's objective is to ensure that comprehensive and sustainable service arrangements are in place for the community to safely dispose of problem wastes.

AIMS:

- Ongoing, affordable and convenient community disposal of problem wastes.
- Ongoing increase in community reuse and recycling.
- Increase the remaining service life on the landfill.

ACTIONS:

- Increase education in the CRC wastes that can be dropped off for free

2.4 Theme 4. Reduce littering

Council's ambition is to create a cleaner Walcha region where all residents play an active part in protecting the environment and improving quality of life.

AIMS:

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- Support the NSW litter reduction target by achieving a 60% reduction in the volume of litter in the region by 2030, and 30% reduction in plastics litter by 2025,
 - Participate and support where possible, various state and national clean up and enforcement campaigns.

ACTIONS:

- Increased signage on public bins (linked to theme 1),
- Increased community education (linked to theme 1).

2.5 Theme 5. Reduce Illegal Dumping of Waste

Council's objective is to minimize the incidence of illegal dumping and pursue dumping incidents to the extent of available powers.

AIMS:

- Work in partnership with the community and Northern Inland Regional Waste to minimize illegal waste dumping.
- Continue to work with Councils Regulatory Services and the NSW EPA to achieve a reduction in illegal dumping incidents.

ACTIONS:

- Increased community education on Reporting Illegal Dumping (RID) online reporting.

2.6 Theme 6. Sustainable Integrated Waste Management

Council's objective is to develop, manage and improve waste services and infrastructure consistent with protecting the environment and best use of resources within the region.

AIMS:

- Protect the environment.
- Provide efficient waste management services covering the cost of providing these services.
- Effective and efficient asset management.
- Best use of available waste management resources within the region.
- Improve the planning and development application process to have a stronger focus on waste management during construction/fit out stages.
- Support ongoing business operations to develop industry-based templates for waste management plans that would be reviewed periodically.
- Ongoing, affordable and convenient community disposal wastes.
- Ongoing increase in community reuse and recycling.
- Increased remaining service life on the landfill.

ACTIONS:

2.7 Walcha Waste Transfer Facility

- Close the Walcha Waste Transfer Facility for 2 days during the week (Monday & Thursday) and open on a Saturday & Sunday afternoon, this should give greater satisfaction to residents however will impact business's (closed Monday and Fridays and open for half a day on Saturday and Sunday 12:00 – 16:00),
- Introduce local contractor pre-approved unattended access arrangements for access on Mondays & Fridays to reduce impact local business when the site is closed,
 - Agreement to include but not limited too:
 - Annual Agreement
 - Induction
 - Security bond
- Install CCTV for staff safety and compliance,
- Introduce voucher scheme for rural waste rate payers to allow 52 tip tickets per ratable property to bring waste (1 bin per ticket) to the Walcha Waste Facility (additional vouchers available at cost)
- Long Term - Consider increasing kerbside collection services,
- Consider investing in renewed processing capacity for recycled processing to achieve increased efficiencies and income from the commodity (linked to Theme 7 kerbside & recycling).
 - Glass Crushing
 - Simplified material handling and processing ahead of processing

2.8 Woolbrook Waste Transfer Facility

- Carry out final capping of the landfill cell (EPA requirement),
 - Introduce smart lock access system one fob per rural ratable property with access limited to daylight hours with 52 access per year, install CCTV to manage site usage (additional services available at cost).
- New access agreements to only allow the following:
- General Waste to be placed in the skip/hook bins only,
 - Recycling Waste to be placed in the site recycling bins only,
 - Scrap Metal ONLY to be piled up on site in the designated area,
- Long Term –
 - Consider increasing kerbside collection services.
 - Consider closing facility if not financially sustainable and appropriately used.

2.9 Nowendoc Waste Transfer Facility

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- Carry out final capping of the landfill cell (EPA requirement),
 - Introduce smart lock access system one fob per rural ratable property with access limited to daylight hours with 52 access per year, install CCTV to manage site usage (additional services available at cost).

New access agreements to only allow the following:

- General Waste to be placed in the skip/hook bins only,
 - Recycling Waste to be placed in the site recycling bins only,
 - Scrap Metal ONLY to be piled up on site in the designated area,
- Long Term –
 - Consider increasing kerbside collection services.
 - Consider closing facility if not financially sustainable and appropriately used.

2.10 Yarrowitch Waste Transfer Facility

- Long Term - Consider increasing kerbside collection services.
- Introduce smart lock access system one fob per rural ratable property with access limited to daylight hours with 52 access per year, install CCTV to manage site usage.

New access agreements to only allow the following:

- General Waste to be placed in wheelie bins,
- Recycling Waste to be placed in the site recycling bins only.

2.11 North Street Recycling Hub

- Permanently close the recycling hub, this facility is being abused continually filling the bins rather than take their recycling to the Waste Depot that is 5 minutes away. This takes up a considerable amount of time to manage the facility to continually empty the bins. The original intent was to provide a facility to caravanners and motorhomes that were using the dumpezy to be able to empty their small quantities of waste and recycling. This is no longer the case.

2.12 Theme 7. Internal Council Waste Management Initiatives

Council's objective is to demonstrate, manage and improve waste services and infrastructure within its own buildings and facilities where possible.

AIMS:

- A whole-of-Council approach to modern waste management and resource recovery practices and policies,
- Develop waste management plans for Council facilities,

- Improve internal education opportunities for staff about Council waste management and resource recovery activities,
- Investigate new diversion opportunities e.g. glass.

ACTIONS:

- Develop a Walcha Council tender for the kerbside collection 12m with the option for two 12m extensions.
- Develop a business case to bring the kerbside collections inhouse with increased recycling processing
- Review Councils collection vehicles in line with the above waste collection services.
- Develop simple low-cost Windrow FOGO processing at the Walcha Waste Facility
- Develop landfill management plan to maximise cell life and EPL compliance, e.g. compaction & daily cover.
- Develop enhanced internal waste management procedures to maximise waste/cost recovery and minimise waste to landfill.
- Increase the capacity of bailed storage area to allow for greater quantities to be stored without damage to the product occurring.
- Improve signage for both safety and direction purposes.
- Improve welfare facilities for staff.
- Install scrap metal sorting bins to increase value for sorted metal.
- Upgrade the recycling sorting and glass conveyor/crusher.

3 Additional Considerations and Supporting Information

3.1 Service area numbers & income

	DWM Services	Income	Approx. Operating Cost
Walcha	751	\$553,487	\$580,000
Woolbrook	24	\$17,688	Included above

	RWM Services	Income	Approx. Operating Cost
Nowendoc	96	\$27,264	\$50,000
Woolbrook	25	\$7,100	\$30,000
Yarrowich	137	\$38,908	\$20,000
Walcha	630	\$178,920	\$240,000

	No of Services	Income	Approx. Operating Cost
CWM	117	\$40,000	\$45,000
COWM	22	\$1573	Included above

3.2 Introduction of FOGO

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) is a kerbside collection service that allows food to be added to the green lid garden waste bin so it can be recycled into top quality compost.

The NSW government has mandated the collection of residential food waste through a kerbside food and garden collection system for all households by 2030. Local governments in NSW, as part of the commitment, will be required to introduce separate food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collections for households.

Walcha Council is a part of the Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) group which aims to facilitate collaboration between Councils to achieve strategic outcomes and approaches to managing waste on a regional basis.

NIRW has engaged MRA Consulting Group to generate a feasibility study for the introduction of an efficient, and cost-effective FOGO service for the Northern Inland Regional community.

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4 Definitions

- DWM – Domestic Waste Management
- CWM – Commercial Waste Management
- RWM – Rural Waste Management
- COWM – Commercial Organic Waste Management
- FO – Food Organics
- GO – Garden Organics
- FOGO – Food & Garden Organics

5 Service Definitions

- Kerbside collection – Three service collection (green, red & recycling)
- Rural Waste Fee – 52 vouchers per year for 1 wheelie bin per ratable property, or
- Access to Woolbrook, Nowendoc & Yarrowitch WTS – for rural rate payers who's rated property postal address is in the WTS area. Only access to one facility or the vouchers will be available to each waste rate paying property additional services at additional cost (52 access visits/year).
- Local Contractor Pre-Approved Unattended Access Arrangements – application process with a security bond held for inappropriate usage. Monthly account holders only with payment levied for waste delivered on self-registration on Mondays & Fridays 8:30am – 4:30pm only (verified by CCTV).
- All Properties within the Walcha LGA shall pay waste rates, if you are within a kerbside collection area as per Councils kerbside collection map kerbside rates shall apply, all other property areas shall pay rural waste rates.

6 Action Plan

Where	Theme	What	Priority	When / post adoption	Cost
Community	1	Develop School Education/Poster Competition	1	Y1 Q1	Low
Internal	2	Develop business case for recycling to change from commingled to source separated	1	Y1 Q1	Low
Internal	2	Explore opportunities to have CDS redemption in Walcha	2	Y1 Q2	Low
Internal	3	Utilise NIRW CRC media items to increase awareness	2	Y1 Q2	Low

Internal	4	Increased signage on public bins (linked to theme 1)	2	Y1 Q2	Low
Internal	4	Increased community education (linked to theme 1) Increased usage of social media and posters	2	Y1 Q2	Low
Internal	5	Increased community education on Reporting Illegal Dumping (RID) online reporting usage of social media and posters	4	Y2 Q1	Low
Internal	6	Implement changes in opening hours	1	Y1 Q1	Low
Walcha	6	Implement local contractor access arrangements	1	Y1 Q1	Low
Walcha	6	Install CCTV at Walcha Waste Facility	1	Y1 Q1	\$5k
Walcha	6	Implement voucher scheme for rural waste rate payers	1	Y1 Q1	\$4k
Internal	6	Develop business case for increasing kerbside collections areas within the LGA	2	Y1 Q3	Low
Internal	6	Seek grant funding to deliver safety improvements for material handling e.g. glass and recycling	1	Y1 Q2	\$100k
Woolbrook	6	Carry out final capping of the landfill cell	1	Y1 Q1	\$25k
Woolbrook	6	Introduce smart lock access control	1	In Prog	\$0
Woolbrook	6	Install CCTV	1	Y1 Q1	\$5k
Nowendoc	6	Introduce smart lock access control	1	In Prog	\$0
Nowendoc	6	Install CCTV	1	Y1 Q1	\$5k
North Street	6	Permanently close the recycling hub	1	Y1 Q1	Low
Internal	7	Develop 12m kerbside tender	1	Y1 Q2	Low
Internal	7	Develop business case for bringing kerbside collections in house	3	Y1 Q3	\$5k
Internal	7	Review Councils collection vehicles & plant to meet the requirements of the changing activities	3	Y1 Q4	Low
Internal	7	Develop business case for FOGO collection and processing with NIRW	3	Y1 Q3	Low
Internal	7	Update landfill management plan	4	Y1 Q4	\$5k
Internal	7	Develop enhanced internal waste management procedures	2	Y1 Q3	Low
Walcha	7	Increase capacity of bailed storage area (post recycling business case)	3	Y1 Q2	\$20k
All sites	7	Improve site signage for safety and direction	1	Y1 Q1	\$10k
Walcha	7	Improve welfare facilities for staff	1	Y1 Q1	\$50k
Walcha	7	Install metal recycling sorting bins	2	Y1 Q2	\$10k

7 References

- A. Prince Consulting Pty Ltd
- Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) Regional Waste Strategy
- EPA Strategic Direction for Waste in NSW
- EPA NSW Litter Prevention Strategy

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