

# Snapshot: Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan

## What is the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan?

The Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (Metropolitan Implementation Plan) outlines our vision and strategy for managing Melbourne's waste. The plan focuses on identifying Melbourne's infrastructure needs and how these will be met over the next 10 years.

The plan is part of Victoria's waste and resource recovery infrastructure planning framework as set out in the *Environmental Protection Act 1970*. The figure below shows how this plan links with the broader Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan and other waste strategies.

The Metropolitan Implementation Plan has four strategic objectives:



Reduce waste sent to landfill



Increase organic waste recovered



Deliver community, environmental & economic benefits



Plan for Melbourne's growing population



Victoria's waste and resource recovery infrastructure planning framework provides a statewide roadmap to ensure Victoria has the infrastructure to effectively manage the mix and volumes of waste for the next 30 years. The Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan is one of seven regional plans.

## What are the challenges?

We need to ensure that Melbourne has the right waste and resource recovery infrastructure, at the right time, in the right location. There are a number of key challenges and opportunities this plan addresses:

- growing waste volumes driven by population growth. By 2042, we project waste volumes will grow by 63% and we'll need to manage 16.5 million tonnes each year
- closure of many landfills in the south east of Melbourne
- problems created by organic waste decomposing in landfill, including greenhouse gas emissions. In Melbourne, 805,000 tonnes of food and garden waste goes into landfill every year
- the need to see waste as a valuable resource
- community expectations that landfills are the last resort for managing waste.

## What will the plan achieve?

The plan aims to significantly increase resource recovery and reduce the need for landfills. We will do this by establishing a suite of new, improved and expanded infrastructure, including:

- new, advanced technology facilities to recover resources from 25% of residual municipal waste (300-400,000 tonnes per annum)
- new organics facilities to recover and process 600,000 tonnes of organic waste annually, including household and commercial food waste
- technologies (such as Energy from Waste facilities) to manage waste near where it's produced
- new and improved Resource Recovery Centres and Transfer Stations across Melbourne (especially in the south east region).

To support new and existing infrastructure, we will:

- encourage best practice operations, continuous improvement and effective community engagement so that infrastructure reduces impacts on communities and gains its social licence to operate
- promote policies so that 95% of all new multi-unit developments accommodate resource recovery collections
- improve land use planning for waste and resource recovery infrastructure, including buffer protection
- facilitate increased recycling of commercial waste.



## What are the plan's objectives and actions?

The Metropolitan Implementation Plan has four strategic objectives supported by 13 actions.



## How will we monitor performance?

The Metropolitan Implementation Plan's progress towards achieving the strategic objectives will be reviewed annually.

The resource recovery sector needs time to build new, advanced infrastructure and to develop new markets for products containing recycled materials.

We will comprehensively review the plan in 2019 to:

- assess the impact of government plans on the resource recovery market
- assess whether new infrastructure will be delivered within ten years
- determine the need for a new landfill.

We will only recommend a new landfill for Melbourne if it is absolutely necessary.

