Rethink Your Waste!
City of Casey Waste Management Strategy 2016 – 2022

August 2016
Preamble
In accordance with a resolution of Council on 21 June 2005 to include definitions of Council, Councillors and Council officers in all Council policy documents, the following definitions are provided:

Council – the Casey City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the Local Government Act 1989

Councillors – the individuals holding the office of a member of the Casey City Council

Council officers – the Chief Executive Officer and staff of Council appointed by the Chief Executive Officer

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List of Acronyms
ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
APC Australian Packaging Covenant
ARRT Advanced Resource Recovery Technology
AVPCC Australian Valuation Property Classification Codes
AWT Alternative Waste Treatment
C&I Commercial and Industrial
C&D Construction and Demolition
CDL Container Deposit Legislation
COAG Council of Australian Governments
DEPI Department Environment and Primary Industries
EPA Environment Protection Authority Victoria
KPI/s Key Performance Indicator/s
MAV Municipal Association of Victoria
MGB Mobile Garbage Bin (i.e. wheelie bin)
MRF Materials Recovery Facility
MSW Municipal Solid Waste
MWRRG Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group
MUD Multi Unit Development
PPR Public Place Recycling
SiWMP Solid Industrial Waste Management Plan
SMEs Small to Medium Sized Enterprises
SV Sustainability Victoria
SWRRIP Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan
TZW Towards Zero Waste
WMAA Waste Management Association of Australia

Definitions
The Contract Supervisor under this policy is the City of Casey’s Manager Waste Management.
Contractor/s under this policy is the waste management company/ies appointed to collect waste and/or recyclables in the municipality on behalf of the City of Casey. The appointment is formalised with a performance based contract.

Executive Summary
The City of Casey is challenging the city’s community and our residents to ‘Rethink Your Waste’. By rethinking our approach to waste, we can create financial, environment and community benefits for the City of Casey.

The 2016-2022 ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ strategy provides guidance on the waste, recycling and litter services currently being provided, and a foundation for the development of new services for the benefit of the Casey community up to and beyond 2022.

The City of Casey has over the past 10 years maintained a recycling rate above 50 percent, as a result of proactive waste strategy implementation and leading edge services. This is a significant achievement for a dynamic and growing population of over 285,000.

A further increase in recycling and reduction of waste in the City of Casey will require significant investment to facilitate a step change in the way waste and recyclables are processed in Victoria. As a result, the City of Casey needs to take a considered approach to ensure it meets the needs of the community and is cost effective.

The State Government Policy (Getting Full Value) and the National Waste Policy have both prioritised responsible waste management in government, and set the framework for this step change to occur. With a new focus on waste reduction and resource recovery, there has never been a better time to redefine the meaning of waste and identify new resource opportunities. This prioritisation has clarified the roles of key agencies working within the waste and resource sector to better coordinate their services, improve planning and increase diversion of materials from landfill.

The release of the Victorian Organics Resource Recovery Strategy (VORRS) in late 2015 has also further refined the focus for Casey. Diversion of food organics from landfill (which currently accounts for approximately 40% of household waste to landfill), will be the focus for the next six years.

Key goals of the ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ Strategy:

- Provide an efficient and cost effective waste management service
- Reduce waste going to landfill
- Reduce incidence of litter and dumped rubbish
- Maintain overall customer satisfaction of the waste services
- Advocate on behalf of the community
Introduction and Background

1.1. ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ direction for 2016-2022
By rethinking our approach to waste, we can ensure a more sustainable and environmentally aware municipality.

1.2. Scope of the Strategy
The City of Casey’s 2016-2022 Waste Management Strategy “Rethink Your Waste!” will guide efficient and cost effective management processes, and allow a measured approach for future kerbside waste diversion options.

The scope of the strategy covers the provision of best practice collection services for recyclables, garden, residual and hardwaste at the kerbside; Berwick Village waste management; Casey’s parks and sporting grounds; and measures to proactively discourage littering.

To deliver the strategy, the City of Casey will continue to advocate for the community on new state and federal policy frameworks and waste priorities. This document outlines the current situation influencing waste management in the City of Casey and a way forward.

This strategy excludes the management of potentially contaminated Council land including former landfill sites which are provided for under the Framework for Managing Contaminated Land and Potentially Contaminated Land and site specific controls where applicable.

The City of Casey currently delivers a high quality waste service, and is striving to maintain best practice in waste reduction and resource recovery into the future. The ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ strategy has been developed in line with Casey’s Sustainability Plan to ensure consideration of environmental, economic and social factors in its implementation.

The first step in the next six years will be to finalise the long term Regional Organics Contract, commit to residual waste disposal arrangement past the current Regional Landfill Contract, and complete a desktop review and associated trials with regard to options of food waste diversion from landfill.

To support the strategy, relevant council policies have been updated to align with current legislation, best practices and community expectations.

By rethinking our approach to waste, we can ensure a more sustainable and environmentally aware municipality.
1.3. Purpose of the Strategy

The purpose of this strategy is to position Casey in the best place possible to optimise opportunities such as grants, and contract alignment to maximize the benefits of advancements in technology.

Since the last strategy, significant new contracts for waste services have been established for kerbside waste collection and are currently performing well.

During the next six years, this strategy will provide a context for the extension or granting of new contracts to ensure Casey is adopting best practice approaches. New contracts provide an opportunity to negotiate new service offerings, which enable Casey to contribute to the broader statewide recovery objectives.

This strategy will be implemented in three stages. At each stage, an interim report will be created outlining progress including outcomes of investigations and recommendations.

First Interim Report (due December 2017) –
Desk top analysis with the focus on food organics diversion from landfill, including case studies, implementation options, communication plans, infrastructure options and costings, as well as results of small scale trials undertaken on Casey residents, and community consultation surveys.

Second Interim Report (due July 2019) –
Large scale, more refined trials as recommended from the first interim report, including a full cost analysis, and detailed community consultation. A recommendation to Council as to any proposed change to the kerbside standard service should be tendered to allow food organics to be recovered at the kerbside.

Third Interim Report (due July 2020) –
Update to Council as to the status of tendering and implementation of all contracts related to organics and kerbside collection. Status update of the communication and education plans for any change to the Casey community’s service.

The City of Casey sees that it is essential to take on a strong advocacy role on behalf of the municipality, to ensure the timely delivery of state and national strategies.

1.4. Aligning with Government Legislation and Strategies

‘Rethink Your Waste!’ has been developed in-line with relevant federal and state government legislation, strategies and policies to ensure the objectives and targets can be implemented at local level. Key documents include:

- Getting Full Value (2013), Victorian government’s waste policy which encourages greater regional waste management planning and solutions.
- The Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP) – which maps current Victorian waste facilities and supports the planning of new recovery developments over the next 30 years (2015)
- The Draft Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group Implementation Plan - which maps out 10 priority actions to meet Melbourne’s waste management needs.

1.5 City of Casey’s Advocacy Role

The required step change in waste management will not occur without strong State Government Leadership. The City of Casey sees that it is essential to take on a strong advocacy role on behalf of the municipality, to ensure the timely delivery of state and national strategies. In conjunction with other municipalities and the MWRRG, Casey must clearly articulate our communities’ requirements and concerns relating to waste management. Sustainable waste management supports two of the key directions of the Council Plan 2013-17 (as described in section 1.4) . The recycling rate is a key performance indicator for the first key direction.

Advocacy activity can include:

- Aligning objectives with state government to maximise benefit for the City of Casey;
- Assisting the Mayor and CEO communicate Council’s corporate planning and other major decisions to local parliamentarians and state/ federal agencies
- Strengthening the working relationships and communication between council officers and Councillors on waste issues
- Identifying opportunities for the City of Casey to partner in initiatives and cooperative ventures with other levels of government to derive a benefit for the municipality.
1.6. Aligning City of Casey initiatives

1.6.1 Waste Management Policies
To support the delivery of the City of Casey’s ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ strategy, it is supported by the following policies, which define the services provided:
» Kerbside Collection Policy
» Litter Policy
» Berwick Village Commercial Waste Collection Policy

1.6.2 Delivering on City of Casey’s Sustainability Plan
Casey’s Sustainability Plan has been developed to guide the City of Casey on the long term path towards a sustainable future. Waste management services are Casey’s biggest source of greenhouse gas generation as a result of landfill methane generation and emissions generated through waste transport. The ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ strategy will direct the waste component objectives of the Sustainability Plan and ensure the council can address the needs of the growing municipality.

1.6.3 Delivering on City of Casey’s Customer Focus Strategy
Strategic Theme 2 – Provide services in easy, accessible, consistent and timely ways.

1.6.4 Delivering on City of Casey’s Council Plan 2013-2017
Key Direction 1 – Services for Casey’s Community
» Strategic Indicator (Recycling Rate %)

1.7. Overview of Municipality

1.7.1 City of Casey Population and Demographics
The City of Casey remains one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. Casey has the most residents of any municipality in Victoria.
» The current population of the City of Casey (as at June 2015) is approximately 288,500 with a projected population of 459,000 at 2036.
» Casey is the eighth fastest-growing municipality in Australia.
» Casey is the third fastest-growing municipality in Victoria behind Wyndham and Whittlesea.
» Casey’s population growth is largely driven by young families.
» Casey’s population grows by an average 7,300 people per year. This is expected to increase to an average 8,700 people per year by 2031.
» Currently, 43.9 per cent of annual growth is due to natural increase. By 2036, natural increase is expected to contribute to over 70 per cent of annual population growth.
» Casey is experiencing growth across all age groups which is unique.
» The largest age group is parents and homebuilders (35 to 49 years), with a population of 63,300 people.
» Between 2014 and 2015, there was the most growth in young workforce (25 to 34 years) and parents and homebuilders (35 to 49 years) age groups.
» In 2014, there were 4,478 births in Casey.
A map of the City of Casey is set out on the next page (Figure 1).
Current Waste Generation and Activities

2.1 Quantifying Waste Composition

2.1.1 Comparison with other Councils

According to the most recent Sustainability Victoria Local Government Survey (2012/13), the City of Casey had the 7th highest diversion rate of the Outer Metropolitan Councils*, diverting over 50 percent of kerbside waste collected from landfill, compared with the State average of 49 percent.

However, it is still one of the highest generators. On average 491kg/household/per annum is still placed in the garbage bin compared with the State average of 467kg/household/per annum.

*Definition by Sustainability Victoria of Outer Metropolitan Councils – A geographically more dispersed part of Melbourne, which is generally based on average population density, average block sizes and generally short distances to landfill/transfer stations and sorting facilities and end of market.

On average 491kg per household per annum is placed in the garbage bin in the City of Casey.

In the 2014/15 financial year residential collection and disposal included:

**Kerbside Bin collection**

- 53,082 Tonnes of waste disposed at landfill
- 28,166 Tonnes of recyclables collected and sorted
- 34,442 Tonnes of garden waste collected and composted

= 491 kg of waste to landfill per household
= 579 kg of recovered resources per household
= 54% diversion rate

**Hard Waste collection**

- 19,265 mattresses recycled
- 112 Tonnes E-Waste recycled
- 307 Tonnes of Garden waste composted
- 7465 car tyres recycled
- 8,361 Tonnes of hard waste disposal to landfill

= 16.9 kg of waste to landfill collected per booking
= 2.3 kg of recovered resources per booking
= 11% diversion rate
2.1.2 Waste Trends and Projection

If there were no changes to services and no additional community education program, it would be reasonable to expect no change in household waste generation per household. An overall increase in waste and recyclable material generation in Casey will result due to growth. The ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ strategy will look to reduce overall waste disposal to landfill and increase recovery of recyclables through kerbside collection options.

Tables 1 and 2 on the following page show a ten year waste collection trend, for both kerbside bin collection and hard waste for the City of Casey.

Did you know the City of Casey collects over 55000 hard waste bookings annually?

Table 1: Projections for residential waste and recyclable tonnages for the City of Casey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Waste Bin</th>
<th>Recycling Bin</th>
<th>Garden Bin</th>
<th>Estimated Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Projections for hard waste tonnages for the City of Casey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hard Waste Tonnes</th>
<th>Estimated Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>10000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>12000</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>14000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015/16</td>
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<td>2019/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020/21</td>
<td>26000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/22</td>
<td>28000</td>
<td>140,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Educating for Behaviour Change

Effective education is a powerful tool for achieving long-term behaviour change within the community. It provides an opportunity to shift attitudes, increase understanding and change behaviour. Waste services are one of the key opportunities that council directly engages with the community.

The City of Casey supports its waste services delivery with a range of educational programs to educate the community, residents and businesses on waste minimisation and diversion.

The key principle underpinning ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ is the waste hierarchy (Figure 2). The waste hierarchy positions waste avoidance as the most preferred option and waste disposal the least preferred. All environmental policies at all levels of government are based on this principle.

Figure 2: Waste Management Hierarchy

With changing expectation of the community, a more varied and modern approach to communication and education is required.

2.3 Strategic Litter Management

The ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ strategy seeks to minimise the incidence of litter in the City of Casey over the next six years, and to improve the communities satisfaction of how litter is managed. This will be done by educating the community to be responsible for their waste, provide infrastructure and services to help avoid littering, and enforce litter laws to discourage littering.

2.3.1 What is Litter?

Litter may occur from a range of sources including accidental overflow of waste bins or building sites, and illegal dumping on roads and water ways and on Council land. It is the most visible sign of pollution and wasted resources.

The Environment Protection Act 1970 defines litter as including “any solid or liquid domestic or commercial waste, refuse, debris or rubbish and, without limiting the generality of the above, includes any waste glass, metal, plastic, paper, fabric, wood, food, soil, sand, concrete or rocks, abandoned vehicle parts and garden remnants and clippings, but does not include any gases, dust or smoke or any waste that is produced or emitted during, or as a result of, any of the normal operations of the mining, building or manufacturing industry or any primary industry.”

Current Educational Activities include:

- Publication of a recycling and waste calendar
- Home composting programs and infrastructure
- Bin inspection programs to reduce contamination at kerbside
- Provision of cloth nappy rebates
- Waste and recycling education to schools and the wider community
- Sporting club recycling programs
- Recycling at events
- Promoting and participating in externally run education programs such as Clean-up Australia and Detox Your Home chemical collections
- Promoting and practicing sustainable procurement
- Litter enforcement program to reduce dumped waste
2.3.2 Role of Local Government

Local Government plays the central role in litter management through provision of litter bins, litter traps, street and beach cleaning, and targeted litter prevention programs. Local governments are the frontline for litter and the community’s first contact point for their litter concerns. They also bear much of the financial and other costs related to litter management including the social and environmental impact. While council acknowledges its important role in litter control and encouraging community support and involvement, the responsibility still remains with the individual or group generating litter.

2.3.3 Best Practice Litter Prevention

There has been a strong focus in Australia on the provision of best practice behaviour change programs aimed at litter prevention. These programs include a mix of education, infrastructure and enforcement, and are supported by strong communications and persuasive incentives to build individual and community ownership of the problem.

2.3.4 Litter Education

A comprehensive education program provides an avenue to engage with the community about important local issues and encourages local ownership, leadership and pride. The program is coordinated by the dedicated Litter Prevention Task Force (internal group composed of members across the council teams).

Consistent state-wide messages serve to reinforce and support local government programs and the Victorian government takes the lead role in coordinating litter communication and advertising programs. The Victorian Litter Action Alliance also has a leadership role in coordinating communications programs and providing additional resources through the partnership of local and state government agencies and industries.

The City of Casey has developed a litter prevention logo and stickers to help promote the report illegal dumping in the municipality and has a dedicated litter prevention officer responsible for the coordination of programs and compliance.

2.3.5 Litter Infrastructure

One of the key elements of a litter prevention program is to provide the right tools and make it as easy as possible for people to put their waste in the bin, or to carry it to the next available bin, even if that is at home.

The City of Casey provides litter bins across the municipality, with recycling bins located at sporting grounds and venues, to provide opportunities for residents to recycle and manage their waste away from home. All litter bins go to a recycling facility for recovery of materials. The Council also supports regular litter removal and waste collections.

2.3.6 Litter Enforcement

Enforcement through fines is also carried out in conjunction with education and infrastructure. The enforcement of legislation is carried out by City of Casey’s Enforcement Officers, under the EPA Act and the City of Casey Local Laws.
Progress and Achievements

3.1 2010-15 Waste Management Achievements

The 2010-2014 Waste Management Strategy set out a framework for the coordinated management of all waste management issues within the municipality, as well as setting goals and actions to be undertaken in the short and medium term.

Some of the key actions and outcomes achieved in the last five years include:

- **Kerbside Bins**: 95 percent* of the community surveyed were satisfied with the City of Casey’s Recycling kerbside services, 92 percent* of the community surveyed were satisfied with the City of Casey’s Garden Waste kerbside services, 91 percent* of the community surveyed were satisfied with the City of Casey’s Garbage kerbside services.

  *Note: This is a 4 percent increase in the level of satisfaction in each stream than reported in 2014.

- **Hard Waste**: 87 percent of users were satisfied with the hard waste service, which is a significant increase on the 50 percent recorded in 2012 when the change in service occurred.

- **Communication**: 74 percent of the community surveyed considered themselves well informed about Casey’s Waste services, significantly more than 60 percent in 2014. Improvements suggested by those surveyed include the addition of more email and SMS forms of communication, and less mail drops and advertisements in the local paper.

- **Litter**: 48 percent of the community surveyed were satisfied with the Litter Bin service in 2015, similar to the year before of 46 percent. The major reason for dissatisfaction was that collections were not often enough, there were not enough bins, and the need for bins for dog waste. The major areas of litter concern were fast food wrappings (39 percent) and dumped household rubbish (32 percent).

3.2 Community Satisfaction with Waste Services

A total of 350 households from across the City of Casey were surveyed in October 2015 to track their levels of satisfaction with the Council’s waste services and gather feedback for improvement. The survey was similar to previous years, including the specific questions on the new pre-booked hard waste collection service, which has now been part of the survey for the last three years.

The survey found that -

- Achieving a 50 percent or above recycling rate
- Hard waste bookings became available online in December 2015, with an immediate uptake of users of approximately 30 percent.
- Increased Council’s total budget spend by 50% on green purchasing, increasing total spend from 2 percent to 4 percent on environmentally friendly or recycled product in 2014/15.
- Council is a major recycler and buyer of recycled concrete for local road maintenance;
- The Berwick Commercial Waste Service has achieved at 48 percent recycling rate.
- Communication
  - 74 percent of the community surveyed considered themselves well informed about Casey’s Waste services, significantly more than 60 percent in 2014. Improvements suggested by those surveyed include the addition of more email and SMS forms of communication, and less mail drops and advertisements in the local paper.

As well as...

- Litter Action Taskforce established to build internal relationships across council departments, to initiate a campaign on illegal dumping.
- 2013 Banksia Awards finalist in the Local Government Sustainability Award category through commitment in implementing its sustainability policy framework.
- Collaboration with neighboring councils on the South East Regional Organics Processing Contract.
- Taking a lead role in encouraging the use of cloth nappies and advocating and promoting, battery, CD, mobile phone and soft plastic recycling campaigns.
- Mattresses, tyres and E-waste collected and recycled through hard waste service.
- Successful trial of diverting wood to landfill from hard waste, including painted wood furniture.
- Completion of a 3 year residential compost trial with support from MWRRG.

Community surveys on waste services are carried out annually to determine customer satisfaction for the municipal waste management services, and to provide community input into future waste and recycling activities. The first survey was conducted in 2006; however since 2012 the survey has been carried out annually to provide performance measures for waste collection contracts and to monitor satisfaction with the hard waste service and litter management.
Key ‘Rethink Your Waste!’ Challenges and Opportunities

There are a number of key challenges that the City of Casey will have to respond to in the next six years to maximise opportunities to increase recovery of materials and responsible waste management until 2022. These challenges include:

4.1 Community pressures
- Providing waste services to one of Victoria’s fastest growing municipalities can be challenging, and is compounded by the diverse geography. Some suburbs are established and stable, while others are going through rapid development and growth in population. There has also been an increase in the number of multi-unit developments in established areas.
- Increasing number and density of households may contribute to increased traffic congestion and access issues for collection services. In particular, planning will be needed to address access by waste vehicles with regard to multi-unit developments.
- Services need to be equitable and easy to access for the culturally and economically diverse population. Well planned education is essential to ensure all residents understand the services provided. Services need to be cost effective for council, while ensuring access of this service to all.

4.2 Increasing recovery

4.2.1 Kerbside bin organics
- There is a high proportion of food and garden waste in the residual waste bin. A recent audit in the City of Casey on a sample of 60 kerbside garbage bins, found 48 percent of the composition was made up of food and garden waste. This is consistent with MWRRG findings of 41 percent food and seven percent garden waste.

4.2.2 Kerbside Hard Waste and Dry Recyclables
There are opportunities as markets grow for increasing the range of items recycled in both the kerbside recycling bin and the hard waste service. Future recovery opportunities for kerbside bins include soft plastics and E-waste. A comprehensive education plan would need to compliment the addition of such items to the Casey kerbside service.

Recycling of a wider range of timber products including painted and fabric covered furniture are being explored through current contact opportunities.

Further research into the organic composition of kerbside bins in Casey was undertaken over a three year period as part of a MWRRG grant for composting. The home composting program involving free infrastructure and substantial educational support, resulted in a consistent reduction in waste to landfill over the three year period.

To significantly increase the diversion of organics from landfill, new regional facilities are required. This is driving the push for new regional organics processing contracts to treat/recycle organic materials in metropolitan Melbourne, and has resulted in the recent Victorian Organic Resource Recovery Strategy (VORRS) in late 2015.

4.3 Limited disposal options
- There are no council-operated transfer stations or landfill facilities open in Casey, so there is a reliance on industry to provide these services commercially. This can reduce liability for council but may also increase cost of disposal. Casey may consider the introduction of an additional transfer station within the municipality to meet the service requirements of any new Victorian government policy. A transfer station would provide for a wider range of materials to be recovered including - waste, oil and paint.

Waste generation is increasing. The Victorian government has highlighted that landfill facilities in the south east metropolitan Melbourne region only have a five to ten year lifespan. Planning is needed to prioritise diversion of waste to recycling and to develop new disposal options. Both options however are likely to increase costs for waste management services.

4.4 Education
- Recyclable materials are still being put in the residual waste bins and not being recycled. Large quantities of plastic bags are sent to landfill, which now are recyclable, or used to bag recyclables which cause contamination and resource loss.
- Banning the use of products such as plastic bags is often seen as a way to reduce litter in the environment but is challenging to legislate and is best managed at a state level. Plastic bags have been banned in South Australia and the Northern Territory, and a ban is being considered in Tasmania. E-waste is scheduled to be from landfills in Victoria from July 2017. The implications of this are yet to be fully understood.

Landfill bans may drive action but they may also increase illegal dumping which could lead to an issue for council. Banning the use of products such as plastic bags is often seen as a way to reduce litter in the environment but is challenging to legislate and is best managed at a state level. Plastic bags have been banned in South Australia and the Northern Territory, and a ban is being considered in Tasmania. E-waste is scheduled to be from landfills in Victoria from July 2017. The implications of this are yet to be fully understood.

Education is essential to encourage waste avoidance behaviours, good recycling and composting habits, but can be costly and take time to realise outcomes. Campaigns need to be developed or adapted to meet new services such as the garden organics and food waste collection, and address littering and dumped waste issues.
There will be a requirement for increased education resources to enable any real change in behaviour to greatly increase or recycling diversion rate. It cannot be underestimated how important it is to take the residents of Casey with us along the journey to divert food from landfill.

4.5 Management of waste

- Landfill costs are expected to continually increase with both the EPA levy and the increase in demand for the remaining limited airspace driving costs upwards. These cost pressures have a direct impacts on the council budget, and is an incentive to find new initiatives to increase recycling.
- Composition of commingled recycling is changing as bottles become lighter in weight, plastic replaces glass and electronic formats replace newspapers. New measures may be needed to understand recycling improvements, as these changes may see the recycling rate go down (by tonnes). New measurement tools may be needed.
- The City of Casey currently provides free or subsidised bins for the benefit of community, to community groups, sporting clubs, schools, churches and other groups. The council also provides free biohazard medical bins to residents with special needs. In addition to this, there are approximately 13,000 additional recycling bins that have been provided to residents at no additional cost to encourage recycling. Provision of these services adds a cost to council, that will need to be reviewed over the next few years as kerbside bin infrastructure is altered.
- The City of Casey has a large population of infants, and as a result 4 percent of waste to landfill within the municipality is comprised of disposable nappies. Families can reduce waste to landfill, and save thousands of dollars over the period their child is in nappies by changing to cloth nappies (Casey Loves Cloth Nappies Guide). Casey is committed to assisting young families by subsidising cloth nappies with the cloth nappy rebate program, and by advocating for sustainable baby products including cloth nappies in the annual cloth nappy expo.
- The federal government has legislated to encourage product stewardship of goods to ensure suppliers provide a means of disposal when goods reach the end of their practical life. The impact of new nationally led product stewardship programs is unknown at present but it is likely that councils will be a key stakeholder and may wear some of the costs.
- The City of Casey is supportive of new industry led recycling programs for the recovery of plastic film, household batteries, batteries and electronics, but these initiatives may cause cost implications to council around collection, managing overflow and infrastructure for storage.
- Casey has implemented recycling stations at all Casey customer service centres to recycle CD’s, video tapes and mobile phones which has been a great success, and recycles soft plastic from within the office spaces. Currently these services are not subsidised by the State Government.

4.6 New industry recycling programs

- Victorian councils spend an estimated $78 million annually on providing litter management and clean up services in Victoria, with approximately 95 percent allocated to litter management and five percent to litter prevention. A further $4.53 million is spent on illegal dumping (Sustainability Victoria, Victorian Local Government Annual Survey, 2010-2011).
- A proportion of the litter management expenditure includes street sweeping and providing a street litter bin service. Actions to better manage and prevent litter, particularly illegally dumped material, could result in cost savings and other benefits for local councils.
- Litter also has broader impacts on liveability, such as perception of reduced community safety and neighbourhood ownership, which are difficult to measure in dollars. The presence of litter can make people feel unsafe in their communities and feel more at risk of encountering anti-social behaviour.
- Litter reduces pride in public places like parks and beaches and people do not want to spend their time near rubbish. Preventing litter and managing litter removal from our public places therefore has the potential to provide a range of consequential benefits to Victorian communities.
Future Directions and Implementation

5.1 Regional Priorities

The Draft Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (Metropolitan Plan) identifies 10 Key Priority actions to improve recycling rates, reduce waste to landfill, and plan for Melbourne’s growth and future sustainability. Casey’s response to these priorities is set out below.

1. Minimise councils’ reliance on landfills through group procurement of residual waste collection and processing that progressively increases the resource recovery rate over the contract duration.

Casey supports and participates in group procurement but will assess future involvement on a case by case basis. For example any future move to Alternative Waste Treatment options is unlikely without a cooperative regional approach; however the benefit to Casey of group procurement for collection is still unclear.

2. Build the metropolitan organics processing network and maximise the network’s productivity by accepting household and commercial food waste.

Casey is a participant in the Regional organics contract which provides a move to higher treatment technology and long term contract security. This strategy outlines how Casey will gather the evidence to assess the viability of diverting food from the waste bin to the garden waste bin.

3. Ensure hubs support industry, while protecting communities and the environment, through:
   » defining the role of a hub,
   » promoting best practice
   » acting on opportunities to co-locate with water utilities

While the hubs and spokes model needs to be better defined, Casey supports the concept and particularly the opportunity to co-locate new infrastructure. Ideally a hub could offer opportunity for industrial ecology.

The identification of the Suez Hallam Road precinct as an important hub raises the opportunity for continuation of a waste Hub beyond the expected life of the landfill. This should be considered in future landuse planning for the site, however community expectations may be that waste activities will cease with the closure of the current
landfill. Residents should continue to be engaged in future decision making processes for the site through mechanisms such as the Hampton Park Community Reference Group.

4. Develop planning policies and tools that facilitate resource recovery targeting:
   » the protection of buffer separation distances for waste and resource recovery facilities
   » provisions for recycling in multi-unit developments
Casey supports and participates in the current work around buffer protection. Currently buffers are not well protected. It is also not clear what status a hub affords and how designation as a hub offers protection to existing or future waste related landuse.

Casey will continue to advocate for the introduction of adequate planning controls to deal with the issue of ‘reverse separation distances’ to protect waste industries and for the Environment Protection Authority to be given statutory status for encroaching applications.

Casey supports a consistent approach for waste management for multi-unit developments and made a submission to the drafting of the Building Better Apartments Guidelines. Casey advocates for a minimum standard to the Victorian Planning Provisions to give greater weight to waste management planning requirements for multi-unit developments.

5. Support and promote small on-site organic processing infrastructure.
Casey supports this as an action and is investigating the viability of a small scale treatment option for organics from Bunjil Place.

6. Develop a Transfer Station Growth Strategy to facilitate a network that can manage growing waste volumes whilst maximising resource recovery.
Casey supports this as a priority particularly with respect to long haul facilities required to transport waste from the South East of Melbourne to the North West. This will become critical as Suez Hallam Road approaches closure and there is no viable alternative waste disposal facility in the South East.

There are three community scale transfer stations in and around the City of Casey. These are located at Wellington Road Lysterfield, Harold Road Skye and Hallam Road Hampton Park.

7. Establish relationships between commercial food waste generators and organic processors.
Casey supports this as an action and will use contacts with local businesses to participate in this region lead action where ever possible.

8. Maximise recovery of priority materials (identified through Victorian Market Development Strategy) by establishing relationships between waste generators and the processing industry.
Casey will target cost effective resource recovery opportunities for the “supply side” priority materials being flexible plastics, organics, rubber (tyres) and E-waste.

Casey also supports specification of recycled product to target the “demand side” priority materials where product performance can be demonstrated. Casey is a participant in Eco-Buy and has specified recycled plastics in park furniture and recycled content road base for some time.

Casey will also continue to advocate for better product stewardship and more effective use of Landfill Levy money to directly assist Councils collect and recover priority materials.

9. Community and stakeholders are engaged in waste and resource recovery decision making.
Casey welcomes Regional Support in community engagement and education activities. Casey is part of the Regional Education Network and recognises the importance of sharing the reflections and learnings from educational programs.

Casey’s Waste Management Team engages with the community through delivery of a comprehensive education plan and green events program. Formal community engagement occurs through the Conservation Advisory Committee (waste subcommittee), Hampton Park Community Reference Group and the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Casey is developing a formal Community Engagement Strategy.

10. Support residents and businesses to maximise recycling through local delivery of the Statewide Education Strategy.
Casey welcomes State Government support and will look for opportunities to leverage from the Statewide Education Strategy.
Future Directions and Implementation

5.2 City of Casey Priorities

Table 3: Strategy Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Priority Description</th>
<th>Current Level</th>
<th>Strategy Target Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reduce the average amount of waste generated per household (kg/hh/y)</td>
<td>491 kg/hh/y***</td>
<td>467 kg/hh/y Current (2013/2014 Victorian average)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Increase the annual diversion rate of material collected through kerbside bins</td>
<td>50%***</td>
<td>60%***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Increase the annual diversion rate of material collected through Hard Waste</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Maintain above an 85 percent level of customer satisfaction with regard to the kerbside services</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Increase customer satisfaction with regard to litter management</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Meet all LGPRF measures for waste and recycling</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>9/10**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Deliver waste outcomes under the Casey Sustainability Plan, the Municipal Health and Well Being Plan, the Casey Digital Strategy and the Casey Customer Focus Strategy.</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An Action Plan will be developed to guide the implementation of this strategy. Process will be reported annually.

*The reporting requirements for Item 7 are separate to this strategy.

**The current LGPRF requirement regarding the number of requests per 1000 households includes all requests. This does not take into account requests for new properties and requests for a hard waste service. This measure is therefore not relevant to councils with high growth, and/or those with a pre-booked hard waste service.

*** Data Sourced from the 2013/2014 Victorian Local Government Waste Services Report, Sustainability Victoria.

Note: Current diversion levels as of 2015 are 50% for City of Casey.

Figure 4: Projected diversion rate for kerbside residential waste and recycling tonnages City of Casey 2025/26 (food diversion fully implemented)

40% Landfill

60% recycle

Figure 5: Projected diversion rate for Hard Waste tonnages City of Casey 2017/18 (wood and soft furnishings recycling program implemented)

73% landfill

27% recycled

Note: Current diversion levels as of 2015 are 11% for City of Casey.
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Customer Service Centres

**Cranbourne**
Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre

**Narre Warren**
Magid Drive

**Narre Warren South**
Amberly Park Shopping Centre