

## 8. WASTE MANAGEMENT

### 8.1 Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services

<i>Policy Title:</i>	<i>Waste Management and Resource Recovery Services (formerly Exemptions – Garbage Service policy)</i>
<i>Date Adopted:</i>	<i>22/1/98</i>
<i>Date Revised:</i>	<i>24/9/98; 25/11/04; 26/11/09; 25/11/10; 23/6/15</i>
<i>Minute Book Reference:</i>	<i>Council Minutes</i>
	<i>22/1/98 Item 4.4.1, page 4</i>
	<i>24/9/98 Item 4.6.1, page 48 (refer Audit &amp; Finance Committee Minutes 16/09/98, item 4.3, pages 12, 61 &amp;74)</i>
	<i>25/11/04 Item 4.10.1(a), page 16 (refer Audit &amp; Finance Committee Minutes 11/11/04, item 4.1, page 5)</i>
	<i>26/11/09 Item 4.10.1(d), page 23 (refer Audit &amp; Finance Committee Minutes 12/11/09, item 4.4, pages 15-16)</i>
	<i>25/11/10 Item 4.10.1(d), page 23 (refer Audit &amp; Finance Committee Minutes 11/11/10, item 4.4, page 9)</i>
	<i>23/6/15 Item 4.9.2, pages 66-67</i>
<i>Next Revision Due:</i>	<i>June 2019</i>

#### PURPOSE

- To state Golden Plains Shire Council's intention to improve the management and delivery of waste services for the community.
- To work with the community and businesses to cost-effectively protect and enhance the municipality's environmental and social attributes through the reduction, recovery and improved management of waste resources.
- To provide well executed and cost-effective best practice waste management services to the community using a 'user pays' and 'best value' approach.
- To ensure that all waste management services to the community are financially sustainable.
- To actively participate in and contribute to the Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group to improve waste management services for the community.
- To ensure waste and resource recovery activities are aligned with the Victorian State Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan and the Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Plan.

#### POLICY

##### Background

Golden Plains Shire is a growing municipality containing areas of urban development, land used for farming and intensive animal industries, lifestyle farm and bush properties, and state and national parks and reserves. The municipality has a growing population of people attracted to the area for the quality of the natural, social and built environment and its proximity to Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat and surrounding areas. Council provides waste management and resource recovery services via kerbside collection services and litter and cleaning operations. Council also continues to operate a small scale, unlicensed landfill at Rokewood.

## Key Policy Principles

The policy and strategy will adhere to the following key principles:

(a) Waste Minimisation

Council will promote the waste minimisation hierarchy of 'Avoid, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover Energy and Safe Disposal', working to promote avoidance and reduction of waste and higher forms of resource recovery where practicable.

(b) Cost-effectiveness and Best Value

In keeping with the Victorian Government's 'Getting Best Value: The Victorian Waste and Resource Recovery Policy', Council will promote waste management and resource recovery options that are cost-effective, enhance prosperity and are financially sustainable. Council will work to minimise future costs of waste management by promoting innovation, efficiency and competition.

(c) Access to Services

Council will create appropriate opportunities for the community and businesses to reduce, recover and/or safely dispose of waste. These will be provided by kerbside collection services and/or transfer station drop-off services, together with the provision of information about waste reduction and the correct use of waste and resource recovery systems within the municipality.

(d) Equity

Council will price waste disposal and resource recovery services to reflect the full costs and benefits of the services, with appropriate charging for services at point of disposal and through Council rates notices.

Council recognises that the costs of kerbside collections may vary significantly between low density rural settlements and larger urban settlements. Council will apply a universal waste management charge across the whole municipality to provide equity in service and pricing.

(e) Triple Bottom Line Accounting/Reporting

Council will consider the performance of resource recovery and waste disposal activities against financial, social and environmental 'bottom lines' and seek to optimise and improve performance against each of these.

(f) Innovation

Council will continue to investigate the latest innovations in waste management, mindful of its obligations to the community and to the environment.

(g) Continuous Improvement

Council will collect appropriate statistics and annually review progress against its objective of waste minimisation and resource recovery. Each review will consider whether objectives are being met and whether any new actions/initiatives should be implemented.

(h) Community Engagement and Communications

Council will provide the community with opportunities to contribute to the development of its waste strategy and ensure that the objectives, actions and deliverables of the strategy are widely communicated and understood.

## Key Policy and Council Deliverables

### (a) Kerbside Services

Council will continue to deliver kerbside garbage and recyclables collection services to all existing and new residential properties (households) throughout the whole of the municipality on a compulsory basis.

Council will also continue to provide the kerbside garbage and recyclables collection services to commercial and industrial properties on a voluntary basis.

Kerbside collection services will not be provided to vacant land.

### (b) Standard Services

From 1 July 2015 the standard kerbside collection services will be as follows:

- Garbage – fortnightly collections utilising 240 litre mobile bins (green bin with maroon lid)
- Recyclables – weekly collections utilising 240 litre mobile bins (green bin with yellow lid)

### (c) Provision and Ownership of Bins

During the period prior to 1 July 2015 residents were required to meet the costs of their garbage bins and the recycling bins were provided (and delivered) by Council.

From 1 July 2015 all property owners who require new bins will be required to meet the costs of having new garbage and recycling bins provided by Council.

All garbage bins remain the property of the persons who purchased them.

All recycling bins provided to property owners / occupiers prior to 1 July 2015 remain the property of Council.

All recycling bins purchased by property owners / occupiers after 1 July 2015 remain the property of the purchaser.

### (d) Additional Services/Collections

Householders will be permitted to have access to one (1) additional garbage bin and/or one (1) additional recycling bin, subject to the payment of an additional service fee.

Non-residential properties (i.e. commercial and industrial) are also able to utilise additional garbage and/or recycling bins (no limits), subject to the payment of an additional service fee for each additional bin.

### (e) Access to Services/Collections

#### (i) Residential Properties

Newly constructed residences will only have access to the services following the receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy for the dwelling and, if the dwelling is not connected to reticulated sewerage, a Certificate to Use a Septic Tank System must also have been issued.

#### (ii) Commercial and Industrial Properties

Commercial and Industrial properties may have voluntary access to the kerbside garbage and recyclables collection services. There is no limit to the numbers of garbage and/or recycling bins placed out for collection. Commercial and Industrial property owners who have opted voluntarily to receive any service can only "opt out" again at the end of a financial year by writing to Council.

(f) Exemptions from the Kerbside Collection Services

It is Council policy that residential properties can only be exempted from receiving (and paying for) the kerbside collection services if the collection vehicles are not able to gain access to the roadway adjacent to the property driveway.

(g) Occupational Health and Safety

For occupational health and safety (OH&S) reasons, bins found to be overfull will not be emptied. Overfull and / or overladen bins can cause waste / recycling to dislodge and injure pedestrians or damage the collection vehicles and potentially injure the contractor's staff.

Any bins that are too heavy for the mechanical arm to lift will be left uncollected and stickered accordingly by the contractor. The contractor will also not return to empty any bins that have only partially emptied.

(h) New Bins

All new bins must be sourced through and provided by Council to ensure consistency of performance, style and colour. Bins that have been sourced elsewhere may not be serviced by the contractor at the discretion of the Director Assets and Amenity.

(i) Bin Repairs

Council will replace broken lids, wheels, pins, etc on waste (garbage and recycling) bins free of charge to residents but will take no responsibility for repairs to waste bins that have become brittle with age and in need of replacement. Most bin suppliers now provide up to a ten (10) year manufacturing warranty.

It is the responsibility of residents to ensure that all bins are kept in good condition and sanitised.

(j) Replacement Bins

Bins that require replacement because of damage caused by the collection contractor will be replaced free of charge by Council if the bins are not due for replacement because of age and associated brittleness.

Bins that require replacement because they have been damaged by the contractor, but are due for replacement, will be replaced by Council at the property owner's / occupier's expense.

Bins that have been stolen will be replaced by Council at the property owner's / occupier's expense.

(k) Recreation Reserves, Halls and Community Facilities

Council provides free garbage and recyclables collections to Committees of Management for recreation reserves and halls and to community facilities that are owned and / or managed by Council or by a local committee.

These services and supply of the bins are funded by the waste management charge and, whilst there is generally no limit on the numbers of bins being placed out for collection, Council expects the Committees to proactively manage and promote waste minimisation, resulting in reduced numbers of garbage bins being serviced by the collection contractors and more use of public place recycling bins.

The only exceptions to the above will be those facilities that are required to meet their own waste management costs under their respective leases, licences or management contracts.

(l) Litter, Dumping and Public Place Recycling

In order to protect and improve the local environment, Council encourages residents and visitors to help keep the Shire clean by disposing of all litter, waste and rubbish thoughtfully. Council has the authority to issue infringement notices and enforce fines for offences under Council by-laws and under the *Litter Act* to ensure the environmental health of the municipality. Council provides public place litter bins in high traffic areas. Council will develop strategies to reduce and improve the management of litter and illegal dumping. Options for the expansion of public place litter and recycling systems will be considered on an on-going basis.

(m) Missed Bins

The contractor's vehicles will all be fitted with video surveillance and global positioning equipment that is primarily to be used for service enhancement and monitoring, and to assist with development of community education and information programs. However, this equipment also has the capacity to enable the contractor and Council to establish whether any bins were not placed out for collection at the time the contractor's vehicle arrived at the property. The Director Assets and Amenity may instruct the contractor not to return to collect missed bins in circumstances where the bins are regularly not available for collection at the appropriate time.

(n) Contamination

Under the terms of Council's contract with SKM for the receipt of recyclables, royalties will not be paid to Council for any truckloads that have contamination rates in excess of 7% by weight.

Additionally, Council pays a significant penalty charge to SKM where the contamination rate exceeds 10% by weight. This charge is used by SKM to meet the costs of disposal of the contaminated material at approved disposal facilities.

Accordingly, Council will continue to direct significant resources into community education and awareness programs in its efforts to reduce contamination of the recyclables waste stream.

(o) Waste Management Charge and Fees

It is Council policy that the schedule of waste management fees and charges will be based on full cost recovery – i.e. user pays.

(i) Waste Management Charge

Every property (residential and non-residential) that receives a kerbside collection service is required to pay a municipal waste management charge annually.

(ii) Supply and Delivery of Bins

The fee for the supply and delivery of bins is also determined each year by Council.

(iii) Additional Garbage Bin Fees

Householders wishing to utilise two (2) 240 litre mobile bins for the fortnightly garbage collection service will be required to pay the following additional fees:

- (a) the "once-off" fee for the new bin; and
- (b) an additional garbage service fee.

Commercial and Industrial property owners wishing to utilise one or more additional garbage bin(s) will be required to purchase each additional bin and to pay an extra service fee for each additional bin.

(iv) Additional Recycling Bin Fees

Householders wishing to utilise two [2] 240 litre mobile bins for the weekly recyclables collection service will be required to pay the following additional fees:

- (a) the “once-off” fee for the new bin; and
- (b) an additional recycling service fee.

Commercial and Industrial property owners wishing to utilise one [1] or more additional recycling bin/s will be required to purchase each additional bin and to pay an extra service fee for each additional bin.

### **Future Waste Management Initiatives**

Council’s objectives in regard to waste minimisation and resource recovery also require investigations to be carried out into the feasibility of a range of other service delivery initiatives, including:

- Transfer Station development
- Green Waste collections from township areas
- Hard Waste collections
- Issue of vouchers for waste disposal

Each of the above (and other newly-identified initiatives) will be considered by Council as resources allow.

### **POLICY REVIEW**

As a consequence of the broad range of other new waste management initiatives that are to be further considered / evaluated by Council, it is anticipated that further amendments to the policy will be required to acknowledge future Council decisions and to facilitate service implementation.