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**APPPENDICIES**

1. User needs – Sample survey
2. NSW OEH – Annual Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Survey
3. Sustainability Victoria – Local Government Survey Screenshots
4. Queensland DERM – Local Government Waste Management Report
5. Zero Waste SA – Kerbside Performance Reporting Audit
6. Local Government Grants Commission of SA – Local Government Survey
7. Western Australia DEC – Local Government Survey

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local government plays an integral role in the delivery of waste and recycling services in Australia, especially to households. However, data regarding local government waste and recycling activities and performance is often disparate and disperse.

The present baseline study has been undertaken to determine what public data and information is available about the role and performance of local governments in relation to waste and recycling. The needs of key users (or potential users) of such waste and recycling information are considered in Chapter of this report.

For the purposes of this study, the number of local governments in Australia has been determined to be 559. This excludes the ACT, and unincorporated Local Government Areas (LGAs) and other territories.

The roles and responsibilities of these local governments vary depending on the jurisdiction they are located in. This report provides a jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction summary of the roles and responsibilities of local governments, as well as outlining key LGA groupings and the information reporting systems in place within each jurisdiction.

Key performance data, relating to resource recovery rates, service levels and financial costs, is also provided for each jurisdiction, where sufficient LGA-specific information is publicly available. The assessment of available data within this report is not inclusive of data quality.

Information regarding the cost to local government of providing waste and recycling services to their communities has been sourced primarily through Grants Commission reports and other publicly available documents. A range of private industry operators were also contacted to determine indicative costs of key services, with results provided in Chapter .

An overview of the infrastructure owned and used by local governments is also provided in Chapter , drawing heavily on information published in the *Inside Waste Industry Report 2011-12*. In this chapter local governments have been grouped by remoteness, and a general trend is observed that regional and remote councils are more likely to own their own waste management infrastructure than metropolitan councils.

Chapter details interactions between councils and private sector providers of waste and recycling services. It highlights a trend toward greater outsourcing of activities by councils as the activities performed are becoming increasingly complex and expensive. The trend is highlighted through comparison of ABS data from 2003 to 2010.

In conjunction with this report, an Excel Workbook has been compiled containing the most recent waste and recycling related information available for individual local government areas in each Australian jurisdiction. The level and quality of information publicly available varies considerably between these jurisdictions. An assessment of data availability is provided in this report, with comparisons made between the information collected from LGAs within each jurisdiction, and the LGA-specific performance information that is made publicly available.

It is expected the identification of current reporting pathways and information sources in relation to local government waste and recycling, which has been undertaken during this project, will aid in the development of a common data set of local government waste and recycling data, and assist in the implementation of the *National Waste Policy: Less Waste, More Resources*.

# Glossary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | Area |
| AC | Aboriginal council |
| B | Borough |
| C | City |
| CGC | Community Government Council |
| C&D | Construction and demolition waste |
| C&I | Commercial and industrial waste |
| DC | District Council |
| IC | Island council |
| LGA | Local government authority, including councils, cities, shires, borough, etc. |
| M | Municipality |
| RC | Rural City |
| RegC | Regional Council |
| S | Shire |
| T | Town |
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# Introduction

The number of local governments in Australia varies according to the method used to determine what a local government area (LGA) is. For the purposes of this study, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) *National Regional Profile 2005–09* has been used as the primary determinant of the number, name, population and size of LGAs.

For the purposes of this study, the number of local governments has been determined to be 559. This excludes the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), and unincorporated LGAs and other territories.

Other methods have been used in previous studies to determine numbers of LGAs. Known differences with these other methods include:

* 6 less district councils in South Australia (SA)
* 1 extra shire and 1 extra council in Western Australia (WA)
* Other known differences include name changes in Queensland, including Dalby into Western Downs Regional Council, and the Town of Roma into the Roma Regional Council.

 shows the distribution of these local government areas across states and territories in Australia.[[1]](#footnote-2)

Table 2-1 Number and type of LGAs in each Australian jurisdiction

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction | Cities | Shires | Municipalities | Councils | District councils | Regional councils | Rural cities | Towns | Others | Total |
| NSW | 37 | 75 | 9 | 28 | - | 3 | - | - | - | **152** |
| Victoria | 33 | 39 | - | - | - | - | 6 | - | 1 | **79** |
| Queensland | 7 | 24 | - | - | - | 29 | - | 1 | 13 | **74** |
| SA | 21 | - | - | - | 41 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | **70** |
| WA | 22 | 106 | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | - | **139** |
| Tasmania | 6 | - | 19 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | **29** |
| NT | 2 | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | **16** |
| **Total** | **128** | **254** | **28** | **32** | **41** | **36** | **7** | **16** | **17** | **559** |

Table 2-2 provides further details on LGAs in each jurisdiction, including on ABS classifications as metropolitan, regional or remote.

Table 2-2 Local government areas in Australian states and territories, by remoteness\*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Metropolitan** | **Regional** | **Remote** | **Total** |
|  | **No. LGAs** | **Population** | **Land area (km2)** | **No. LGAs** | **Population** | **Land area (km2)** | **No. LGAs** | **Population** | **Land area (km2)** | **No. LGAs** | **Population** | **Land area (km2)** | **Density (people /km2)** |
| NSW | 41 | 4,197,389 | 8,212 | 50 | 2,280,325 | 127,846 | 61 | 655,591 | 571,957 | 152 | 7,133,305 | 708,015 | 10.1 |
| VIC | 30 | 3,994,937 | 6,328 | 34 | 1,192,566 | 97,829 | 15 | 254,955 | 122,980 | 79 | 5,442,458 | 227,137 | 24.0 |
| QLD | 2 | 1,193,149 | 1,863 | 9 | 1,170,192 | 167,273 | 63 | 2,061,762 | 1,565,036 | 74 | 4,425,103 | 1,734,173 | 2.6 |
| SA | 17 | 1,003,452 | 1,076 | 12 | 369,383 | 11,726 | 41 | 246,686 | 245,334 | 70 | 1,619,521 | 258,136 | 6.3 |
| WA | 26 | 1,436,032 | 2,232 | 17 | 455,975 | 18,394 | 96 | 353,050 | 2,510,937 | 139 | 2,245,057 | 2,531,563 | 0.9 |
| TAS | 0 | - | - | 6 | 261,474 | 2,877 | 23 | 241,818 | 65,038 | 29 | 503,292 | 67,914 | 7.4 |
| NT | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | - | 16 | 216,857 | 1,331,776 | 16 | 216,857 | 1,331,776 | 0.2 |
| **Total** | **116** | **11,824,959** | **19,711** | **128** | **5,729,915** | **425,944** | **315** | **4,030,719** | **6,413,058** | **559** | **21,585,593** | **6,858,713** | **3.1** |

\*Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) *Remoteness Classification: Purpose and Use Census Paper No. 03/01 2003* was compiled by the ABS, based on the Accessibility-Remoteness Index of Australia Plus (ARIA+) index. ASGC Remoteness categorises areas as 'major cities', 'inner regional', 'outer regional', 'remote' and 'very remote'. For the purposes of this study; ’metropolitan’ refers to ‘major cities’; ‘regional’ refers to both 'inner regional' and 'outer regional'; and ‘remote’ refers to 'remote' and 'very remote'.

# Information needs of key users

The key users of data and information on local government waste and recycling activity are:

* local, state, territory, and federal governments
* the waste and recycling industry
* the community.

Councils are generally in the position to choose the information they collect about municipal waste and recycling in order to meet their own internal needs, so long as the information collected also meets the needs of state and territory governments. There is some need/desire for local governments to have access to information about services and performance in other council areas, primarily to allow for benchmarking (in those jurisdictions where information is not readily available, this need will often be met through informal arrangements and discussion between councils). State and territory governments too are generally able to dictate the municipal waste and recycling information provided in order to meet their needs.

Non-government stakeholders are generally not in a position to decide the municipal waste and recycling data that is collected, or how that information is expressed and/or used, other than in relation to material they process internally. This is potentially problematic as the lack of access to high quality information may hamper the ability of the private sector to make appropriate business decisions, particularly in relation to investing in waste management and resource recovery infrastructure.

This report has therefore concentrated on gathering feedback on the key information needs of stakeholders outside of government spheres.

## Overview

In order to establish the needs of key users Hyder undertook a telephone survey that was designed to determine: the data and information that key stakeholders in each of the mainland states are currently accessing; their perceived level of confidence in that data; the sorts of information they are seeking access to; and the value they place on access to good information. A sample questionnaire is appended.

A total of 10 individual stakeholders completed the questionnaire, of which five provided separate responses for multiple jurisdictions. A total of 20 responses were gathered, with a minimum of two different stakeholders surveyed for each of the mainland states. No stakeholders were surveyed in the ACT, NT or Tasmania.

Those stakeholders consulted included a selection of: private sector operators of recycling facilities; private sector operators of landfill facilities; private sector AWT operators; private sector collection providers; private sector equipment suppliers; and Non Government Organisation (NGO) environment groups.

As shown in Table 3-3, the trend across all jurisdictions was that users generally considered there would be a high value in being able to easily access reliable information about local government waste and recycling, but generally rated their current access to such information – and the quality of that information – to be moderate.

It should be noted the perceived availability of information from the limited number of stakeholders surveyed, as shown in , does in some cases differ from Hyder’s assessment of the availability of information, which are detailed within each of the jurisdictional-specific chapters.

Table 3-3 Perceived availability and value of information about municipal waste and recycling in the mainland states, based on an interpretation of stakeholder responses to a telephone questionnaire

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NSW | Victoria | Queensland | SA  | WA | Overall |
| Existing information on amount of waste to landfill | Moderate | High | Low | Low | Low | Moderate |
| Existing information on composition of waste to landfill | Moderate | High | Low | High | Low | Moderate |
| Value of good waste to landfill information  | High | High | High | Moderate | High | High |
| Existing information on amount of recycling | Moderate | Moderate | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate |
| Existing information on composition of recycling | Low | Moderate | Low | High | Moderate | Moderate |
| Value of good recycling information | High | Moderate | High | High | High | High |
| Overall confidence in the waste and recycling information available | High | Low | Low | Moderate | Low | Moderate |

## General observations

The following general observations can be drawn from the telephone surveys. It should be noted that judgements of data availability should not be read as implying that the available data is of quality:

* The stakeholders surveyed were commonly aware that data is being gathered, by someone, but less commonly aware of how they could gain access to that data, particularly in a disaggregated form.
* There is concern about comparability of results between different jurisdictions, as well as different methodologies used by various waste organisations and individuals undertaking waste audits within the same jurisdiction.
* NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia have published kerbside waste auditing methodologies, although the various methodologies are not consistent and no guidance is provided in the other jurisdictions.
* It was suggested that a well established, standard national audit methodology would be of significant benefit to provide stakeholder confidence in data gathered and presented.
* In those jurisdictions with high usage of weighbridge systems – generally those with a history of charging levies and having an agency focused on resource recovery – stakeholders believe reliable data is collected (if not well expressed). There is a low level of confidence in data from other jurisdictions.
* There is better data on the material composition of the recycling stream, compared to the waste stream, because materials are generally separated for re sale. There is less reliable data on the material composition of waste to landfill. In terms of recycling information, the biggest area of uncertainty surrounds the composition of residual wastes.
* There is a lack of reliable information about organics recycling, compared to the information available in regards to more established comingled recycling systems.

## Observations by jurisdiction

A minimum of two different stakeholders were surveyed for each of the mainland states. No stakeholders were surveyed in the ACT, NT or Tasmania. This section outlines observations by relevant jurisdiction.

### NSW

* Industry stakeholders are aware local government waste and recycling tonnage data is being collected, but they do not know how to access it. They generally only access disaggregated information on an ‘ad hoc’ basis.
* Aggregated data is perceived to be of limited use, and stakeholders believe LGA-level data would be most useful.
* Access to ‘raw data’ would improve stakeholder confidence in the information available. There is a perception that, when data is provided on an ad hoc basis, there is potential for it to be ‘flavoured’ to suit specific needs at the time.
* Industry stakeholders believed there is ‘some really good audit data’ on municipal waste stream compositions, but it is collected ‘spasmodically’ and not to a standard methodology.
* Where audit data is available, assumptions and methodology are often not well explained. Users are seeking information on sample sizes and seasonal influences to composition.
* Some stakeholders see value in publishing ‘league tables’ providing detailed performance information by local council area.
* There is a strong reliance on information in specific landmark reports, for example the 2000 *Review of Putrescible Waste Landfill Capacity – Sydney Region*.
* The stakeholders contacted generally preferred to rely on outdated data they had a high level of confidence in, rather than more recent data where the collection methodology was unclear.
* Stakeholders were aware of information sources for some specific material streams (for example PACIA reports on plastics) but consider there would be high value in having access to a centralised repository of the most up-to-date, reliable information.

### Victoria

* A number of stakeholders with dealings across multiple jurisdictions considered Sustainability Victoria provided the best data on local government waste and recycling.
* While several stakeholders lauded Victoria’s publication of detailed information by local government area, others suggested there was ‘great secrecy’, and ‘people don’t know how to access it’.
* Per capita waste and recycling rates for each LGA are contained in Sustainability Victoria’s Local Government Annual Survey and can be used to calculate key information about tonnages, if the user has access to population data. Information about population, number of households and number of dwellings in each LGA is not always readily available in a form that allows meaningful comparison of the data.
* Stakeholders believe information about recycling is more readily available than information about waste, because stakeholders are more willing to promote their resource recovery successes.
* It was suggested that, even where regulators have access to weighbridge information, there is the potential for some inaccuracy in data if the weighbridge operator fails to record all data (either accidentally or intentionally). This was not considered to be a major issue.
* One stakeholder noted that, even within one local government area, there can be major demographic differences, and it may be useful to access subsets of data for each LGA.
* There was discussion of the need for access to better data on consumption of specific problem waste types (for example lead acid batteries) in order to determine recovery rates for key products of concern.
* Stakeholders expressed desire for more information about contamination in recycling streams.
* The value of developing a national methodology for auditing and reporting waste and recycling information was rated very highly, indeed ‘10 out of 5’ by one stakeholder.
* The publication of information about collection services and frequencies for each Victorian LGA was considered advantageous by stakeholders involved in providing associated services.
* It was suggested the LGAs should be required to report the destination of their waste, in order to improve transparency about which facilities – and surrounding communities – bear the burden of managing other region’s wastes.

### Queensland

* Stakeholders noted there is a general lack of high quality tonnage information in Queensland, due in part to a low reliance on weighbridge systems.
* Stakeholders believe introduction of a landfill levy on industrial wastes from December 2011 will lead to improved information about tonnes of waste in the state.
* Where data is collected, stakeholders want access to it in ‘raw form’ because they believe aggregated data is of limited use, and may be ‘flavoured’ to suit particular perspectives.
* There are issues with defining the source sector of waste in Queensland, due to the common practice of co-collecting some commercial wastes with domestic wastes.

### South Australia

* There is concern that recycling audits may be based on kerbside audits, rather than audits at the end of processing. This means residual waste from recycling operations is not appropriately accounted for. There was also concern about the small sample size used in several studies.
* Stakeholders rated the availability of waste tonnage data as very low, but believed Zero Waste SA provided reasonably reliable information about waste composition.
* It was noted that some waste audits provide too many material categories; one stakeholder in particular was keen to ensure results were not over complicated by providing ‘infinite detail’ and suggested standard, broad categories should be adopted.
* The impact of seasonal changes and different socioeconomic areas was noted, as was the desire for audits to be conducted to a well defined and repeatable methodology.
* One large private operator felt publication of detailed information about waste volumes may commercially disadvantage his operations, because in the current market only established operators have any real information about the size of the commercial opportunity.

### Western Australia

* Private landfill operators hold their own waste tonnage information, but do not necessarily share it with other operators or regulators.
* Where the state government does have information, private stakeholders believed they are reluctant to publish it and will only provide specific snippets of information on reasonable request.
* The manager of one major landfill suggested there had been no waste composition audits conducted in his memory, over several years.
* There was a feeling good tonnage and composition data would be useful in helping make informed business decisions, including about potentially introducing resource recovery infrastructure at transfer stations.
* Stakeholders are relying on information contained in national reports, particularly the *Waste and Recycling in Australia* series of reports, rather than accessing state-specific information sources.

# Availability of information

The availability of waste and recycling information in each Australian jurisdiction has been assessed during compilation of this report, and a high-level appraisal of the availability is provided in . This does not include an assessment of data quality.

Table 4-4 Availability of local government waste and recycling data and information by jurisdiction

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Disaggregated data by Local Government Area | Material composition split | Source sector split (MSW, C&I, C&D) | Destination split (recycling, energy recovery or landfill) |
| NSW | High | Medium | High | High |
| Victoria | High | High | High | High |
| Queensland | Medium | High | Medium | High |
| South Australia | Low | High | High | High |
| Western Australia | Low | High | High | High |
| Tasmania | Low | Low | Low | Low |
| ACT | N/A | Low | Medium | High |
| Northern Territory | Low | Low | Low | Low |

The most recent waste and recycling performance information that is publicly available for each LGA in Australia is detailed in the *LGA Waste and Recycling Data* Excel Workbook, provided in conjunction with this report. This workbook includes information on the cost of service provision, where available.

The following chapters provide, for each jurisdiction, a summary of key reporting pathways, the relevant waste and recycling information that is collected, and a summary of the LGA specific information that is made publicly available.

## Collection and availability of selected data

Table 4-5 provides a comparison of selected indicators of waste and recycling data that may be collected by government bodies in Australia, against the LGA-specific data which is currently made available to the public.

The selection of the 17 indicators displayed in was based on an assessment of existing data collection templates used within each jurisdiction (see Appendices). While terminology used may vary between jurisdictions (as does the scope and quality of information collected), the chosen indicators generally cover LGA-level information regarding:

* collection systems (collection services offered; collection frequencies; bin sizes / types)
* tonnes of material collected (waste generation; recycling; organics; waste to landfill)
* waste management costs and charges (costs / expenditure; charges)
* other information (waste management infrastructure; contractor information; hard waste services; litter / illegal dumping; public place collections; commercial & industrial services; audit data; data about specific waste items).

Table 4-5 Summary of selected waste and recycling data collected and made available to the public

|   |   | NSW | VIC | QLD | SA | WA | TAS | NT |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection services offered**  | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| Data available  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Collection frequencies** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| Data available  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Bin sizes/ types** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Waste generation (tonnes)** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Recycling (tonnes)** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Organics (tonnes)** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Waste to landfill (tonnes)** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Waste management infrastructure** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Waste management costs/ expenditure** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Contractor information** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Waste management charges** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
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| **Hard waste services** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Litter/ illegal dumping** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Public Place Collections** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Commercial & Industrial Services** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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| **Other Waste data (ie. Tyres, Batteries, Electronic Waste etc)** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| Data available  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste Audit Data** | Data collected | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| Data available  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |

Notes: The data collected by government bodies in each jurisdiction was assessed against the amount of data which is made available to the public. For the purposes of this summary, the following assessment criteria were used
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png]() = Data collected. / Data available for more than 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png]() = Some data collected. / Data available for 50 – 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png]() = Data not collected. / Data available for less than 50% of councils.

## Key reporting pathways

Table 4-6 provides a summary of the major reporting pathways for local government waste and recycling information in each jurisdiction, highlighting key data collected by various organisations, and the information that is made publicly available through key publications and public reports.

Table 4-6 Summary of local government waste and recycling information gathered and publicly reported within each jurisdiction

| New South Wales |
| --- |
| Government Body | Reporting format | Data gathered | Council specific data available to public | Information incorporated in |
| Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet | Annual survey | Collections offered and frequencies | Tonnes of dry recycling and organics collected | *Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report* (latest available 2009-10) |
| Number of households serviced | Tonnes of waste to landfill |
| Commercial & Industrial services | Total waste generated (tonnes) |
| Bin sizes | Recovery rates |
| Waste/ recycling/ garden organics/ food organics collected (tonnes) | Waste management charges |
| Hard waste services | Collection services and bin configurations offered |
| Public Place Waste and Recycling |  |
| Waste management infrastructure |
| Waste to Advanced Waste Treatment (AWT) |
| Construction & Demolition services |
| Waste management costs and charges |
| Waste audit data |
| Contractor information |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Victoria** |  |  |  |  |
| Government Body | Reporting format | Data gathered | Council specific data available to public | Information incorporated in |
| Sustainability Victoria | Online annual survey | Collections offered and frequencies | Diversion rate | *Victorian Local Government Annual Survey* report (latest available 2008-09) |
| Bin sizes/ types | Bin sizes/ types |
| Waste management costs (collect and sort) | Waste and recycling yield per household |
| Participation rates |             |
| Contractor information |
|  |  | Waste/ recycling/ organics collected (tonnes) |
| Recycling/ organics processed (tonnes) |
| Amount of contaminants (tonnes) |
| Waste management infrastructure |
| Waste management charges |
| Hard waste services |
| Litter/ illegal dumping |
| Street sweeping |
| Commercial & Industrial Recyclables  |
| Department of Planning and Community Development | Local government annual reports | Reporting template not supplied | Waste management expenditure (aggregated) | *Local Government in Victoria* annual report |
| Selected council specific data |
| Victorian Grants Commission | Information return | Reporting template not supplied | Net Standardised Expenditure - Waste Management ($) | *Victoria Grants Commission Annual Report* (latest available 2009-10) |
| Standardised Fees and Charges - Waste Management ($) |

| **Queensland** |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Government Body | Reporting format | Data gathered | Council specific data available to public | Information incorporated in |
| Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) | Annual Waste and Recycling Survey | Collections offered and frequencies | Collections offered | *The State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland 2008 Technical Report* |
| Number of properties serviced | Number of households with waste collection |
| Amount of waste/ recycling/ green waste collected | Number of households with kerbside recycling |
| Amount of waste landfilled or incinerated  | Number of recycling drop off points |
| Amount of material reprocessed | Recycling bins in public places |
| Reprocessing/ recovery methods and facilities |                 |                 |
| Street collections/ Litter/ illegal dumping |
| Average annual waste management costs ($/per household) |
| Average annual waste management fees ($/per household) |
| Self-Hauled Domestic Waste and Large Item Collection |
| Biosolids |
| Clean fill |
| Contaminated and Acid Suplhate Soils |
| Construction and Demolition Waste |
| Commercial and Industrial Waste |
| Tyres / Mineral (motor) Oil/ Lead Acid Batteries |
| Asbestos / Clinical Waste / Electronic Waste |
| Household, farm or industrial hazardous chemicals |
| Cross boundary waste movements |
| Waste Management Initiatives |
| Department of Local Government and Planning(DLGP | Annual data collection instrument | Total waste collection costs ($000) | Total waste collection costs ($000) | *Queensland local government comparative information annual report* (latest available 2008-09) |
| Total number of residential properties serviced | Total number of residential properties serviced |
| Total number of bins serviced | Total number of bins serviced |
| Total tonnage of domestic waste collected | Total tonnage of domestic waste collected |
| Number of services provided per property per week | Number of services provided per property per week |
| Waste bin type (split / non-split / galvanised) | Waste bin type (split / non-split / galvanised) |
| Waste bin size (litres) | Waste bin size (litres) |

| **South Australia** |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Government Body | Reporting format | Data gathered | Council specific data available to public | Information incorporated in |
| Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) | Annual “General Information Return” | Number of properties serviced | Waste Management Expenditure ($000's)  | Local Government Association of South Australia, *Performance Measurement Data* (available online) |
| Services offered to residential properties | Waste to landfill (tones)  |
| Services offered to commercial/industrial properties | Community satisfaction with provision of waste |
| Amount of waste/ recycling/ organics/ hard waste/ hazardous waste collected annually (tonnes) |        |
| Collection routes (distance and average pick-ups per hour) |
| Contractor information |
| Amount of waste landfilled (tonnes) |
| Amount of waste diverted (tonnes) |
| Landfills |
| Zero Waste SA | Kerbside Performance Reporting | Total annual yields of recyclables, organics and residual waste (tonnes) | Not publicly available | Not publicly available |
| Collection services offered, including frequencies |
| Number of tenements serviced |
| Bin types and sizes |
| Total annual costs |
| Hard Waste services |
| Participation rates |
| Waste audit data |
| Zero Waste SA | ZEUS | Kerbside waste | Not publicly available | Not publicly available |
| Construction and Demolition Waste |
| Commercial & Industrial Waste |
| Hazardous Waste |
| Illegally Dumped Waste |
| Landfills |
| Litter |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Western Australia** |  |  |  |
| Government Body | Reporting format | Data gathered | Council specific data available to public | Information incorporated in |
| Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) | Annual Waste “Census” | Amounts of waste/ recycling/ green waste/ hard waste collected (tonnes) | Not publicly available. | Not publicly available. |
| Amounts of material reprocessed/ recovered (tonnes) |
| Waste collections offered including frequencies |
| Contractor information |
| Number of households services |
| Bin types and sizes |
| Participation rates |
| Oil/ Computer/ Batteries collections |
| Waste and recycling infrastructure |
| Waste audit information |
| Litter/ Illegal dumping |
| Annual costs of collection/ processing/ disposal ($/year) |
| Annual charges per service ($/year/premises) |
| Department of Local Government (DLG) | Annual Information Return | Waste management costs | Not publicly available | Not publicly available |
| If cost of waste collection is included in rates, data is collected on the levy imposed and number of collections per week |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tasmania** |  |  |  |
| Government Body | Reporting format | Data gathered | Council specific data available to public | Information incorporated in |
| Local Government Department (LGD) | Annual Local Government Consolidated Data Collection | Waste management costs ($/year) | Standard Expenditure: Waste Management and the Environment | *Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania Annual Report* (latest available 2007-08) |
| Number of Properties receiving Waste Management Services | Standardised Expenditure: Waste Management and the Environment |
| Household Garbage/ Solid Waste Management Fees and Charges ($/year) | Cost of Service Provision Ratio: Waste Management and the Environment (%) |
|      | Average cost of waste management per property ($) |
| Average cost of waste management per capita ($) |
| Waste management expenses ($ excl depreciation)  |
| Depreciation and Amortisation Expense: Waste Management Assets ($) |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northern Territory** |  |  |  |
| Government Body | Reporting format | Data gathered | Council specific data available to public | Information incorporated in |
| Northern Territory Grants Commission | Annual Information Return | Garbage - Domestic Waste Management Rates ($) | Local Government Income - Domestic waste ($) | *Northern Territory Grants Commission Annual Report* (latest available 2009-10) |
| Garbage - Other Rates ($) | Assessed revenue - Domestic waste ($) |
|   | Assessed revenue - Garbage other ($) |

# Australian Local Governments

Local governments are established by state and territory governments to take responsibility for a number of community services. Their powers are defined by the state or territory government which established them, and those state or territory governments have primary responsibility for funding and supervision of local councils.

The Australian Constitution makes no explicit mention of local government, although there have been two unsuccessful attempts to reform the Constitution to include local government via referenda.

The 1974 referendum was designed to allow the Australian Government to directly fund local government rather than having to pass the funds through state and territory governments. The 1988 referendum aimed to require state governments to maintain a system of local government. Both questions were defeated, although inclusion of local government in the Constitution has remained an issue on local government's strategic agenda[[2]](#footnote-3).

Federal government interaction with local councils often happens through the provision of federal grants to help fund local government managed projects.

There are 559 LGAs in Australia and, as previously highlighted, their specific roles, responsibilities (and, to some extent, performance) are often defined by jurisdictional frameworks. However, there are some common responsibilities, in relation to waste and recycling, which apply to all Australian local governments.

This section provides an overview of national responsibilities, and an outline of important sources of national information regarding municipal waste and recycling activities. There are currently no sources of LGA-specific information regarding waste and recycling performance at a national level[[3]](#footnote-4).

## Responsibilities

### Used Packaging Materials NEPM

Local government is required to provide data on the kerbside collection of packaging materials to state and territory departments and agencies under the *Used Packaging Materials National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) 2011*. The NEPM states:

**Clause 17 Collection and Participation Data**

(1) Participating jurisdictions shall require each local government of a municipal district (or each grouping of local governments of municipal districts where waste management groups exist) in which a kerbside recycling collection service or other municipal materials recovery system is provided, to provide the following information... for a financial year:

(a) what percentage of households is covered by any such service;

(b) participation rate in any such service;

(c) number of tenements covered by the service and whether the tenements are residential tenements or other kinds of tenement;

(d) per tenement fee charged for recycling collection services;

(e) total weight of recyclable material collected at kerbside or by other municipal materials recovery systems by material type;

(f) if the material collected is sorted:

(i) the total weight of each material type sold and/or sent for secondary use, including energy recovery;

(ii) the total weight of the residual fraction disposed of to landfill by material type if practicable.

( ) ...

(4) Participating jurisdictions shall maintain the confidentiality of any commercially sensitive information provided under this clause unless:

(a) the parties identified in 17(1) and 17(3) consent to the release of the information; or

(b) the participating jurisdiction is legally compelled to release it; or

(c) the information is aggregated with other information so as to conceal its source; or

(d) it is in the public interest to release it.

(5) Participating jurisdictions shall require each local government, or grouping of local governments, to report the information mentioned in subclause (1) for a financial year:

(a) to the nominated agency of the participating jurisdiction within which the municipal district or group of municipal districts lies; and

(b) within a timeframe agreed by jurisdictions in consultation with local government after the end of the financial year to which the information relates.

(6) Participating jurisdictions should also report on participation in complementary collection systems for recyclables.

Data on the kerbside collection of packaging materials is reported as part of the National Environment Protection Council Annual Report, but only in an aggregated form for each state and territory. Estimates are not available of the accuracy of council data under the NEPM. Data disaggregated at a municipal level has been published periodically by NSW and Victoria as part of a larger data set regarding the overall performance of each local government (see further discussion in Sections and ).

 sets out the mechanisms that states and territories have used to implement the Used Packaging NEPM. These are worth noting as they are often incorporated into a broader legislation or regulations regarding waste management.

Table 5-7 Implementation of the Used Packaging Materials NEPM in each jurisdiction

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction | Implementation mechanism(s) |
| New South Wales  | *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2006* |
| Victoria  | Waste Management Policy (Used Packaging Materials) (2006), under the *Environment Protection Act (1970)* |
| Queensland  | *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation (2000)* |
| Western Australia  | *Environmental Protection (NEPM Used Packaging Materials) Regulations 2007* under the *Environmental Protection Act (1986)* |
| South Australia  | Environment Protection Policy under the *Environment Protection Act (1993)* |
| Tasmania  | *State Policies and Projects Act (1993)**Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act (1994)* |
| Australian Capital Territory  | Industry Waste Reduction Plan under the *Waste Minimisation Act 2001* |
| Northern Territory  | 2007 *Re-thinking Waste* |

### Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995

The relevant environment agency in each jurisdiction will generally be the primary body responsible for overseeing the environmental performance of councils, and therefore the primary repository of information about waste and recycling. However, the information presented within the jurisdictional summary sections of this report highlights that Local Government Grants Commissions can be also be an important source of information about the role and performance of Australian local governments in relation to the management of waste and recycling.

Under the provisions of the *Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, the federal government provides jurisdictional Local Government Grants Commissions with funding for the provision of financial assistance to local government bodies. These allocations are guided by a set of National Principles, but the Act provides that these grants are untied. On this basis the General Purpose Grants that are directed to councils have no requirements on how these funds are to be spent.

In simplistic terms, General Purpose Grants are allocated between Australian States and Territories on a population basis, however each Local Government Grants Commission is required to allocate funding to their local councils in accordance with six agreed National Principles, which are:

1. Horizontal equalisation - General purpose grants are to be allocated to councils, as far as practicable, on a full horizontal equalisation basis. This aims to ensure that each council is able to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other councils in the State/Territory
2. Effort neutrality - In allocating general purpose grants, an effort or policy neutral approach is to be used in assessing the expenditure requirements and revenue raising capacity of each council. This means as far as practicable, the policies of individual councils in terms of expenditure and revenue efforts will not affect the grant determination
3. Minimum grant - The minimum general purpose grant for a council is to be not less than the amount to which it would be entitled if 30 per cent of the total amount of general purpose grants were allocated on a per capita basis
4. Other grant support - In allocating general purpose grants, other relevant grant support provided to local governing bodies to meet any of the expenditure needs assessed is to be taken into account
5. Aboriginal Peoples & Torres Strait Islanders - Financial assistance is to be allocated to councils in a way which recognises the needs of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders within their boundaries
6. Council Amalgamation - Where two or more local governing bodies are amalgamated into a single body, the general purpose grant provided to the new body for each of the four years following amalgamation should be the total of the amounts that would have been provided to the former bodies in each of those years if they had remained separate entities.

Beyond fulfilling these guiding principles, each jurisdiction has a documented method for its allocation of monies to local governments.

As detailed in and throughout the jurisdictional summary sections of this report (Chapters 6-13 inclusive), in some jurisdictions the information available through Local Government Grants Commissions provides an important contribution to the body of LGA-specific waste-related information that is publicly available.

## Information pathways

### Annual Waste and Recycling Surveys

Several state government departments (Victoria, NSW, Queensland and WA), have developed an annual survey dedicated solely to the collection of waste and recycling data, which is sent to all councils in the state. The survey generally incorporates the information required under the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) for Used Packaging Materials, and as such, councils are required to submit at least some data.

While several states have achieved full participation with the surveys, others have experienced poor response rates, and/or incomplete and inconsistent submissions. Even in states where legislation requires council participation, penalties and fines have not generally been issued. Data is generally not audited in any jurisdiction, and a lack of resourcing generally limits the various departments’ ability to follow up on anomalies in the data.

### Financial Reporting

The ABS also undertakes a number of national surveys, including a survey of annual local government financial statistics. In addition, most jurisdictions require councils to produce a full set of Audited Financial Statements to the relevant state Grants Commission. In order to reduce the reporting burden on councils, relevant departments in most states have, in collaboration with the ABS, developed a data collection instrument that incorporate the requirements of the ABS, the relevant state Grants Commission and, in many cases, the department’s annual performance indicator collection. Some data at the individual LGA level is available as a Special Data Service from the ABS. Aggregated data, by jurisdiction, is published in *Government Finance Statistics, Australia.*

### State of the Environment Reporting

National reporting obligations have been legislated under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, which requires an Australian State of the Environment (SoE) report be produced every five years. The first national SoE report was published in 1996, largely as a result of international obligations arising from the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, which identified SoE reporting as one of its objectives.

The most recent SoE report was published in 2006.SoE 2011 is due to be tabled in Parliament by 31 December 2011.

Section 11.1 of SoE 2006 addressed the role of local government, in particular expenditure on the environment and the significant portion of this that was spent on solid waste management.

All states and territories of Australia produce SoE reports, with the exception of the Northern Territory. In some jurisdictions, notably NSW, there is a legislative requirement for Councils to provide information for jurisdictional SoE reports; these requirements are further explained in the relevant jurisdictional summary chapters of this report.

### *Waste & Recycling in Australia*

The *Waste and Recycling in Australia* series of reports, commissioned by the Australian Government, provide the most comprehensive overview of national waste and recycling data, including (but not limited to) the municipal waste stream. This includes performance data on waste generation, recycling rates, and tonnes of waste disposed to landfill.

In February 2006 Hyder produced the first *Waste and Recycling in Australia* report*.* This report informed the then Department of Environment and Heritage’s submission to the Productivity Commission’s inquiry into waste generation and resource efficiency in Australia.

Hyder produced a report with the same title in 2008 for the (then) Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, collating data for the financial year 2006–07. The 2008 report updated and supplemented information contained in the 2006 report, and endeavoured to provide the most up-to-date and comprehensive picture of waste and recycling activity in Australia.

An amended version of the 2008 report was produced by Hyder in 2009 to incorporate 2006–07 data from states and territories, which was not available at the time of writing the original 2008 report. The amended version also included the latest data for some organic materials that had become available subsequent to the publication of the original report in 2008.

Hyder has recently submitted the fourth report in this series, *Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011*, to the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (DSEWPaC). This report presents, where available, 2008–09 data from state and territories, and industry bodies.

### Australian Bureau of Statistics

In July 2011 the ABS released *Waste Management Services, Australia, 2009–10*. The previous ABS data release on waste management covered the period of 2002–03.

The most recent publication presents estimates of the financial performance of waste management services businesses/organisations for 2009–10. It also provides information on waste facilities operated, waste activities undertaken, quantities of waste received and processed, and factors hampering resource recovery.

Estimates were produced from data collected directly through the Waste Management Services Survey, comprising the Economic Activity Survey (EAS) and Local Government Survey conducted by the ABS.

There are some significant differences between the ABS methodology of compiling waste data, and the methodology used to inform the *Waste and Recycling in Australia* reports for DSEWPaC. Significantly, the ABS is able to use statutory powers to gather data, while DSEWPaC relies primarily on public data sets.

The scope of the ABS data collection consisted of all employing and significant non-employing private and public trading sector businesses and organisations on the ABS Business Register classified to Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) Subdivision 29 - Waste Collection, Treatment and Disposal Services. ANZSIC Subdivision 29 consists of the following classes:

* 2911 Solid Waste Collection Services
* 2919 Other Waste Collection Services
* 2921 Waste Treatment and Disposal Services
* 2922 Waste Remediation and Materials Recovery Services.

The survey scope also included the waste management activities of the general government sector. The general government sector in this survey mainly comprised local government administration units (ANZSIC class 7530) and units in ANZSIC subdivision 29 classified to Standard Institutional Sector Classification of Australia (SISCA) 3000 (General Government).

Some non-coded landfill sites, as well as a significant portion of the organisations involved in recycling and reprocessing waste materials, are outside the scope of the industry codes used by the ABS. It is therefore likely that the ABS methodology underestimates the scale of activity, compared to the method used by Hyder to compile the *Waste and Recycling in Australia* reports for DSEWPaC. For example, ABS data on the tonnes of waste disposed is approximately 79% of the total reported in *Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011*, and the ABS data relating to tonnes of material recovered is approximately 54% of the total reported in *Waste and Recycling in Australia 2011.*

For units in the general government sector, ABS data was collected for revenue from rates, charges, levies, fines and licenses related to waste management activities. Some general government sector units were unable to separately report this item, where there was no specific waste component of the total rates, resulting in waste expenses being covered by general revenue.

For general government sector organisations, where total expenses on waste management activities exceeded 120% of income related to waste management activities, an adjustment factor was applied to the data so that income was equal to expenses. This adjustment affected approximately 25% of general government sector units.

A sample of 867 businesses/organisations (561 private and public trading sector businesses and 306 general government sector organisations) was selected for the directly collected part of the 2009–10 *Waste Management Services Survey*. Each business/organisation was asked to provide data sourced from financial and operational statements, through mail out questionnaires. Businesses/organisations were also required to supply key details of their operations by state/territory, enabling production of state/territory estimates.

There was an overall response rate of 93% from all businesses/organisations that were surveyed and found to be operating during the reference period for the *2009–10* *Waste Management Services Survey* (89% for businesses in ANZSIC subdivision 29 and 98% for organisations in the general government sector). Data were imputed for the remaining 7% of operating businesses/organisations.

### Recycling Near You

The RecyclingNearYou website ([www.recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://www.recyclingnearyou.com.au)) is a joint initiative of Sensis and the not-for-profit Australian environment organisation PlanetArk. The website was launched in November 2006, and PlanetArk claims there have been more than 3.5 million visits to the site since this time.

The RecyclingNearYou website is searchable by postcode, council area, state, suburb, or by the specific item a user wishes to recycle or dispose. The website aims to:

* Provide information about what can and can't be recycled in a user’s local area
* Provide the drop-off locations for a wide range of items including electronic goods, printer cartridges, white goods, furniture, and other items.

In order to provide current information, PlanetArk seeks to be in regular contact with councils (including direct contact ‘several times per year’). Additionally, councils are provided login details that allow them to manually update specific information as their details change (for example, through a change of contract that influences the specific materials that can be recycled). Councils are strongly encouraged to update information at least once per year.

As such, PlanetArk has developed a broad database of existing local government services and infrastructure. The website relies on the goodwill of councils to accurately enter key information, although misinformation can be corrected by PlanetArk when reported by users.

The website has 32 specific product categories users can search to find local recycling or disposal options, where they exist. In the most recent summary report, covering the period May 2008 to April 2009, a total of 1.3 million visits to the site were recorded, and the most common enquires (in descending order) related to:

* Computers & electronics
* Batteries (all types)
* Mobile phones
* Charities
* Printer cartridges
* Furniture
* Plastic bags
* Asbestos
* Cars
* Compost

Chapter 2.1 of The *National Waste Report 2010* draws on information from the Recycling Near You database to map the availability of recycling services by LGA. This shows the potential for this information to be used for mapping the equity of opportunity to recycle various materials. For the mapping undertaking in the *National Waste Report 2010*, Data was provided by Planet Ark in August 2009. Based on this information, the following figures were developed to show the coverage of municipal recycling services:

* **Figure 2.16** shows 44% of Australian LGAs offer municipal recycling coverage of all paper and cardboard, which can be considered best practice in municipal recycling materials coverage.
* **Figure 2.17** shows 29% of LGAs offer a municipal recycling service that can accept seven types of plastic (rigid, food-grade plastic types).
* **Figure 2.18** shows municipal glass recycling services available in 63% of Australian LGAs.
* **Figure 2.19** shows 42% of LGAs recycle the three main steel can types (food, paint and aerosol) but 33% of LGAs reported no recycling of cans.
* **Figure 2.20** shows battery collections available in only 12% of Australian LGAs

### National Litter Index

The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index provides a national, annual, quantitative measure of what litter occurs where, and in what volume. Over 950 sites are visited twice per year to create an annual report on litter in each state and territory, which can be compared against the national average.

The National Litter Index does not provide LGA-specific information about litter. However, many Australian councils are actively involved in litter prevention and management within their communities, and such activities may represents a significant cost to local government.

Local government's role in litter management may cover the following broad areas:

* **Litter prevention-** works to support behaviour change, including working with state and territory government agencies
* **Stormwater-** providing, cleaning and maintaining infrastructure including litter traps and in-line traps.
* **Litter collection-** collection and disposal of dumped litter, litter enforcement through local laws, collection and disposal of litter bin waste, provision of litter infrastructure, street cleaning, collection and disposal of sharps.

The cost of litter infrastructure and management may be considerable in some council budgets. The Municipal Association of Victoria, for example, estimates that, based on 2004–05 data from a subset of Victorian councils, litter costs between 7-31% of overall waste management expenses. The Victorian Litter Report found councils spend around 95% of their litter-related budgets on litter management and around 5% on prevention activities.

# New South Wales

There are 152 Local Government Areas in the state of New South Wales, with 41 of these (covering 59% of the state’s population) considered as metropolitan, 50 (32% of the population) considered regional, and 61 (9% of the population) considered remote. As outlined in , the availability of LGA-specific waste and recycling information is generally considered to be ‘high’ within this jurisdiction.

This chapter provides an overview of the role of local government in this state in relation to waste management and recycling, as well as explaining the information reporting pathways for relevant information and providing an overview of council performance in terms of service provision, landfill diversion rates, and costs.

## The role of local government in NSW

The New South Wales (NSW) *Local Government Act (1993)* clearly states that the function of local government includes providing waste management services. The Act classifies ‘certain of a council’s functions as service, that is, non-regulatory’.

The Act then codifies service functions of council, stating:

**Chapter 6: What are the service functions of councils?**

This Chapter confers on councils their service or non-regulatory functions. Examples of these functions include the provision, management or operation of waste removal, treatment and disposal services and facilities.

With respect to the transport and disposal of waste, the Act sets out:

**Chapter 7, Clause 68 What activities, generally, require the approval of the council?**

Part C: Management of waste

1 For fee or reward, transport waste over or under a public place

2 Place waste in a public place

3 Place a waste storage container in a public place.

The Act also sets out how councils are to cover the cost of management services, stating:

**Chapter 15: How are councils financed?**

The reasonable cost to the council of providing domestic waste management services must not be recovered by the ordinary rate. It must be obtained from the making and levying of a charge.

Changes to waste management charges are restricted as follows in this and other similar clauses:

**Chapter 15, Clause 507 Variation of annual charges for domestic waste management services**

The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette:

(a) specify the percentage by which the amounts of annual charges made by councils for domestic waste management services for a specified year may be varied, and

(b) impose conditions with respect to the variation of those charges.

## Groupings in NSW

In relation to waste related information, LGAs in NSW are primarily grouped according to four zones, which reflect the application of the state’s landfill levy.

### Landfill levy

The NSW waste and environment levy applies in the ['regulated area' of NSW](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wr/lgacodes.htm), which is made up of the Sydney Metropolitan Area, the Extended Regulated Area (Illawarra and Hunter regions) and, as of 1 July 2009, the Regional Regulated Area (including the North coast local government areas from Port Stephens to the Queensland border, as well as the Blue Mountains and Wollondilly local government areas). Different levy rates apply to each of the SMA, ERA, and RRA, and increase annually (). Levy rates paid by a facility will depend on which area the waste was generated or sourced from, and where it was received. LGAs within the regulated area of NSW, and in the rest of the state, are:

**Sydney Metropolitan Area (SMA):** the local government areas of Ashfield, Auburn, Bankstown, Baulkham Hills, Blacktown, Botany, Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury, Fairfield, Holroyd, Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Hurstville, Kogarah, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Leichhardt, Liverpool, Manly, Marrickville, Mosman, North Sydney, Parramatta, Penrith, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland, Sydney, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra.

**Extended Regulated Area (ERA):** the local government areas of Cessnock, Gosford, Hawkesbury, Kiama, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee, Wollongong and Wyong.

**Regional Regulated Area (RRA):** the local government areas of Ballina, Bellingen, Blue Mountains City, Byron, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour City, Dungog, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Greater Taree City, Kempsey, Kyogle, Lismore City, Muswellbrook, Nambucca, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Richmond Valley, Singleton, Tweed, Upper Hunter Shire and Wollondilly.

**Rest of State:** the local government areas outside the ‘regulated area’, being Albury, Armidale/Dumaresq, Balranald, Bathurst Regional, Bega Valley, Berrigan, Bland, Blayney, Bogan, Bombala, Boorowa, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Cabonne, Carrathool, Central Darling, Cobar, Conargo, Coolamon, Cooma-Monaro, Coonamble, Cootamundra, Corowa, Cowra, Deniliquin, Dubbo, Eurobodalla, Forbes, Gilgandra, Glen Innes Severn, Goulburn Mulwaree, Greater Hume, Griffith, Gundagai, Gunnedah, Guyra, Gywdir, Harden, Hay, Inverell, Jerilderie, Junee, Lachlan, Leeton, Lithgow, Liverpool Plains, Lockhart, Mid-Western Regional, Moree Plains, Murray, Murrumbidgee, Narrabri, Narrandera, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Palerang, Parkes, Queanbeyan, Snowy River, Tamworth Regional, Temora, Tenterfield, Tumbarumba, Tumut, Upper Lachlan, Uralla, Urana, Wagga Wagga, Wakool, Walcha, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle, Weddin, Wellington, Wentworth, Yass Valley and Young.

Table 6-8 NSW landfill levy

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Regulated area of NSW | Levy rates 2010-11($/tonne) | Levy rates 2011-12($/tonne) |
| SMA | $70.30 | $82.20 |
| ERA | $65.30 | $78.60 |
| RRA | $20.40 | $31.10 |

Licensed waste facilities within the regulated area of NSW are required to report monthly. Landfills outside the regulated area, or those not required to be licensed and servicing populations of less than 1,000, report data annually. NSW landfill tonnage data is only reported in an aggregated form (i.e. not reported by LGA).

### Voluntary Waste Management Groups

The establishment of waste management groups is not required under any state legislation or regulations. Nonetheless, there exists seven Voluntary Regional Waste Management Groups (VRWMGs) in NSW. Most VRWMGs have the stated aim of facilitating regional co-operation in waste management and waste minimisation. VRWMGs receive funding from the OEH and usually develop projects in alignment with the State *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy*.

The seven VRWMGs roughly correspond with geographical regions of NSW. However, the Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils can be considered in two parts, those corresponding with the Murray and Murrumbidgee regions.

The present study calculates that the RWMGs include 73 LGAs, which account for 17% of the population and cover 69% of the land area of the state. However, the umbrella group for VRWMGs – Renew NSW – states the seven organisations cover 95 LGAs.

Renew NSW, which also receives funding from the OEH, states that it:

...monitors and facilitates improvements to waste management and resource recovery practices in rural and regional areas ... [and] serve as an advisory body on matters of regional concern such as landfill rationalization, infrastructure sharing, resource recovery systems and drop-off centres and other related sustainability activities.

 provides a list of the RWMGs, their relevant region, and their member LGAs, population and population densities.

A review of the VRWMGs websites shows the reporting of data to be sporadic. Where data is provided, it is only for material recovered or diverted from landfill and does not indicate the volumes as a proportion of overall generation.

The North East Waste Forum and Midwaste provide the most comprehensive reports, providing data from kerbside recycling collection, and commercial and industrial (C&I) and construction and demolition (C&D) recycling. For most VRWMGs, data is reported for specific programs, including drumMUSTER[[4]](#footnote-5), or material collected through specific events, including hazardous, green waste, metal waste, batteries, and e-waste collections.

Table 6-9 Voluntary Regional Waste Management Groups in NSW

| Voluntary Regional Waste Management Group | Region | Member LGAs | Population | Population density (/km2) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Midwaste | Mid North Coast | Bellingen (A), Coffs Harbour (C), Gloucester (A), Great Lakes (A), Greater Taree (C), Kempsey (A), Nambucca (A), Port Macquarie-Hastings (A) | 297,751 | 1.2 |
| NetWaste | Central & West  | Bland (A), Blayney (A), Bogan (A), Bourke (A), Brewarrina (A), Broken Hill (C), Cabonne (A), Central Darling (A), Mid-Western Regional (A), Oberon (A), Warrumbungle Shire (A), Wellington (A) | 104,091 | 0.3 |
| North East Waste Forum | North Coast  | Ballina (A), Byron (A), Clarence Valley (A), Kyogle (A), Lismore (C), Richmond Valley (A), Tweed (A) | 294,008 | 1.3 |
| Northern Inland Regional Waste | New England/ North West  | Armidale Dumaresq (A), Glen Innes Severn (A), Gunnedah (A), Guyra (A), Gwydir (A), Inverell (A), Liverpool Plains (A), Moree Plains (A), Narrabri (A), Tenterfield (A), Uralla (A), Walcha (A) | 126,307 | 0.3 |
| Riverina and Murray Regional Organisation of Councils | Murray and Murrum-bidgee | Albury (C), Balranald (A), Berrigan (A), Carrathool (A), Conargo (A), Deniliquin (A), Griffith (C), Hay (A), Jerilderie (A), Leeton (A), Murray (A), Murrumbidgee (A), Narrandera (A), Urana (A), Wakool (A), Wentworth (A) | 145,481 | 0.3 |
| Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils | Riverina East  | Coolamon (A), Cootamundra (A), Gundagai (A), Junee (A), Lockhart (A), Temora (A), Tumbarumba (A), Wagga Wagga (C) | 98,171 | 0.4 |
| South East Resource Recovery Regional Organisation of Councils | South East  | Bega Valley (A), Bombala (A), Boorowa (A), Cooma-Monaro (A), Eurobodalla (A), Harden (A), Palerang (A), Queanbeyan (C), Snowy River (A), Yass Valley (A) | 167,871 | 0.4 |

## Information pathways in NSW

### Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report

In August of each year, commencing in 2006, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH, formerly the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water) surveys local councils to determine the characteristics and relative performance of domestic resource recovery and waste management services available to residents in NSW.

This annual survey also incorporates the information required under the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) for Used Packaging Materials.

The NSW OEH publishes annually a *Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report*, although it takes up to 12 months to prepare the survey information for publishing. Anomalies in the data are identified, but the quality of the data is not validated. The 2009–10 report stated:

*OEH acknowledges the cooperation and contribution of all NSW councils in providing the data presented within this report. Please note that the information within this report is entirely dependent on the accuracy of data supplied by councils in the 2009–10 survey. While OEH has made an effort to verify the information supplied by councils wherever possible, OEH is not able to validate the raw data that forms the basis of this report.*

NSW is considering moving to an online reporting framework, which may decrease the time between survey data collection and report publication.

The 2006–07 report stated data was collected from a survey that:

...incorporated the information required under the NEPM for Used Packaging Materials in addition to information relating to overall domestic resource recovery as well as waste collection and disposal.

Data collected relating to “overall domestic resource recovery” included:

* Dry recyclables collection
* Organics collection
* Residual waste collection
* Clean up/hard waste collection
* Recyclables and organics drop-off facilities.

The data provided by councils through these surveys is used to calculate overall waste generation and resource recovery rates for each LGA.

The amount of municipal waste recycled and landfilled is contained in the annual *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Progress Report*.

### Waste Strategy

Through implementation of its waste strategy, the NSW Government encourages councils to gather and provide additional information about waste and recycling. Key requirements include:

*Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act (WARR) Act (2001)*:

**Clause 14 Power to request councils to report on waste strategy compliance**

(1) The Director-General may request a local council to provide the reasons for any specified non-compliance by the local council with the objectives of the current waste strategy.

(2) Such a request must be in writing and must specify the date by which the local council is requested to provide the reasons to the Director-General.

*Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation (2005)*:

**Clause 46B Waste and sustainability improvement guidelines**

(1) The EPA may, from time to time, issue guidelines establishing waste and sustainability improvement standards to be met by local councils within the regulated area in relation to the use, recovery, recycling, processing and disposal of waste, and improvements in environmental sustainability practices and services.

(1A) A waste and sustainability improvement standard may be expressed to apply to all local councils, or to a particular local council or group of local councils, within the regulated area.

The Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment (WaSIP) program is a $256 million program that will run from 2009–2010 to 2015–2016. The Waste and Sustainability Improvement Scheme is described in Part 5A of the current version of the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005*.

To be eligible to receive a Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment councils in the regulated area of NSW (SMA, ERA and RRA) are required to commit to meeting both the ongoing and current year's WaSIP Standards. The WaSIP Standards are progressively updated in consultation with an Advisory Group and the Local Government and Shires Associations. Ongoing requirements include:

* Information required under the *National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure* provided to DECCW each year
* Baseline data on tonnages of dry recyclables and garden organics collected for recycling and residual domestic waste collected and provided to DECCW.

In August each year SMA/ERA/RRA councils can apply for a Waste and Sustainability Improvement Payment by sending the OEH a WaSIP Certificate signed by their General Manager. The certificate commits the council to:

* complying with the WaSIP Guidelines
* investing the payments in actions and programs to improve waste and environmental sustainability outcomes based on local priorities
* providing an action table that details the waste and sustainability actions that will be delivered as a result of receiving the payments
* providing a financial report on the waste and sustainability outcomes achieved.

### NSW Local Government Grants Commission

The NSW Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC) methodology for allocating general purpose grants under the *Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, unlike some other States, does not directly address waste management in its expenditure functions. It does however include Street and Gutter Cleaning per urban property which incorporates ‘housing and community amenities and street cleaning’.

### Local government financial reporting

The Division of Local Government in the Department of Premier and Cabinet is responsible for overseeing the management of local government operations in NSW. In May 2011, the Division released the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting* (the Code). It prescribes the form required for financial statements and the minimum disclosures that must be made by local governments. It applies to all financial statements prepared by councils for the financial period commencing 1 July 2010.

The Code includes financial reporting on ‘environment’. Within the function area of environment there are six activities that must be reported on, which include waste management. Minimum disclosures are required for waste management, as it relates to:

* Expenses from continuing operations
* Income from continuing operations that are non-capital
* Income from continuing operations that are capital
* Net cost of services.

### State of the Environment Reporting

*New South Wales SoE 2009* is the seventh report on the status of the main environmental issues facing the state (its predecessors were published in 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2003 and 2006). The 2009 SoE report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 10 of the [*Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/legislation/DECCActsummaries.htm#poea).

[SoE 2009](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soe/soe2009) is structured around seven major themes:

1. People and the Environment
2. Climate Change
3. Human Settlement
4. Atmosphere
5. Land
6. Water
7. Biodiversity.

Thirty environmental issues are reported on within these themes, with data and information addressing 86 environmental indicators. Waste management issues are reported under the ‘Human Settlement’ theme, with waste disposal and resource recovery rates and trends reported regionally, with performance indicators provided for the SMA, ERA and NRA.

The *Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009* commenced in October 2009, and the recent amendment retains a requirement for all councils in NSW to prepare a SoE report.

The changes to the Act have been introduced to generally improve council's long term community, financial and asset planning through the introduction of the [Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework](http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/dlg_generalindex.asp?sectionid=1&mi=6&ml=9&AreaIndex=IntPlanRept). Under this framework, councils are required to develop 10 year Community Strategic Plans to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future. These plans will include objectives for the environment (section 428A). The Act no longer prescribes a framework of environmental issues to be reported on, but requires councils to report how they met environmental objectives established by the Community Strategic Plan.[[5]](#footnote-6)

## Performance in NSW

The *NSW Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2009*–*2010* summarises the results of the fifth annual survey conducted by the OEH for the 2009–10 financial year. The survey achieved a 100% response rate, and therefore is believed to provide a comprehensive set of local government waste and recycling data in NSW.

Table 6-10 provides a summary of the collections and services offered by NSW councils.

Table 6-10 Kerbside collections offered by number of local governments as reported in *NSW Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2009-2010.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number of councils offering service | Total as a proportion of local governments (%) |
| Kerbside Domestic Waste  | 151 | 99 |
| Kerbside Domestic Waste to AWT | 20 | 13 |
| Kerbside Domestic Recycling  | 126 | 83 |
| Kerbside Domestic Garden Organics | 64 | 42 |
| Kerbside Clean Up Service | 103 | 68 |
| Drop Off Recycling Facility | 103 | 81 |

All but one of the 152 NSW local governments provides a kerbside garbage collection, 83% also offer recyclables services to residents, with 42% offering a green waste collection.

Across those 150 councils that do offer kerbside waste collection, an average of 631kg of residual waste was collected. Collection amounts and diversion rates across the state, and in the various regulated areas, are summarised in . Diversion rates achieved by NSW councils ranged from 79.9% (Coffs Harbour) down to 0.5% (Bland Shire Council).

Table 6-11 Average amounts of waste, recycling and organics collected per household[[6]](#footnote-7) and recovery rates, as reported in the *NSW Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2009-2010.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Average Amount of Recycling Collected per Household (kg/week) | Average Amount of Garden Organics Collected per Household (kg/week) | Average Amount of Residual Waste Collected per Household (kg/week) | Total Domestic Resource Recovery Rate (%) |
| NSW | 5.53 | 5.01 | 4.43 | 45.1 |
| SMA | 5.55 | 4.8 | 4.34 | 48.5 |
| ERA | 5.37 | 5.8 | 4.83 | 43.3 |
| RRA | 5.78 | 6.05 | 4.31 | 49.3 |
| Rest of the State | 5.48 | 3.79 | 4.33 | 32.9 |

A total of 148,415 tonnes of residual waste was reported as being processed through AWT facilities in 2009–10, which represents 9% of the total tonnes of residual municipal waste collected that year.

Table 6-12 summarises the average domestic waste management rates NSW councils charge for waste, recycling and green organics collections.

Table 6-12 Average NSW domestic waste management charges for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available, as reported in *NSW Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2009-2010*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Average Domestic Waste Management Charge ($) |
| Residual Waste | 107.44 |
| Recycling | 25.76 |
| Green organics | 16.48 |
| Overall | 262.76 |

## Summary - NSW

Based on research for this report, considering the availability of information only, the degree to which information about municipal waste and recycling in NSW meets the needs of users is generally considered to be HIGH.

Key performance and service level information is made available at the LGA level, and there is a good coverage of responses across the state’s LGAs.

 provides a comparison of the waste and recycling data collected by government bodies in NSW against the data which is made available to the public at an LGA-level. Note that the quality of available information has not been assessed.

Table 6-13 Summary of waste and recycling data collected in NSW versus data made available to the public.

|   | Data collected | Data available |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection services offered**  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Collection frequencies** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Bin sizes/ types** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Waste generation (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Recycling (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Organics (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Waste to landfill (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Waste management infrastructure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management costs/ expenditure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Contractor information** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management charges** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Hard waste services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Litter/ illegal dumping** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Public Place Collections** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Commercial & Industrial Services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Other Waste data (ie. Tyres, Batteries, Electronic Waste etc)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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Notes: The data collected by government bodies in each jurisdiction was assessed against the amount of data which is made available to the public. For the purposes of this summary, the following assessment criteria were used
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png]() = Data collected. / Data available for more than 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png]() = Some data collected. / Data available for 50 – 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png]() = Data not collected. / Data available for less than 50% of councils.

# Victoria

There are 79 Local Government Areas in the state of Victoria, with 30 of these (covering 78% of the state’s population) considered as metropolitan, 34 (22% of the population) considered regional, and 15 (5% of the population) considered remote. As outlined in , the availability of LGA-specific waste and recycling information is generally considered to be ‘high’ within this jurisdiction.

This chapter provides an overview of the role of local government in this state in relation to waste management and recycling, as well as explaining the information reporting pathways for relevant information and providing an overview of council performance in terms of service provision, landfill diversion rates, and costs.

## The role of local government in Victoria

The only codification of local government’s primary responsibilities with respect to waste management in Victoria is contained in the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act (2008)*.

**Section 24 functions of Councils**

The function of a Council under this Act is to seek to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the municipal district by-

( ) ...

(g) ensuring that the municipal district is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

( ) ...

The broader waste management services offered by local government are undertaken under the ‘broadly enabling’ provisions of the *Local Government Act (1989)*. The most relevant clause is:

**3E What are the functions of a Council?**

(1) The functions of a Council include—

(a) ...

(b) planning for and providing services and facilities for the local community;

(c) providing and maintaining community infrastructure in the municipal district;

( ) ...

(h) any other function relating to the peace, order and good government of the municipal district.

However, state government openly advertises the waste management services provided by local government. The Department of Planning and Community Development’s website states[[7]](#footnote-8):

Councils provide a range of waste disposal and recycling services for their communities. While some services, such as the collection and disposal of general household garbage are common to all councils, many services vary, depending on the needs and priorities of the relevant communities.

Contact your council to find out about the particular waste disposal and recycling services provided in your area.

Specific waste services provided by councils can include:

* Collection and disposal of general household garbage, which usually includes waste that cannot be recycled using the council’s recycling services
* Hard rubbish collections, which provide for the removal of items that cannot be disposed in general household garbage collections
* Recycling services that may include paper, glass, plastic and metal waste products
* Green waste collection services, which are generally connected with a service providing compost and mulch for gardens
* Disposal and/or recycling of other specific types of items such as chemicals, oil, computers or used printer cartridges
* Transfer stations and land fill sites for disposal and recycling services
* Commercial waste removal services.

The manner in which these services are provided can vary from area to area. While household garbage services most frequently involve the provision and regular emptying of bins, in some areas household waste may be disposed at transfer stations. Similarly, recycling services may be provided through collection from individual household bins or at transfer stations or depots in the municipality.

Many councils levy a garbage charge as part of the rates system. Sometimes the level of the charge varies in relation to the size of bin provided.

### Landfill levy

Levies apply to municipal, commercial and industrial and prescribed industrial wastes disposed at licensed facilities in Victoria. The landfill levy structure is designed to reflect the difference in the magnitude of environmental risk posed by the different waste streams, and also seeks to accommodate regional differences.

Table 7-14 Landfill levy rates for municipal waste in Victoria

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Rural | Metro and provincial |
| 2009-10 | $7/t | $9/t |
| 2010-11 | $15/t | $30/t |
| 2011-12[[8]](#footnote-9) | $20/t | $40/t |

## Groupings in Victoria

### Waste Management Groups

One aspect of local government responsibility that is clearly defined in Victoria is the establishment of waste management groups, as set out in the *Environment Protection Act* *(1970)*. All Victorian LGAs are either a member of:

* The Metropolitan Waste Management Group (MWMG) consisting of 30 member councils in the greater Melbourne area
* One of twelve Regional Waste Management Groups (RWMGs) covering the 49 councils in regional and rural Victoria, including the greater Geelong area.

 lists these waste management groups, their member LGAs, their population and population density.

Table 7-15 Metropolitan and Regional Waste Management Groups in Victoria

| Waste Management Groups | Member LGAs | Population | Population density (/km2) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Metropolitan | Banyule (C), Bayside (C), Boroondara (C), Brimbank (C), Casey (C), Darebin (C), Frankston (C), Glen Eira (C), Greater Dandenong (C), Greater Geelong (C), Hobsons Bay (C), Hume (C), Kingston (C), Knox (C), Manningham (C), Maribyrnong (C), Maroondah (C), Melbourne (C), Melton (S), Monash (C), Moonee Valley (C), Moreland (C), Nillumbik (S), Port Phillip (C), Stonnington (C), Whitehorse (C), Whittlesea (C), Wyndham (C), Yarra (C) | 3,846,543 | 2.8 |
| Barwon | Colac-Otway (S), Queenscliffe (B), Surf Coast (S) | 50,593 | 0.4 |
| Calder | Greater Bendigo (C), Macedon Ranges (S), Mount Alexander (S) | 162,681 | 1.5 |
| Central Murray | Buloke (S), Gannawarra (S), Loddon (S), Swan Hill (RC) | 48,938 | 0.4 |
| Desert Fringe | Hindmarsh (S), West Wimmera (S) | 10,815 | 0.1 |
| Gippsland | Bass Coast (S), Baw Baw (S), East Gippsland (S), Latrobe (C), South Gippsland (S), Wellington (S) | 260,756 | 1.2 |
| Goulburn Valley | Campaspe (S), Cardinia (S), Greater Shepparton (C), Mitchell (S), Moira (S), Murrindindi (S), Strathbogie (S) | 256,396 | 1.1 |
| Grampians | Ararat (RC), Horsham (RC), Northern Grampians (S), Yarriambiack (S) | 51,976 | 0.4 |
| Highlands | Ballarat (C), Central Goldfields (S), Golden Plains (S), Hepburn (S), Moorabool (S), Pyrenees (S) | 174,744 | 0.8 |
| Mildura | Mildura (RC) | 53,877 | 1.6 |
| Mornington | Mornington Peninsula (S) | 148,394 | 3.6 |
| North east | Alpine (S), Benalla (RC), Indigo (S), Mansfield (S), Towong (S), Wangaratta (RC), Wodonga (RC), Yarra Ranges (S) | 270,477 | 1.0 |
| South West | Corangamite (S), Glenelg (S), Moyne (S), Southern Grampians (S), Warrnambool (C) | 106,268 | 0.6 |

Metropolitan Waste Management Group (MWMG)

With respect to the MWMG, the *Environment Protection Act (1970)* states:

**50AC Objectives**

(1) The objectives of the Metropolitan Waste Management Group are to—

(a) plan, coordinate and facilitate metropolitan councils' procurement of waste management and resource recovery services; and

(b) assist metropolitan councils to undertake collective and joint efforts to—

(i) reduce the generation of waste; and

(ii) maximise the sustainable recovery of materials from waste for reuse, recycling and reprocessing and energy recovery; and

(iii) minimise the damage to the environment caused by waste disposal.

(2) In seeking to achieve its objectives, the Metropolitan Waste Management Group must collaborate with metropolitan councils, Sustainability Victoria, the Authority, industry, business and the community.

**50AD Functions**

The functions of the Metropolitan Waste Management Group are to—

(a) facilitate the provision of waste management services and facilities by metropolitan councils;

(b) enter into contracts and arrangements to develop and facilitate waste management services and facilities contracts for metropolitan councils;

(c) manage contracts and arrangements between metropolitan councils and the providers of waste management services and facilities to those metropolitan councils;

(d) promote, commission and undertake research into municipal waste management and resource efficiency on behalf of metropolitan councils;

(e) advise metropolitan councils on best practices in municipal waste management and resource efficiency;

(f) promote improved waste management and resource efficiency technologies;

(g) coordinate and support community education programs relating to waste management and avoidance in metropolitan Melbourne;

(h) assess the need for, and plan for, municipal waste management infrastructure and landfills in metropolitan Melbourne;

(i) generally provide support to the Metropolitan Waste Management Forum to enable it to perform its functions.

The Act also states that the MWMG is required to produce a Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan (MWRRSP) the objective of which is to:

(a) provide a long term vision for the management and reduction of waste in metropolitan Melbourne; and

(b) identify short term and long term waste infrastructure needs and schedule the development of landfill sites.

The Act states that the MWRRSP is to include a detailed Municipal Solid Waste Infrastructure Schedule and a Metropolitan Landfill Schedule.

The 2009 MWRRSP — which is to be reviewed four years after completion — includes details on the location of materials recovery facilities, organic waste treatment facilities and transfer stations in metropolitan Melbourne. The 2009 MWRRSP also includes data on waste disposal and resource recovery aggregated into four groupings of metropolitan LGAs that align with the boundaries of the former metropolitan regional waste management groups.

Regional Waste Management Groups (RWMGs)

With respect to regional waste management groups, the *Environment Protection Act (1970)* states:

**50H Functions and powers of a regional waste management group**

(1) The functions of a regional waste management group are—

(a) to plan for the management of municipal waste in its region, working in partnership with the councils in its region; and

(b) to co-ordinate the activities of its members in its region to give effect in its region to State policies, strategies and programs relating to waste; and

(c) to facilitate and foster best practices in waste management.

(1A) In carrying out its functions a regional waste management group is—

(a) to plan for municipal waste management in its region including—

(i) preparing and keeping up to date a regional waste management plan;

(ii) implementing and promoting the plan;

(iii) setting performance targets for municipal waste reduction programs;

(iv) developing, implementing, supporting and promoting municipal waste reduction and recycling programs;

(b) to co-ordinate the waste management activities of its members including—

(i) introducing measures that lead to conformity of standards for waste reduction, waste management and litter prevention and control between its members;

(ii) investigating and advising on landfill disposal costs and charges in the region;

(iii) encouraging the training of staff involved in municipal waste management;

(c) to promote, commission and undertake research into waste management;

(d) to advise its members on best practices in municipal waste management;

(e) to promote improved waste management technologies;

(f) to promote and co-ordinate relevant community education in its region;

(g) to mediate disputes between its members.

(2) A regional waste management group may do anything that is necessary or convenient to enable it to perform its functions.

Regional waste management groups are required to prepare a draft regional waste management plan — which is to be reviewed within five years — that sets out the

... objectives and priorities of the group for the management of municipal waste generated or disposed of within the group's waste management region, and must provide a clear direction for future municipal waste management in the region.

The draft plan must include, inter alia, an economic assessment of waste management options, municipal waste management strategy, a municipal waste minimisation and resource recovery program, and measures for litter control.

The Act also states that

**50RA Who must comply with plans**

(1) A council whose municipal district is in the waste management region of a regional waste management group must comply with the group's regional waste management plan.

There also exists the Association for Victorian Regional Waste Management Groups (AVRWMG), which is a non-statutory body for RWMGs to share information and discuss infrastructure and programs.

Regional waste management groups are required to prepare an Annual Business Plan under the Act.

Those regions with active websites, being Barwon, Central Murray, Gippsland, Highlands and North East, publish both their Annual Report and Annual Business Plans. These documents contain consolidated data on disposal to landfill and resource recovery in the regions.

Barwon RWMG also undertakes an annual survey that collects data on the amount and cost of disposal to landfill and resource recovery in each member council by material type.

## Information pathways in Victoria

### Victorian Local Government Annual Survey

Sustainability Victoria conducts a survey of all Victorian councils each financial year. Data is gathered using an online survey tool. Screenshots of the latest survey are appended to this report.

Sustainability Victoria verifies information provided in data collection returns by confirming data with individual local governments, regional waste management group executive officers and regional education officers. The 2008–09 report states:

*Sustainability Victoria has sought to verify information provided in data collection returns through rigorous follow-up with individual local governments to validate data entries. In addition, Sustainability Victoria circulated extracts containing individual local government returns to regional waste management group executive officers and regional education officers to verify data. Through these steps and extensive data analysis, Sustainability Victoria has identified and corrected a significant number of anomalies.*

*However, Sustainability Victoria is not in a position to validate underlying data in the report. Findings in this report are therefore subject to the accuracy of data provided by individual local governments.*

Sustainability Victoria reports annually the result of a survey of local government. The data contained within this report consists of that which is:

* Mandatory for local government to provide under the requirements of the National Packaging Covenant, namely kerbside recycling performance.
* Voluntarily provided by local government, including:
* household garbage collection and disposal
* household recyclables collection and sorting including material collected from drop-off facilities / transfer stations
* household green organics collection and processing
* litter bin and litter trap collection and disposal
* litter clean-up services
* street sweeping
* hard waste collection
* commercial and industrial recyclables services
* landfill and transfer station operations
* waste management costs and charges
* participation rates.

Sustainability Victoria, and preceding agencies, have published nine consecutive versions of this survey, and have obtained full participation from all 79 LGAs. Data is presented mainly in aggregated format, although selected council specific data is published, including diversion rates, services offered, and waste and recycling yield per household.

It should be noted that information on the number of households per LGA is drawn from a variety of sources, with some LGAs using 2006 Census Data, and others basing household data on rates information.

For potential users of the information, population or housing data is not always readily available for the reference year in question. This often presents a barrier to working with the waste and recycling information available, especially in terms of standardising information for comparison between other LGAs or other jurisdictions, or in determining total tonnes of material requiring management within the state.

Some jurisdictions report total tonnes of material per LGA, while some provide information on a per capita basis (which presents the same issues as per household data, in terms of difficulties in matching data with population information for the relevant reference year) and others report indicators per household or per dwelling.

The amount of municipal waste recycled and landfilled is contained in the annual *Towards Zero Waste Strategy Progress Report*.

### Victorian Grants Commission

The Victorian Grants Commission (VGC) *Annual Report 2009–2010* outlines the methodology for allocating general purpose grants under the *Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*. It takes into account each council’s relative expenditure needs and capacity to raise revenue based on a standardised calculation.

In respect to the determination of standardised expenditure, eight expenditure functions (excluding local roads and bridges) are included in the VGC’s model which seeks to match the standardised calculation with the pattern of actual council expenditure. Included in these eight functions is ‘waste management’.

Each expenditure function has a ‘major cost driver’ which is considered by the VGC to be the most significant determinant of a Council’s expenditure need on that particular function. For waste management the ‘major cost driver’ is considered to be the number of dwellings in a council. Additionally there are other cost adjusters applied to each expenditure function beyond the ‘major cost driver’ that has been identified. For waste management, weighting is also given to population density (20%), population dispersion (50%), and scale (30%).

The VGC *Annual Report 2009–2010* calculated average expenditure for waste management and grant revenue is shown in .

Table 7-16 VGC 2009–10 calculations for waste management

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Function | Expenditure | Revenue |
| Major cost driver | Unit(s) of need | Actual expenditure ($) | Average expenditure per unit ($/unit) | Actual grant revenue | Average grant revenue per unit ($/unit) |
| Waste management | Number of dwellings | 2,209,537 | $482,520,852 | $218.38 | $519,767 | $0.24 |

The VGC indicates that a council’s standardised revenue is intended to reflect its capacity to raise revenue from its community.

The VGC *Annual Report 2009–10* *Appendix 4 – General Purpose Grants 2010–11* provides a net standardised expenditure for the function of waste management for each Council and an estimate of the fees and charges for each function, including waste management, for each Victorian council.

### Local government financial reporting

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) has responsibility for local government in Victoria. DPCD annually prepares a report *Local Government in Victoria* which collates information from local government annual reports and data gathered from an annual Information Return to the DPCD.

The annual report addresses key performance indicators for local government which ‘have been agreed by Victorian Government and Councils’[[9]](#footnote-10).

Information on the performance indicators is available for individual local governments. Waste charge information is aggregated within a number of these performance measures. Guidance is provided in the ‘Source data 2005–09 and definitions’ spreadsheet, which states that the measure of ‘All rates’ is:

Rates and charges declared as being receivable, in the calculations for the adopted rates, at the beginning of the year, including:

* general rates and charges declared under ss. 160, 161,161A of the *Local Government Act 1989*
* municipal charges and service rates and charges (that is, garbage services) levied under ss. 159, 162 respectively...

Additionally waste costs and charges would be aggregated in the measure for ‘Residential rates’ which includes:

Rates and charges declared for all residential assessments (including vacant residential assessments) as defined in “All rates”, except for residential assessments only...

Aggregated operational costs for waste and recycling services would also be included in the performance measure of ‘Operating costs’.

The ‘Source data 2005–09 and definitions’ spreadsheet, under the ‘definitions for indicators’ notes in reference to ‘Data available for general analysis’, that:

The data and indicators were provided by councils using the Victoria Grants Commission Return as the data collection mechanism.

DPCD also provides a range of support for local government which includes guidance on asset management and financial reporting. Specifically there is guidance on financial reports and standard statements, which includes the 2011 *Model Financial Report*. This model seeks that councils report on:

* Garbage charges that are included in rates / charges
* Garbage collection operating commitments
* Recycling collection operating commitments
* General operational waste management allocations.

## Performance in Victoria

The *Victorian Local Government Annual Survey 2008–2009*summarises the results of the annual survey conducted by Sustainability Victoria for the 2008–09 financial year. The survey is well established and has achieved a 100% response rate in all but one year since the first survey in 2000–01. As such, the survey is considered to offer a reasonably accurate picture of local government waste and recycling activities in Victoria.

 provides a summary of the collections and services offered by Victorian councils.

Table 7-17 Kerbside collections offered by number of local governments as reported in *Victorian Local Government Annual Survey 2008–2009*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Metro | Non-metro | Total as a proportion of local governments (%) |
| Garbage | 30 | 49 | 100 |
| Recyclables | 30 | 49 | 100 |
| Green organics | 29 | 16 | 57 |
| Litter service | 30 | 45 | 95 |
| Hard waste | 29 | 13 | 53 |
| Street sweeping | 28 | 48 | 96 |

All 79 Victorian local governments provide a kerbside garbage and recyclables service to residents, with 57% offering a 3-bin collection of recycling, green waste and residual waste.

Landfill diversion rates achieved by all councils are presented in the report, and range from a high of 57% (Monash City Council) down to 15% (Golden Plains Shire Council). Sustainability Victoria reported the average diversion rate across the state to be 43%.

 summarises the average costs of waste, recycling and green organics collection for councils in Victoria, as well as the average weights collected per household. Household yields of each council are presented in the report, however only aggregated data on waste management costs are presented.

Table 7-18 Average Victorian waste collection costs and yields per household as reported in *Victorian Local Government Annual Survey 2008–2009*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Average cost per tonne collected | Average collection cost per household  | Average household yield (kg/year)  |
| Residual Waste | $141.89 | $66.96 | 472 |
| Recyclables | $120.73 | $34.14 | 283 |
| Green organics | $137.32 | $30.63 | 222 |

Waste management expenditure, fees and charges for each council are presented in the Victoria Grants Commission annual report. Based on the expenditure reported by Victorian councils for the 2010–11 financial year, the average waste management cost per household in Victoria was $309.32. The reported cost per household ranged from $215.22 (Casey City Council) to $601.89 (Bass Coast Shire Council).

The average waste management fees and charges reported for the same year was $30.22, ranging from $25.60 (Knox City Council) up to $53.70 (Queenscliffe Borough Council).

## Summary - Victoria

Based on research for this report, considering the availability of information only, the degree to which information about municipal waste and recycling in Victoria meets the needs of users is considered to be HIGH.

Key performance and service level information is made available at the LGA level, and there is a good coverage of responses across the state’s LGAs.

 provides a comparison of the waste and recycling data collected by government bodies in Victoria against the LGA-specific data which is made available to the public. Note that the quality of available information has not been assessed.

Table 7-19 Summary of waste and recycling data collected in Victoria and made available to the public.

|   | Data collected | Data available |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection services offered**  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Collection frequencies** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Bin sizes/ types** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Waste generation (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Recycling (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Organics (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste to landfill (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Waste management infrastructure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management costs/ expenditure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Contractor information** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management charges** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
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| **Other Waste data (ie. Tyres, Batteries, Electronic Waste etc)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste Audit Data** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |

Notes: The data collected by government bodies in each jurisdiction was assessed against the amount of data which is made available to the public. For the purposes of this summary, the following assessment criteria were used
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png]() = Data collected. / Data available for more than 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png]() = Some data collected. / Data available for 50 – 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png]() = Data not collected. / Data available for less than 50% of councils.

# Queensland

There are 74 Local Government Areas in the state of Queensland, with only two of these (covering 22% of the state’s population) considered as metropolitan, nine (26% of the population) considered regional, and 63 (47% of the population) considered remote. As outlined in , the availability of LGA-specific waste and recycling information is generally rated as ‘medium’ within this jurisdiction.

This chapter provides an overview of the role of local government in this state in relation to waste management and recycling, as well as explaining the information reporting pathways for relevant information. There is a limited overview of council performance in terms of service provision, landfill diversion rates, and costs, given data availability is not high.

## The role of local government in Queensland

The Queensland *Local Government Act (2009)* does not provide any codification of local government’s waste management responsibilities. Instead, the Act is ‘broadly enabling’, with the most relevant clause being:

**Powers of local governments generally**

(1) A local government has the power to do anything that is necessary or convenient for the good rule and local government of its local government area.

(2) However, a local government can only do something that the State can validly do.

However, the later clauses in the Act regarding finances and accountability imply that local government has responsibility for waste management.

**92 Types of rates and charges**

(4) Utility charges are for a service, facility or activity for any of the following utilities—

(a) waste management

Nonetheless, the *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation (2000)* stipulates the frequency and standard of waste collection services that local government must provide.

**10G Requirements for removal of general waste**

(1) This section applies to a local government if—

(a) the local government has arranged for the removal of general waste from premises; or

(b) an approved waste removal entity has arranged for the removal of general waste from premises under an approval from the local government under section 369A of the Act.

(2) The local government must ensure that a service is provided for removing the waste—

(a) if the waste is domestic or commercial waste—at least once in each week; or

(b) if the waste is recyclable waste for the local government area—as often as is required by the local government.

(3) Also, the local government must ensure that the waste is removed—

(a) in a way that does not cause excessive noise; and

(b) with reasonable care to prevent spilling the waste.

(4) In this section—removal, of waste, includes collecting, transporting and disposing of the waste.

Special provisions also exist in the *Environment Protection Act (1994)* regarding waste management that directly relate to the responsibility of local government. The first clause is related to the power of the state government to require local government to remove waste and waste management work that is to be performed by or for local government:

**368 Chief executive [of the EPA] may require local government to remove waste etc.**

(1) The chief executive may, by written notice given to a local government, require the local government to—

(a) carry out any of the following works (waste management works)—

(i) remove, collect, transport, store, treat or dispose of waste;

(ii) clean streets;

(iii) clean sanitary conveniences; or

(b) provide a place, containers or equipment for depositing or disposing of waste.

The second clause, and sub-clauses, relate to local government’s responsibility to regulate waste management activities in its area.

**369 Restrictions on performing waste management works**

A person must not, for fee or reward, perform waste management works in a local government’s area unless—

(a) the works are performed by or for the local government; or

(b) the person holds, or is acting under—

(i) an approval, under section 369A, from the local government to perform the works; or

(ii) a development approval; or

(c) the person is acting under a code of environmental compliance; or

(d) the works are an environmentally relevant activity other than waste transport.

These components of the *Environment Protection Act (1994)* are under active review as part of the waste reform program being undertaken in Queensland.

The *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy (2000)* sets out the requirement for local government to individually or collectively develop waste management strategic plans.

**Part 7 Waste management strategic planning by governments**

Division 1 Local governments

**26 Plan must be prepared and implemented**

A local government must prepare and adopt a waste management strategic plan for its area, and start to implement the plan ...

**27 Cooperative plans**

(1) Two or more local governments may prepare and adopt 1 plan (a cooperative plan) that applies to all of their areas.

(2) This division applies to a cooperative plan as if—

(a) a reference to a local government were a reference to all the local governments adopting the plan; and

(b) a reference to a local government’s area were a reference to all the areas covered by the plan.

**28 Matters to consider when preparing a plan**

In preparing its plan, a local government must have regard to—

(a) current and predicted information about the following matters relating to its area—

(i) population profiles;

(ii) residential, industrial and commercial development;

(iii) waste generation types and amounts; and

(b) the services, markets and facilities relevant to dealing with different types and amounts of waste; and

(c) the waste management hierarchy and principles.

## Groupings in Queensland

### Local government regions

The Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) categorises local government areas by region (or ‘statistical division’), although there are no formal regional waste management groupings ().

The Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee (LAWMAC) is a voluntary organisation of 19 North Queensland Local Government Councils, which aims “to provide sustainable solutions through its regional forum and interactive participation”. Some sub-groups under the Local Government Association of Queensland, such as the Central Queensland Local Government Association, are also involved in promoting regional waste solutions, although unlike LAWMAC they are not dedicated solely to waste-related issues.

Table 8-20 Local Government regions in Queensland

| Region | Member LGAs | Population | Population density (/km2) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Central Queensland | Central Highlands (R), Gladstone (R), Isaac (R), Mackay (R), Rockhampton (R), Woorabinda (S) | 343,657 | 1.2 |
| Central West | Barcaldine (R), Barcoo (S), Blackall Tambo (R), Boulia (S), Diamantina (S), Longreach (R), Winton (S) | 12,270 | 0.0 |
| Darling Downs | Goondiwindi (R), Southern Downs (R), Toowoomba (R), Dalby (R) | 237,211 | 1.7 |
| Far North Queensland | Aurukun (S), Cairns (R), Cassowary Coast (R), Cook (S), Hope Vale (S), Kowanyama (S), Lockhart River (S), Mapoon (S), Napranum (S), Northern Peninsula Area (R), Pormpuraaw (S), Tablelands (R), Torres (S), Torres Strait Island (R), Weipa (T), Wujal Wujal (S), Yarrabah (S) | 268,438 | 0.5 |
| North Queensland | Burdekin (S), Charters Towers (R), Hinchinbrook (S), Palm Island (S), Townsville (C), Whitsunday (R) | 261,535 | 1.1 |
| North West | Burke (S), Carpentaria (S), Cloncurry (S), Croydon (S), Doomadgee (S), Etheridge (S), Flinders (S), McKinlay (S), Mornington (S), Mount Isa (C), Richmond (S) | 35,191 | 0.1 |
| South East Queensland | Brisbane (C), Gold Coast (C), Ipswich (C), Lockyer Valley (R), Logan (C), Moreton Bay (R), Redland (C), Scenic Rim (R), Somerset (R), Sunshine Coast (R) | 2,937,502 | 7.5 |
| South West | Balonne (S), Bulloo (S), Murweh (S), Paroo (S), Quilpie (S), Roma (R) | 26,277 | 0.1 |
| Wide Bay-Burnett | Banana (S), Bundaberg (R), Cherbourg (S), Fraser Coast (R), Gympie (R), North Burnett (R), South Burnett (R) | 303,022 | 1.3 |

## Information pathways in Queensland

The City of Brisbane published data on the diversion rate and amount to landfill, co-mingled recycling and organic recycling from kerbside collection in *Towards Zero Waste – Waste Minimisation Strategy 2009–2026*.

Data on the amount of municipal waste landfilled and recycled throughout the state was last published in *The State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland 2008 Technical Report*.

### Annual Waste and Recycling Survey

The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) conducts an annual Waste and Recycling Survey, which aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of local government waste and recycling activities and performance. Data is collected on a wide range of aspects including, but not limited to:

* Collections offered and frequencies
* Number of properties serviced
* Amount of waste, recycling, green waste collected
* Amount of material reprocessed or recovered
* Street and public waste collections
* Litter and illegal dumping
* Reprocessing/ recovery methods and facilities
* Average annual waste management costs and fees
* Cross boundary waste movements
* Waste management initiatives.

Councils are required, by legislation, to respond to the survey, a copy of which is appended. Selected data, related mainly to the level of services offered by councils, as well as the amount of municipal waste landfilled and recycled throughout the state, was last published in *The State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland 2008 Technical Report.*

DERM performs limited verification of the information supplied by councils. The report states:

While it was not possible for DERM to determine the accuracy of all of the data provided by councils and private sector operators, it was possible to compare some council data on a per capita basis, to compare like-sized and similarly situated councils, and to compare 2008 data with data provided in previous years.

### Queensland Local Government Grants Commission

The Queensland Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC) methodology for allocating general purpose grants under the *Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* is summarised in the LGGC’s 2010 Report. It includes six stages within the context of the National Principles, being:

* Determine the state-wide revenue-raising and expenditure need averages
* Assess Council revenue and expenditure by multiplying state averages by Council variables that the Commission believes drives revenue/costs in that category (e.g. population, property data and road lengths)
* Apply revenue/cost adjustors to assessed revenue/expenditure needs
* Determine relative Council need
* Allocate funds
* Perform an averaging step to moderate extremes in Financial Assistance Grant outcomes for similar Councils.

The determination of revenue for councils includes addressing four revenue categories, one of which is ‘Garbage charges’. The 2010 Report provides the following units of measure in assessing the garbage charges revenue category ().

Table 8-21 Revenue category and units of measure

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Revenue category | Revenue driver | Unit of measure (state average) |
| Garbage charges | Occupied urban properties | $419.80/ occupied residential property |

The 2010 Report acknowledges that:

While waste expenditure is considered by the Commission to be driven by population, waste revenue is assigned to Councils per occupied urban property.

In assessing local government expenditure the LGGC has eight non-road focused categories, one of which is ‘garbage (waste) and recycling’. As with some other states, cost adjusters are applied to this service expenditure category. An outline of the expenditure calculation for garbage (waste) and recycling the 2010–11 unit of measure that has been applied is ‘$95.46 per urban capita’.

Five cost adjustors are applied, being:

* Location
* Dispersion
* Scale
* Tourism
* Non-resident service expenditure.

The 2010 Report specifically details what the cost adjustors are for each council for all the service categories, including ‘garbage (waste) and recycling’. However, the report does not publish local government specific standardised revenues and expenditure calculations for each council, as other jurisdictions such as Victoria do; only aggregated general purpose grant information is published for Queensland.

### Local government reporting

The Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP) manages the *Queensland local government comparative information* report. This annual report provides a comprehensive collection of performance information for local government in the state.

In April 2003 the former Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning (now the DLGP) initiated a project to improve and streamline the collection of local government financial and performance data. This involved developing a data collection instrument which standardised the requirements of the ABS, the Queensland Local Government Grants Commission (LGGC), and included the department’s annual performance indicator collection. Councils supply a wide range of financial data including:

* waste collection costs,
* waste tonnage and
* information relating to the level of service offered.

Legislation enacted in 2010 requires councils to provide this data, and grants can be withheld from non-complying councils. A copy of the reporting template used by the DLGP is appended. The *Queensland local government comparative information* report provides a range of service indicators which cover the following key functional and financial areas of local government:

* Financial operations
* Personnel
* Road maintenance
* Water services
* Sewerage services
* Waste management
* Library services
* Parks and gardens.

For the functional area of waste management, the data presented for each local government includes:

* Total waste collection costs
* Total number of residential properties serviced
* Total number of bins serviced
* Total tonnage of domestic waste collected
* Number of services provided per property per week
* Waste bin type (split / non-split / galvanised)
* Waste bin size.

Where available, data is presented over a time series for the following information:

* Waste collection costs per property serviced
* Total tonnage of waste collected per property serviced
* Total tonnage of waste collected per bin serviced.

For these three data sets, the following information is provided on the associated objectives, formula and influencing factors for each ().

Table 8-22 Waste performance information for local government in Queensland

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Waste collection costs per property serviced | Total tonnage of waste collected per property serviced | Total tonnage of waste collected per bin serviced |
| Objective | To assess the relative efficiency of domestic waste collection per property serviced | To measure the effectiveness of council’s efforts towards waste minimisation | To measure the effectiveness of council’s efforts towards waste minimisation |
| Formula | Total domestic waste collection costs^Total No. of properties serviced^ including recyclables | Total tonnage of waste collected^Total No. of residential properties serviced^ including recyclables | Total tonnage of waste collected^Total No. of domestic waste bins serviced^ including recyclables |
| Influencing factors | size and type of waste container | size of waste containers | size of waste containers |
| frequency of collection | frequency of collection | frequency of collection |
| type of recycling service in operation | promotion and education | promotion and education |
| distance to disposal facility | availability of council tip | availability of council tip |
| use of contractors | new services/development | new services/development |
| service standard specified in contract | terrain | terrain |
| distance travelled on route | rural or residential areas | rural or residential areas |
| extent of recycling | multi-residential properties | multi-residential properties |
| extent of mixed loads of domestic, commercial and industrial wastes | tourism/seasonal population changes | tourism/seasonal population changes |
| tourism/seasonal population changes | climate | climate |
| demographics | demographics |
| economy (e.g. tourism) | economy (e.g. tourism) |

## Performance in Queensland

*The State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland 2008 Technical Report* provides an assessment of the amount of information provided by each LGA, with the results summarised in . Only 33% of LGAs (but representing 80% of the state’s population) were considered to have provided full data[[10]](#footnote-11).

Table 8-23 Assessment of information provided by LGAs in *The State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland 2008 Technical Report*.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Amount of information provided | No. of LGAs | % of total |
| Full Data | 24 | 33% |
| Most Data | 20 | 27% |
| Some Data | 13 | 18% |
| Basic Info | 4 | 5% |
| None | 12 | 16% |
| **TOTAL** | **73** | **100%** |

Due to the high proportion of LGAs (67%) that did not provide full data for *The State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland 2008 Technical Report*, it is difficult to draw robust conclusions about the performance of those LGAs. provides a summary of the proportion of LGAs that reported collecting or recycling various material streams.

Table 8-24 Portion of Queensland LGAs that reported collecting or recycling various material streams, versus those that do not collect or recycle the material, or did not specify a response, in *The State of Waste and Recycling in Queensland 2008 Technical Report*.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | LGAs that reported collecting or recycling (%) | LGAs that reported not collecting or recycling (%) | LGAs that did not specify a response (%) |
| Glass | 38% | 0% | 62% |
| Paper | 36% | 0% | 64% |
| Cardboard | 29% | 0% | 71% |
| Plastics | 30% | 0% | 70% |
| Aluminium cans | 44% | 0% | 56% |
| Steel cans | 30% | 0% | 70% |
| Greenwaste | 49% | 0% | 51% |
| Biosolids | 27% | 0% | 73% |
| Waste water | 41% | 0% | 59% |
| Construction & demolition waste | 29% | 0% | 71% |
| Commercial and industrial waste | 25% | 0% | 75% |
| Recycle tyres | 51% | 33% | 16% |
| Recycle oil | 70% | 11% | 19% |
| Recycle batteries | 68% | 15% | 16% |
| Hazardous waste collection | 21% | 60% | 19% |
| Electronic waste collection | 15% | 67% | 18% |
| Clean fill collected | 42% | 40% | 18% |

There is no data available for a significant number of LGAs (22% but representing just 1% of the population) in the *Queensland local government comparative information 2008–09* report. For those LGAs where data is available, total waste collection costs ranged from a high of $54,523,000 (Brisbane City Council) to a low of $21,000 (Barcoo Shire Council).

Based on the 78% of councils that provided information on the costs of collection as well as on the number of residential properties serviced, the weighted average cost of waste collection in Queensland is $115.58 per property. The costs range from a low of $39.12/property (Sunshine Coast Council) to $914.73/property (Diamantina Shire Council).

Based on the 64% of Queensland councils that provided information on the tonnage of domestic waste collected as well as on the number of residential properties serviced, the average weight of domestic waste collected per property was 474kg in 2008–09.

 provides a summary of the number of collection services provided per property per week, based on the *Queensland local government comparative information 2008–09* report.

Table 8-25 Number of collection services provided per property per week.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of collection services per property per week | Percentage of LGAs |
| 1 | 63% |
| 1.5 | 6% |
| 2 | 8% |
| Not specified | 24% |

## Summary – Queensland

Based on research for this report, considering the availability of information only, the degree to which information about municipal waste and recycling in Queensland meets the needs of users is considered to be MODERATE.

Key performance and service level information is made available at the LGA level, although there are significant gaps in coverage of responses from the state’s LGAs.

 provides a comparison of the waste and recycling data collected by government bodies in Queensland against the LGA-specific data which is made available to the public. Note that the quality of available information has not been assessed.

Table 8-26 Summary of waste and recycling data collected in Queensland and made available to the public.

|   | Data collected | Data available |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection services offered**  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Collection frequencies** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Bin sizes/ types** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Waste generation (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Recycling (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Organics (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste to landfill (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management infrastructure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management costs/ expenditure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Contractor information** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management charges** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Hard waste services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Litter/ illegal dumping** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Public Place Collections** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Commercial & Industrial Services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
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| **Waste Audit Data** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |

Notes: The data collected by government bodies in each jurisdiction was assessed against the amount of data which is made available to the public. For the purposes of this summary, the following assessment criteria were used
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png]() = Data collected. / Data available for more than 85% of councils.
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![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png]() = Data not collected. / Data available for less than 50% of councils.

# South Australia

There are 70 Local Government Areas in South Australia, with 17 of these (covering 62% of the state’s population) considered as metropolitan, 12 (23% of the population) considered regional, and 41 (15% of the population) considered remote. As outlined in , the availability of LGA-specific waste and recycling information is generally rated as ‘low’ within this jurisdiction.

This chapter provides an overview of the role of local government in this state in relation to waste management and recycling, as well as explaining the information reporting pathways for relevant information. There is a limited overview of council performance in terms of service provision, landfill diversion rates, and costs, given data availability is not high.

## The role of local government in South Australia

The *South Australian Local Government Act (1999)* specifically states that local government is required to provide a range of services including waste collection. Under the Act, local government is able to collect service rates and charges to deliver the collection, treatment and disposal (including recycling) of waste.

**7—Functions of a council**

The functions of a council include—

( ) ...

(b) to provide services and facilities that benefit its area, its ratepayers and residents, and visitors to its area (including ... waste collection ...).

The *Zero Waste SA Act (2004)* establishes the Zero Waste SA agency and requires the agency to consult with local government in respect to waste management policy and strategy development. The Act also specifies:

**6—Functions of Zero Waste SA**

The functions of Zero Waste SA are—

( ) ...

(d) to provide assistance to local councils with arrangements for regional waste management.

## Groupings in South Australia

### Waste Management Groups

Waste Management Groups are not formalised in South Australia. However, local government is organised into five regional groups, a metropolitan group, and a provincial cities association. These groupings cover all but 10 LGAs, accounting for 97% of the population and about 52% of the land area.

There also exists the Southern Region Waste Resource Authority (SRWRA), which is a Regional Subsidiary under the *Local Government Act (1999)* that was established by the Cities of Onkaparinga, Marion and Holdfast Bay, primarily to manage a landfill facility.

 shows these local government groups, their member LGAs, their population and population density. It should be noted that some members of the metropolitan and provincial groups are also members of regions.

Table 9-27 Local groupings and organisations in South Australia

| Region/ Group/ Authority/ Association | LGAs | Population[[11]](#footnote-12) | Population density (/km2) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Central Region | Port Pirie City and Dists (M), Barossa (DC), Barunga West (DC), Copper Coast (DC), Flinders Ranges (DC), Goyder (DC), Light (RegC), Mallala (DC), Mount Remarkable (DC), Northern Areas (DC), Orroroo/Carrieton (DC), Peterborough (DC), Yorke Peninsula (DC) | 106,698 | 0.2 |
| Eyre Peninsula Region | Port Augusta (C), Port Lincoln (C), Whyalla (C), Ceduna (DC), Cleve (DC), Elliston (DC), Franklin Harbour (DC), Kimba (DC), Lower Eyre Peninsula (DC), Streaky Bay (DC), Tumby Bay (DC) | 71,402 | 0.2 |
| Murray and Mallee Region | The Coorong (DC), Murray Bridge (RC), Loxton Waikerie (DC), Mid Murray (DC), Renmark Paringa (DC), Southern Mallee (DC) | 57,852 | 0.3 |
| South East Region  | Grant (DC), Kingston (DC), Mount Gambier (C), Robe (DC), Tatiara (DC), Wattle Range (DC) | 57,489 | 0.3 |
| Southern and Hills Region | Adelaide Hills (DC), Victor Harbor (C), Alexandrina (DC), Kangaroo Island (DC), Mount Barker (DC), Yankalilla (DC) | 115,673 | 0.5 |
| Metropolitan Local Government Group | Port Adelaide Enfield (C), Norwood Payneham St Peters (C), Adelaide Hills (DC), Adelaide (C), Burnside (C), Campbelltown (C), Charles Sturt (C), Gawler (T), Holdfast Bay (C), Marion (C), Mitcham (C), Onkaparinga (C), Playford (C), Prospect (C), Salisbury (C), Tea Tree Gully (C), Unley (C), Walkerville (M), West Torrens (C) | 1,306,534 | 1.5 |
| Southern Region Waste Resource Authority | Holdfast Bay (C), Marion (C), Mitcham (C), Onkaparinga (C) | 280,229 | 2.3 |
| Provincial Cities Association | Port Augusta (C), Port Lincoln (C), Whyalla (C), Murray Bridge (RC), Victor Harbor (C) | 85,300 | 0.5 |

The five regional groups and the provincial cities are also grouped together into the South Australian Regional Organisations of Councils (SAROC).

## Information pathways in South Australia

The Local Government Association of South Australia is active in the waste space, and has produced numerous papers with consolidated data on disposal costs for waste management and resource recovery to local government. It has also developed a range of model contracts and tendering guidelines.

### Zero Waste SA

Zero Waste SA commission an external consultancy to conduct an annual report titled *Recycling Activity in South Australia*, which includes data on the amount of municipal waste landfilled and recycled. Each year, Zero Waste SA issues selected councils with a Kerbside Performance Incentive payment, and payments of $100,000 and above require councils to submit ‘a kerbside performance report’. Data collected includes information related to:

* Total annual yield of recyclables, organics and residual waste (tonnes);
* Collection services offered, including frequencies;
* Number of tenements serviced;
* Bin sizes/ types;
* Total Annual Cost of providing collections;
* Hard Waste
* Participation rates; and
* Waste audit data.

A copy of the reporting template used is appended. However, disaggregated information from the survey is not available to the public.

Zero Waste SA has recently implemented a web-enabled environmental data management system in order to centralise data collection and enable further analysis and reporting of the collected data. The system is referred to as ZEUS (Zero Waste SA Environment Users System), and is capable of recording and analysing data relating to:

* Kerbside Waste
* Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D)
* Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I)
* Hazardous Waste
* Illegally Dumped Waste
* Landfills
* Litter.

Councils have the opportunity to use the system, however information entered on the system is not made publicly available.

Aggregated information concerning the amount of municipal waste landfilled and recycled, including by material types, is contained in the annual *Recycling Activity in South Australia* report compiled by Zero Waste SA.

### Local Government Grants Commission South Australia (LGGCSA)

The LGGCSA is an independent statutory authority based within the South Australian Department of Planning and Local Government.

The LGGSA has similar process to other Australian jurisdictions for calculating grants, and this includes the consideration of waste management services in the determination of the *General Information Return*. Data is collected on a range of expenditure and revenue streams, including waste management, and this information is reconciled with the *Audited Financial Statements (Supplementary Return)* for each Council[[12]](#footnote-13).

The LGGCSA makes a large portion of the information it gathers from local government available to a range of stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA). The data made available on Councils through the LGASA includes waste expenditure figures, waste to landfill tonnages, and community satisfaction information relating to the provision of waste management services. In some instances this data is available over a number of years, and is publicly accessible through the *performance measurement* link[[13]](#footnote-14) on the LGASA website.

## Performance in South Australia

Some LGA-specific Comparative Performance Measurement data is available on the LGASA website. Information on waste management expenditure and tonnes of waste landfilled, which has been collected over the past six financial years, is available for 42 councils, representing 60% of the LGAs in South Australia.

An extremely wide performance range, based on the figures available through this website, suggests the likelihood of some reporting discrepancies between the councils.

Based on available data, total waste management expenditure for the 2008–09 financial year ranged from a low of $36,830 (Berri Barmera Council) to a high of $295,750 (Kangaroo Island Council). On a per capita basis, the reported lowest cost of waste management equates to $0.52/person (Marion City Council) and the highest cost equates to $113.83 (Franklin Harbour Council). The weighted average cost of waste management equates to $21.08 per capita.

The reported annual tonnes of waste to landfill ranged from a low of 139 tonnes (Town of Gawler) to 3,851 tonnes (District Council of Ceduna). This equates to a minimum of 4.4kg/person (Port Adelaide Enfield Council) to a maximum of 2,483kg/person (Wudinna District Council). The weighted average tonnes to landfill is 227kg/person.

## Summary - South Australia

Based on research for this report, considering the availability of information only, the degree to which information about municipal waste and recycling in South Australia meets the needs of users is considered to be LOW.

There is little information made available at the LGA level. There is no information about services provided or performance. There is good coverage of the state’s LGAs for the information that is provided, although this is limited to information regarding tonnes of waste to landfill and total expenditure on waste management.

 provides a comparison of the waste and recycling data collected by government bodies in South Australia against the LGA-specific data which is made available to the public. Note that the quality of available information has not been assessed.

Table 9-28 Summary of waste and recycling data collected in South Australia and made available to the public.

|   | Data collected | Data available |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection services offered**  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Collection frequencies** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Bin sizes/ types** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste generation (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Recycling (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Organics (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste to landfill (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Waste management infrastructure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management costs/ expenditure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Contractor information** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management charges** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Hard waste services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Litter/ illegal dumping** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Public Place Collections** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Commercial & Industrial Services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Other Waste data (ie. Tyres, Batteries, Electronic Waste etc)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Waste Audit Data** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |

Notes: The data collected by government bodies in each jurisdiction was assessed against the amount of data which is made available to the public. For the purposes of this summary, the following assessment criteria were used
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png]() = Data collected. / Data available for more than 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png]() = Some data collected. / Data available for 50 – 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png]() = Data not collected. / Data available for less than 50% of councils.

# Western Australia

There are 139 Local Government Areas in Western Australia, with 26 of these (covering 64% of the state’s population) considered as metropolitan, 17 (20% of the population) considered regional, and 96 (16% of the population) considered remote. As outlined in , the availability of LGA-specific waste and recycling information is generally rated as ‘low’ within this jurisdiction.

This chapter provides an overview of the role of local government in this state in relation to waste management and recycling, as well as explaining the information reporting pathways for relevant information. Due to the low level of publicly available information relating to specific LGAs within this jurisdiction, it is not possible to provide any details about council performance in terms of service provision, landfill diversion rates or costs.

## The role of local government in Western Australia

The *Local Government Act (1995)* of Western Australia takes a ‘broadly enabling’ approach to the function of local government, and does not codify any specific responsibilities regarding waste management.

**Part 3 — Functions of local governments**

3.1. General function

(1) The general function of a local government is to provide for the good government of persons in its district.

(2) The scope of the general function of a local government is to be construed in the context of its other functions under this Act or any other written law and any constraints imposed by this Act or any other written law on the performance of its functions.

(3) A liberal approach is to be taken to the construction of the scope of the general function of a local government.

Nonetheless, the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Act (2007)* has an extensive section on the provision of services by local government. Relevant clauses include:

**Part 6 — Waste services**

Division 1 — Services provided by local governments

**50. Provision of waste services**

(1) Subject to this Act and the EP Act, a local government may provide, or enter into a contract for the provision on its behalf of, waste services.

(2) A local government does not require a waste collection permit or an EP authorisation to collect or transport local government waste but is otherwise subject to the provisions of the EP Act.

(3) The CEO may, for the purpose of protecting human health or the environment, by written notice require a local government, or 2 or more local governments together, to provide, in relation to local government waste, a waste service of a kind specified in the notice.

( ) ...

**51. Costs of providing combined waste service**

(1) If 2 or more local governments combine in providing a waste service, the CEO may, by written notice, determine the proportion of the cost of providing the service to be borne by each local government.

( ) ...

**52. Codes of practice**

(1) The Waste Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, make codes of practice for the provision of waste services —

(a) generally; or

(b) in relation to local government waste; or

(c) in relation to other particular types of situations.

( ) ...

**53. CEO may monitor and evaluate waste services**

( ) ...

(4) For the purposes of this section the CEO may by notice given to a local government request the local government to provide the CEO, or a person specified in the notice, with such reports and other information specified in the notice as are necessary for monitoring or evaluating waste services.

The *WARR Act (2007)* also gives specific instruction as to how local government can choose or be directed to establish local laws and set charges relating to waste management.

**Division 3 — Local laws and local government rates, fees and charges**

**61. Local laws in respect of waste management**

(1) A local government —

(a) may, if the CEO consents; and

(b) must, if the CEO so directs,

make local laws in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 Part 3 Division 2 Subdivision 2 for the purposes specified in section 64 or generally for carrying into effect the provisions of this Part.

The *WARR Act (2007)* also sets out specific requirements for local government to develop a waste plan under provisions in the *Local Government Act (1995).*

**40. Waste plans**

(1) In this section — plan for the future means a plan made under the *Local Government Act 1995* section 5.56.

(2) A local government may include within its plan for the future a waste plan outlining how, in order to protect human health and the environment, waste services provided by the local government in the relevant district will be managed to achieve consistency with the waste strategy.

(3) The waste plan may include —

(a) population and development profiles for the district;

(b) an assessment of significant sources and generators of waste received by the local government;

(c) an assessment of the quantities and classes of waste received by the local government;

(d) an assessment of the services, markets and facilities for waste received by the local government;

(e) an assessment of the options for reduction, management and disposal of waste received by the local government;

(f) proposed strategies and targets for managing and reducing waste received by the local government;

(g) proposed strategies and targets for the efficient disposal of waste received by the local government that cannot be recovered, reused or recycled;

(h) an implementation programme that identifies the required action, timeframes, resources and responsibilities for achieving these strategies and targets;

(i) such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.

## Groupings in Western Australia

### Regional Councils

There are eight regional councils in Western Australia that have the role of coordinating waste and resource recovery activities for member local governments.

These eight regional councils have 39 member LGAs, which together account for 74% of the state’s population and 21% of the state’s land area ().

Notably, the City of Perth is not a member of a regional council.

Table 10-29 Regional councils and member LGAs in Western Australia

| Regional Council |  Member LGAs | Population[[14]](#footnote-15) | Population density (/km2) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bunbury-Harvey | Bunbury (C), Harvey (S) | 57,447 | 0.6 |
| Eastern Metropolitan | Bassendean (T), Bayswater (C), Belmont (C), Kalamunda (S), Mundaring (S), Swan (C) | 313,282 | 1.2 |
| Mid West | Mingenew (S), Morawa (S), Mullewa (S), Perenjori (S), Three Springs (S) | 3,485 | 0.0 |
| Mindarie | Cambridge (T), Joondalup (C), Perth (C), Stirling (C), Victoria Park (T), Wanneroo (C) | 581,117 | 1.9 |
| Pilbara | Ashburton (S), East Pilbara (S), Port Hedland (T), Roebourne (S) | 47,528 | 0.2 |
| Rivers  | Armadale (C), Gosnells (C), Mandurah (C), Serpentine-Jarrahdale (S), South Perth (C), Waroona (S) | 294,484 | 1.1 |
| Southern Metropolitan | Cockburn (C), East Fremantle (T), Fremantle (C), Melville (C), Rockingham (C) | 325,827 | 1.3 |
| Western Metropolitan | Claremont (T), Cottesloe (T), Mosman Park (T), Peppermint Grove (S), Subiaco (C) | 47,732 | 0.1 |

## Information pathways in Western Australia

Rivers Regional and Southern Metropolitan Regional Councils publish consolidated data on domestic and kerbside waste and recycling in their Annual Reports.

The Western Metropolitan Regional Council has online consolidated data on green and putrescible waste passing through its Resource Recovery Facility in Shenton Park.

Aggregated data on the amount of municipal waste landfilled and recycled, including by material type, is contained in the annual *Recycling Activity in Western Australia* report.

### Annual Waste Census

The DEC conducts an annual survey of councils, referred to as the annual ‘waste census’, which attempts to provide a comprehensive assessment of local council waste and recycling activities and performance. Based on information reviewed in compiling this report, the response rate appears low. Data is requested across a wide range of parameters, including:

* Services offered;
* Amount of waste and recycling collected;
* Amount of material reprocessed or recovered;
* Waste management costs and charges;
* Litter and illegal dumping;
* Contractor information;
* Waste infrastructure; and
* Waste audit information.

Data was used during the development of the DEC’s *Zero Waste Plan Development Scheme Phase 1 Report 2006-07*. The report presents aggregated data on domestic waste and recycling by stream, collection services offered, waste management infrastructure, and costs. The DEC performed limited verification of the data supplied by councils, with the report stating:

*Initial verification of tonnage data provided in the online survey resulted in 26 per cent of local governments having to amend the figures they provided… Every effort has been made to verify the data provided by local government in this survey. However, the quality of the data is variable, and analysis of some responses was not possible. It is believed that this represents the best publicly available data set on municipal waste management in WA at this time. Comments on the data quality for different areas is given in each section in the report.*

Individual councils are able to authorise the DEC to release their waste census data to WALGA or the Forum of Regional Councils, and while council specific information is not currently publicly available, annual reports are planned to be published in the future[[15]](#footnote-16).

The regional councils publish consolidated data on domestic and kerbside waste and recycling in annual reports, and selected data is available online.

### Western Australian Local Government Grants Commission (WALGGC)

WALGGC operates within the WA Department of Local Government (DLG). As with all jurisdictions, WALGGC has a methodology for assessing the allocation of funds to local government for general purpose grants.

By its own admission, WALGGC acknowledged that it only assesses revenue capacity for local government for the elements of recreation and culture, and building control.

However, to comply with the national principles of the *Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, WALGGC must assess all forms of local government revenue so that funds are allocated on a more complete model of horizontal equalisation[[16]](#footnote-17).

To address these assessment issues WALGGC in 2004 established a working party to provide it with advice on the subject of non‑rate revenue. This process acknowledged that non-rate revenues (including parking fees and fines, garbage charges, user charges etc) were becoming increasingly important for local governments, and should form part of the revenue assessment aspect of the methodology.

On the basis of this information, in March 2008 WALGGC resolved to undertake a review of its current General Purpose Grant methodology. It is anticipated the new methodology will be in place for the 2011–12 Grant Determinations.

To support the grants determinations, DLG requires all local governments to complete an annual information return. The information return also seeks to meet ABS requirements for annual local government financial statistics. The information return seeks a range of information on solid waste management. In terms of defining solid waste management, the information return sets out that[[17]](#footnote-18):

‘This group includes monitoring, reduction, collection, treatment and disposal of all types of solid waste. Includes:

* *Solid waste intended for recycling. Activities may include monitoring of generation and storage of waste intended for recycling, transport to place of treatment or discharge, treatment and final placement of waste for which no further use is foreseen after the recycling process by landfill, containment, underground disposal etc.*
* *Solid waste not intended for recycling. Activities may include management of municipal tips, monitoring of waste generation and storage, transport to place of treatment or discharge, treatment and final placement of waste for which no further use is foreseen by landfill, containment, underground disposal etc. Also covered in this group is litter collection from and sweeping of streets, squares, paths, markets, public gardens and parks.*
* *Grants, loans and subsidies to support the operation, construction, maintenance or upgrading of systems for the monitoring, collection, treatment and disposal of solid waste’.*

The information that is requested on solid waste management includes:

* Operating revenue
* Operating expenses
* Assets
* Rating information – determining if the costs of refuse collection services are included in rates levied; if they are it seeks that an estimate be made for the total amount which would have been imposed for the financial year; also it seeks an estimate of the number of refuse collections per week.

### Local government financial reporting

A new accounting manual for local government was developed and released in February 2011.[[18]](#footnote-19) The manual provides model financial statements that address a broad range of information common to the preparation and disclosure of financial statements for local government. In the statements, waste is addressed under ‘Sanitation – Household’ as :

*“Administration and operation of general refuse collection and disposal services.*

*These include the collection of general, recyclable and green waste, the delivery to a disposal site or transfer station, provision and maintenance of rubbish disposal sites, regional schemes, recycling depots and transfer stations”.*

On this basis, waste information would be disclosed in local government financial statements in compliance with the new guidance.

## Performance in Western Australia

There is currently very little LGA specific information publicly available in relation to waste and recycling performance in Western Australia. It is not possible to provide any informative discussion around the information that is currently publicly available.

As outlined in the proceeding sections, it is anticipated that more information will be available in the future, as new reporting mechanisms are introduced and adopted across the jurisdiction.

## Summary – Western Australia

Based on research for this report, considering the availability of information only, the degree to which information about municipal waste and recycling in Western Australia meets the needs of users is considered to be LOW. Coverage of information is extremely limited.

 provides a comparison of the waste and recycling data collected by government bodies in Western Australia against the LGA-specific data which is made available to the public. Note that the quality of available information has not been assessed.

Table 10-30 Summary of waste and recycling data collected in Western Australia and made available to the public.

|   | Data collected | Data available |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection services offered**  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Collection frequencies** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Bin sizes/ types** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste generation (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Recycling (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Organics (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste to landfill (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management infrastructure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management costs/ expenditure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Contractor information** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management charges** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Hard waste services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Litter/ illegal dumping** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Public Place Collections** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Commercial & Industrial Services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Other Waste data (ie. Tyres, Batteries, Electronic Waste etc)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste Audit Data** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |

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# Tasmania

There are 29 Local Government Areas in Tasmania. None of these are considered metropolitan, with 6 (covering 52% of the population) considered regional, and the remaining 23 (48% of the population) considered remote. As outlined in , the availability of LGA-specific waste and recycling information is generally rated as ‘low’ within this jurisdiction.

This chapter provides an overview of the role of local government in this state in relation to waste management and recycling, as well as explaining the information reporting pathways for relevant information. Due to the low level of publicly available information relating to specific LGAs within this jurisdiction, there is limited information available regarding performance in terms of service provision, landfill diversion rates or costs.

## The role of local government in Tasmania

The *Local Government Act (1993)* is ‘broadly enabling’ with respect to the functions of local government in Tasmania. The most relevant clause to waste management is:

**20. Functions and powers of councils**

(1) The council of a municipal area has the following functions:

( ) ...

(e) to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the community;

Nonetheless, the Act specifically enables councils to collect a service rate for waste management services, and so implies local government responsibility for waste management.

**93 Service rate**

(1) A council may make a service rate for a financial year on rateable land for any, all or a combination of the following services:

( )

(d) waste management;

The *Tasmanian Waste and Resource Management Strategy 2009* list the roles and responsibilities of local government in implementing the strategy.

**Roles and Responsibilities in Implementing the Tasmanian Waste & Resource Management Strategy**

Local Govt & Regions

• implement regional waste management strategies in line with the objectives of the Tasmanian Strategy

• ensure adverse environmental impacts arising from the generation & management of waste are minimised and/or appropriately managed

• develop cooperative partnerships across all levels of government, business & the community to better address waste & resource management & to implement initiatives

• provide appropriate information regarding waste & recycling to the wider community

• provide environmentally, economically & socially sustainable waste & recycling services to local communities

• encourage and implement sustainable construction, development & product design to minimise waste

• provide advisory & educational services & engage with industry & the community to increase awareness of waste issues & implementation of sustainable behaviours

• develop Action plans for waste reduction, reuse & recycling programs, and waste-specific or region specific strategies for priority waste streams

• develop & implement waste management plans for government business

• establish data collection systems to accurately report on the amount, source & type of waste & recyclables generated

• as data becomes available, work with stakeholders to develop waste reduction goals & targets implement regional waste management strategies in line with the objectives of the Tasmanian Strategy.

Operators of municipal landfill, which are in all cases local governments in Tasmania, have data reporting obligations imposed on them through the issue of an Environment Protection Notice. This data reporting must be done in accordance with the Tasmanian Solid Waste Classifications, which are based on the Australian Waste Database. The EPA provides a spreadsheet for data entry.

Many recycling and organic waste treatment facilities are located at landfills, and some of the related resource recovery information gets reported with the landfill data.

There is a voluntary $2/tonne landfill ‘levy’ in Tasmania, which is designed to fund waste management programs and activities implemented by regional waste management authorities.

Aggregated data on the amount of municipal waste landfilled and recycled is contained in the EPA’s Annual Report.

## Groupings in Tasmania

### Regional waste bodies

There are three regional waste bodies in Tasmania, covering 96% of the state’s population and 79% of the state’s land area.

The Cradle Coast Authority, in the north-west and western Tasmania, is a joint authority created to coordinate economic development across member LGAs. Included in the remit of the authority are regional initiatives, including Local Government services and waste management.

The Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group was formed by the Northern Regions Councils to “deliver improvements in waste reduction and resource recovery, regional cooperation and coordination, waste management policy and service delivery and community education and marketing.”[[19]](#footnote-20)

The Southern Waste Strategy Authority was established by southern Tasmanian Councils to implement a comprehensive Waste Management Strategy for the area.

Taswaste is a consortium of all three regional waste bodies, which provides state-wide programs to assist in their functions.

 provides a list of the member councils of the three regional waste bodies in Tasmania, the population and the population density of the areas.

Table 11-31 Regional waste bodies in Tasmania

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Regional waste bodies | Member LGAs | Population[[20]](#footnote-21) | Population density (/km2) |
| Cradle Coast Authority | Burnie (C), Central Coast (M), Circular Head (M), Devonport (C), Kentish (M), Latrobe (M) | 91,324 | 0.4  |
| Northern Tasmania Waste Management | Break O'Day (M), Dorset (M), Flinders (M), George Town (M), Launceston (C), Meander Valley (M), Northern Midlands (M), West Tamar (M) | 141,434 | 1.9  |
| Southern Waste Strategy Authority | Brighton (M), Central Highlands (M), Clarence (C), Derwent Valley (M), Glamorgan/Spring Bay (M), Glenorchy (C), Hobart (C), Huon Valley (M), Kingborough (M), Sorell (M), Southern Midlands (M), Tasman (M) | 249,475 | 1.7  |

## Information pathways in Tasmania

In Tasmania the operators of municipal landfills have data reporting obligations imposed on them through the issue of an Environment Protection Notice. This includes local government landfill operators. This data reporting must be undertaken in accordance with the Tasmanian Solid Waste Classifications, which are based on the Australian Waste Database. The EPA provides a spreadsheet for data entry.

Many recycling and organic waste treatment facilities are located at landfills, and some of the related resource recovery information is reported with the landfill data.

There is a voluntary $2/tonne landfill ‘levy’ in Tasmania, which is designed to fund waste management programs and activities implemented by regional waste management authorities.

Aggregated data on the amount of municipal waste landfilled and recycled is contained in the EPA Annual Report.

### Regional Waste Bodies

Some information is also collected by the three regional waste bodies in Tasmania. Cradle Coast Authority’s 2010–2011 Annual Plan reported on the tonnes of recyclables collected in each member council through kerbside collection services introduced in April 2009.

In the past, the Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA) has collected data from its member councils via a local government survey, although response rates were low, with datasets often incomplete and of questionable quality, as reported in the *Southern Waste Strategy Authority Performance Measurement Report 2005*.

The SWSA had also designed a regional database, visiting member councils on an annual basis to update the data. The data remained incomplete in 2005, particularly with respect to the recovery of recyclables, and, while reports on the SWSA’s Performance Measurement program have been published in the past, these are not currently available to the public. Some aggregated data has been recently published in SWSA report, *Waste Management 2020 and beyond.*

### Local government reporting

The Local Government Division (LGD) is based within the Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet. Through the *Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania* initiative the LGD collates data from 29 councils across a range of performance measures, which include waste management.[[21]](#footnote-22)

As is the case in several other jurisdictions, the Tasmanian DLG has developed a data collection instrument that standardises the requirements of the ABS, the State Grants Commission, and includes the department’s annual performance indicator collection. Councils submit data across a range of performance measures, which includes information on waste management expenditure and costs. A copy of the data collection instrument is appended.

In September 2009, a review of the Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania (KPI) project was announced. The intention of the review was to examine the KPI project and the future data collection requirements in relation to the local government sector. The committee was expected to provide its advice to Government by 30 June 2010[[22]](#footnote-23). The Department of Premier and Cabinet website does not have any updated information since this date.

The last published *Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania 2007–2008* report has data for local government on 49 key performance indicators. For waste management, two indicators are defined, as outlined in .

Table 11-32 Waste management performance indicators

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Indicator | Average cost of waste management per property  | Average cost of waste management per capita |
| Objective | Reliable waste management system with efficient and effective operations and environmentally acceptable treatment |
| Indicator calculation | Total operating expenses of waste managementNo. of rateable properties | Total operating expenses of waste managementPopulation of Council area |
| Indicator Explanation | Average Cost of Waste Management per property: This indicates the average cost of waste management services provided per property. | Average Cost of Waste Management per Capita: This indicates the average cost of waste management services provided per head of population. It provides an indication of the scale of the waste management operations. |
| Influencing factors | type and scale of available disposal facilities | type and scale of available disposal facilities |
| type of recycling services provided | type of recycling services provided |
| frequency and volume allowance for garbage collection | frequency and volume allowance for garbage collection |
| density of population and distance from disposal facility | density of population and distance from disposal facility |
| industrial users of waste management facilities | industrial users of waste management facilities |
| cost allocation policies | cost allocation policies |
| amount of waste received from outside the municipal area | amount of waste received from outside the municipal area |

On the basis of the parameters for the two waste management indicators, data is provided for each Tasmanian local government in Section 4.4 of the *Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania 2007–2008* report from 2002–03 to 2007–08, however more recent data has not been made publicly available.

### State Grants Commission (SGC)

The Tasmanian State Grants Commission (SGC) sits within the Department of Treasury and Finance. Like all jurisdictional Grant Commissions, SGC has an applied methodology for its base grant model.[[23]](#footnote-24) The calculation for standardised expenditure for local government in the SGC’s method, addresses a series of expenditure functions, one of which is ‘*Waste Management and the Environment*’, which is explained in the following table (Table 11-33).

Table 11-33 Explanation of expenditure function, Tasmanian SGC

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Expenditure function | Explanation |
| Waste Management and the Environment | Household and other garbage services, urban storm water drainage, street cleaning, flood mitigation and other protection of the environment |

A series of cost adjustors are applied to the waste management and the environment expenditure function. These are identified as:

* Absentee population
* Climate
* Dispersion
* Population decline
* Scale - other
* Day-tripper tourism
* Worker influx.

As part of its responsibilities the SGC hosted a series of hearings in 2010. One issue associated with waste management expenditure highlighted in the annual report was that:

*“Some councils believe they are at a geographical disadvantage through having to transport waste larger distances than other councils to regional tip sites. The Commission believes that further information is necessary to determine the extent of the issue. Hence, councils will be approached to provide this additional information in the near future”.*

The Annual Report outlines in Appendix 8 Standard Expenditure for 2008–09 the data that was used as part of the 2010–11 assessments. This information includes specific reference to waste management and environment expenditure for each Tasmania local government. Appendix 10 details the cost of service provision ratios taken from 2010–11 assessments. Specific ratios are detailed for waste management and the environment over a three year timeframe.

## Performance in Tasmania

The most comprehensive set of Tasmanian data was last reported in the *Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania 2007*–*08* report. Based on information within this report, the weighted average cost of waste collection in Tasmania is $151.34 per property.

The lowest cost of waste collection reported in this report is $34/property (Huon Valley Council), while the highest cost of waste collection reported is $294/property (Glamorgan/Spring Bay Council).

Selected additional data has also been reported by the three regional waste bodies in Tasmania. The *Cradle Coast Authority Regional Waste Management Strategy Five Year Strategy 2009*–*2013* reported that, of the nine councils, all offered a kerbside garbage collection, and all but one council also offered a recycling collection.

Information contained within the *Southern Waste Strategy Authority Waste Management 2020 and beyond* report indicated thatan estimated 89% of households within this region have access to a kerbside garbage service, and 85% have access to a recycling service. Of the 12 councils, only four offered a separate organics collection. An average of 680kg of residual waste was collected per household for the 2009–10 year.

## Summary – Tasmania

Based on research for this report, considering the availability of information only, the degree to which information about municipal waste and recycling in Tasmania meets the needs of users is considered to be LOW.

Key performance and service level information is made available at the LGA level, although the information is contained in disparate reports and there are significant gaps in coverage of responses from the state’s LGAs.

 provides a comparison of the waste and recycling data collected by government bodies in Tasmania against the LGA-specific data which is made available to the public. Note that selected additional data has also been reported by the three regional waste bodies in Tasmania. Note also that the quality of available information has not been assessed.

Table 11-34 Summary of waste and recycling data collected in Tasmania and made available to the public.

|   | Data collected | Data available |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection services offered**  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Collection frequencies** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Bin sizes/ types** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste generation (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Recycling (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Organics (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste to landfill (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management infrastructure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management costs/ expenditure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png |
| **Contractor information** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management charges** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
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# Australian Capital Territory

The Legislative Assembly for the ACT is the legislative seat of government of the nation’s capital territory. The Assembly is unique among parliaments in Australia in that it is the only parliament responsible for the management of state/territory responsibilities such as health, education, policing and industrial relations, as well as local government responsibilities such as the maintenance of roads, rubbish and recycling.

The Assembly has the power to[[24]](#footnote-25):

* make laws;
* investigate and debate matters of public importance;
* review the actions of the Government; and
* oversee the financial matters of the Government.

## Legislation in the ACT

Waste legislation in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is provided within two Acts: *The Environmental Protection Act 1997* and the *Waste Minimisation Act 2001*.

The ACT Environment Protection Agency (EPA), a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water (DECCEW), is the regulatory authority with regards to waste and its associated legislation, including waste policy.

ACT NoWaste division is responsible for data collection and monitoring waste service providers. The ACT Commission of the Environment provides independent advice the ACT Government on its environmental performance through the annual State of the Environment Report.

Waste is defined under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* under four waste classifications: inert (broadly industrial and demolition), solid (broadly municipal waste), industrial and hazardous[[25]](#footnote-26).

## Information pathways in the ACT

ACT NOWaste collects the following waste and recycling data for the ACT:

* Waste disposed to landfill (tonnes per annum)
* Resource Recovery Survey.

The ACT has one landfill, which is owned by the Territory Government and operated by a private contractor. Data on waste disposed to landfill is gathered from the ACT NOWaste weighbridge transaction database.

## Performance in the ACT

ACT NOWaste provides the following summary of information, gained from the weighbridge transaction database at the Mugga Land Landfill, and stakeholder surveys with approximately 100 relevant organisations within the ACT. The information includes summaries of commercial waste performance, as well as municipal waste performance.

* In 2009–10, approximately 229,000 tonnes of waste was sent to landfill. This was an increase of almost 15,000 tonnes (or 7%) from the previous year. The total amount of recycling and resource recovery was approximately 588,000 tonnes, which is a small increase (3,000 tonnes, or less than 1%) from the previous year.
* The percentage of total waste recycled in 2009–10 was around 72%, a 1% decrease from the previous year. Even though total resource recovery and recycling increased slightly, waste to landfill increased more quickly.
* The major sector contributing waste to landfill was the Commercial and Industrial sector. Waste from that sector has comprised nearly half of all waste to landfill for the last 8 years.
* Limited Construction and Demolition waste is sent to landfill as there are effective recycling arrangements in place. However, in 2009–10, waste to landfill from Construction and Demolition sources increased by 41% compared to the previous year (27,522 tonnes in 2008–09 and 38,895 tonnes in 2009–10). Some drivers of this increase include: improvements in the way waste is classified at weighbridges; increased activity in the building industry and changes to the local Construction and Demolition waste recycling industry.
* Kerbside waste from households (ACT and Queanbeyan) increased slightly in 2009–10 by just over 1,000 tonnes, an increase of around 1.6%. This increase is slightly below growth in population (which the ABS estimates at around 1.8%). Canberrans recycle well, with 85% of standard recyclables (paper, plastic, glass and metals) and over 90% of green waste being recycled. However, 13% of the waste in kerbside garbage bins is still material which could be placed in recycling bins.
* There remain opportunities to improve overall levels of resource recovery above the current level of 72% with existing recycling services. New initiatives may lead to even greater improvements. More recycling in workplaces, including the ACTSmart business and office recycling program, to divert Commercial and Industrial waste from landfill present a great opportunity to reduce waste.

## Summary - ACT

Based on research for this report, the degree to which information about municipal waste and recycling in the ACT meets the needs of users is considered to be HIGH. It is noted that, due to commercial sensitivities associated with there being only being one coordinating body in the ACT, it is not practical to expect the same level of information to be made available as is possible in those jurisdictions where there are multiple LGAs to consider.

# Northern Territory

There are 16 Local Government Areas in the Northern Territory, and all are considered remote. As outlined in , the availability of LGA-specific waste and recycling information is generally rated as ‘low’ within this jurisdiction.

This chapter provides an overview of the role of local government in this state in relation to waste management and recycling, as well as explaining the information reporting pathways for relevant information. Due to the low level of publicly available information relating to specific LGAs within this jurisdiction, there is limited information available regarding performance in terms of service provision, landfill diversion rates or costs.

## The role of local government in the NT

The *Local Government Act (2008)* is ‘broadly enabling’ with respect to the functions of local government in the Northern Territory (NT). The most relevant clause to waste management is:

**11. Principal role of council**

The role of a council is:

(...)

(c) to provide and coordinate public facilities and services; and

(...)

A number of the functions of a council, as defined in the Act, are also of relevance to waste management responsibilities:

**12. Functions of a council**

(1) The functions of a council include the following:

(a) to plan for the future requirements of its area for local government services;

(b) to provide services and facilities for the benefit of its area, its residents and visitors;

(...)

(e) to manage and develop council facilities and services in its area in a sustainable way;

(...)

The *Public Health (Night-soil, Garbage, Cesspits, Wells and Water) Regulations (2008)* outlines council powers in relation to charging for garbage collection:

**40 Night-soil and garbage charges**

 (1) The Minister may:

(a) make arrangements for the regular collection of night-soil, or garbage, or both, from premises, being premises not within the Municipality of Darwin; and

(b) by notice in the Gazette and in at least 2 newspapers published in the Northern Territory declare:

(...)

(ii) a garbage charge in respect of the collection of garbage; or

(iii) a sanitary and garbage charge in respect of the collection of night-soil and garbage, from such premises.

 (2) The Minister or an officer authorised in that behalf by the Minister may make arrangements for collection, additional to the collection referred to in subregulation (1), of night-soil or garbage, or both, from such premises and on such terms and conditions as he thinks fit, and may charge a fee for this additional collection.

The objectives of the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act (2009)* are:

(a) to protect, and where practicable to restore and enhance the quality of, the Territory environment by:

(i) preventing pollution;

(ii) reducing the likelihood of pollution occurring;

(iii) effectively responding to pollution;

(iv) avoiding and reducing the generation of waste;

(v) increasing the re-use and re-cycling of waste; and

(vi) effectively managing waste disposal;

(b) to encourage ecologically sustainable development; and

(c) to facilitate the implementation of national environment protection measures made under the *National Environment Protection Council (Northern Territory) Act*.

Per tonne landfill disposal levies, as imposed in several Australian jurisdictions, are not used in the Northern Territory. Operators of landfills servicing a population of greater than 1,000 people required an Environmental Protection Licence. There are annual fees associated with such licences, based on the population served by the facility. These fees increase the cost of landfill operation, and therefore act in a similar fashion to the levies applied in other jurisdictions, although without requiring the same level of data collection regarding weight of material disposed.

*Territory 2030* is a 20-year strategic plan for the Northern Territory, which was developed by an independent Steering Committee and [launched](http://www.territory2030.nt.gov.au/history/message.html) in December 2009. It contains 128 targets linked to six key priorities: [education](http://www.territory2030.nt.gov.au/summary/education.html), [society](http://www.territory2030.nt.gov.au/summary/society.html), [economic sustainability](http://www.territory2030.nt.gov.au/summary/economic_sustainability.html), [health and wellbeing](http://www.territory2030.nt.gov.au/summary/health_and_wellbeing.html), [the environment](http://www.territory2030.nt.gov.au/summary/environment.html), and [knowledge, creativity and innovation](http://www.territory2030.nt.gov.au/summary/knowledge_creativity_innovation.html).

The key waste target outlined in *Territory 2030* is to ‘Reduce the amount of waste being taken to our rubbish dumps by 50% by 2020’. The actions identified to meet this target are:

* Measure and monitor aggregated landfill at licensed landfill locations
* Measure and monitor the volume of recycling
* Provide more apartment complexes and residential areas with the capacity to recycle
* Encourage better packaging of products by Territory manufacturers
* Establish a container deposit system
* Encourage a reduction of waste from Territory building and development sites.

## Information pathways in the NT

Northern Territory landfill licences require annual reporting of total quantities of waste sent to landfill. Under the *Northern Territory Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*, communities with populations over 1,000 are required to have a licensed landfill and an Environmental Management Plan for the operation of the facility.As such, there are no reporting requirements forlandfills servicing communities of less than 1,000 people. Given the low population density of the Northern Territory, this applies to a significant proportion of communities.

In order to address this issue, the *Waste Management Guidelines for Small Communities in the Northern Territory* was developed by the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) as part of the Northern Territory Government Program ‘Re-Thinking Waste Strategy’. The project was jointly funded by the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) and the Northern Territory Government.

### Northern Territory Grants Commission

The Northern Territory Grants Commission (NTGC) sits within the NT Government. As in all jurisdictions, councils are required to produce a full set of Audited Financial Statements, along with annual returns, which are to be submitted to the NTGC.

Previously the NTGC used personal incomes and a hypothetical spread of expenditure across categories to determine general purpose grants. Data provided through the annual returns process is now used, and is believed to be more accurate. This data is also provided to the ABS for use in government finance statistics and national accounts[[26]](#footnote-27).

Waste services are addressed in the determination of expenditure and revenue. Local government income for 2008–09 is noted in the NTGC Annual Report 2009–10 for each local government where there is income through domestic waste and / or garbage ‘other’ (Schedule 5). Similarly, where data is available, each council reports on its assessed revenue for 2008–09 for both domestic waste and / or garbage ‘other’ (Schedule 7).

The *Annual Report 2009–10* outlines the formula for revenue calculation which for the waste related elements is outlined in .

Table 13-35 Waste revenue categories and calculations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Revenue category | Domestic waste, garbage, general rates, general rates other, special rates parking, special rates other, fines and interest |
| Domestic waste | Per capita |
| Garbage other | Actual |

## Performance in the NT

Based on information published in the *Northern Territory Grants Commission Annual Report 2009*–*10*, the total local government assessed revenue from domestic waste management in 2008–09 (i.e. rates income) was $11,111,354. The per capita income for each council was approximately $51.25.

## Summary - NT

Based on research for this report, considering the availability of information only, the degree to which information about municipal waste and recycling in the Northern Territory meets the needs of users is considered to be LOW. There is no information on tonnes of material disposed or recovered at the LGA level, or other information about service levels and performance.

 provides a comparison of the waste and recycling data collected by government bodies in the Northern Territory against the LGA-specific data which is made available to the public. Note that the quality of available information has not been assessed.

Table 13-36 Summary of waste and recycling data collected in the Northern Territory versus data made available to the public.

|   | Data collected | Data available |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Collection services offered**  | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Collection frequencies** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Bin sizes/ types** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste generation (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Recycling (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Organics (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste to landfill (tonnes)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management infrastructure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management costs/ expenditure** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Contractor information** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste management charges** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png |
| **Hard waste services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Litter/ illegal dumping** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Public Place Collections** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Commercial & Industrial Services** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Other Waste data (ie. Tyres, Batteries, Electronic Waste etc)** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |
| **Waste Audit Data** | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png | C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png |

Notes: The data collected by government bodies in each jurisdiction was assessed against the amount of data which is made available to the public. For the purposes of this summary, the following assessment criteria were used
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900441310[1].png]() = Data collected. / Data available for more than 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\9XBPCGCX\MC900432601[2].png]() = Some data collected. / Data available for 50 – 85% of councils.
![C:\Users\emaz2208\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IURUPRJ4\MC900432546[1].png]() = Data not collected. / Data available for less than 50% of councils.

# Infrastructure and costs

Information relating to the cost to local government of providing waste and recycling services, obtained through various grant commissions, is detailed in the *LGA Waste and Recycling Data* Excel Workbook provided with this report, and summarised within the jurisdictional summary sections, where possible.

Hyder also directly approached industry operators with knowledge of landfill and recycling facilities in order to gather an indicative cost of service provision for local governments within some jurisdictions. It should be noted the results shown in are estimated ranges of commercially sensitive information, based on the personal opinion of a limited number of stakeholders.

Table 14-37 Estimated cost of waste and recycling services provided to local government

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction | Metro landfill gate-fees ($/t) | Regional landfill gate-fees ($/t) | AWT processing gate-fees ($/t) | MRF processing gate-fees ($/t) | Green waste processing gate-fees ($/t) | Collection costs ($/t or $/lift) |
| NSW | $150 to >$200 | $100-240 | ≈$200 | ≈$30 | - | ≈$60-100/t |
| Victoria | ≈$80 | ≈$70 | - | $-10 to $40 | $45-85 | - |
| South Australia | $75-110 | - | - | ≈$30 | $30-35 | - |
| Western Australia | ≈$70 | $40-50 | $130-190 | <$0 to $80 | ≈$40 | $0.70-1.05/lift |

‘Gate-fees’ represent the total cost charged to customers per tonne of material delivered to a facility. This includes a component to cover operational costs of the facility, and often also a component to cover the capital costs of the facility (including post-closure management) as well as any relevant jurisdictional levies or charges.

Most Australian jurisdictions have introduced landfill levies in order to discourage waste disposal to landfill. Levy amounts, the specific waste streams and materials that levies are applied to, the scheduled rate of increase in those levies, and the degree to which the funds raised are returned to support waste reduction activities, varies considerably between jurisdictions. Published landfill levies in each Australian jurisdiction for the 2010 financial year are summarised below. It should be noted Queensland plans to introduce a $35/tonne levy on disposal of industrial wastes in December 2011. This levy will not apply to municipal wastes.

Table 14-38 Published landfill levies in various jurisdictions for 2010

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction | Region or waste stream | Landfill levy (2010) |
| NSW | Sydney metropolitan area | $70.30/t |
| Extended regulated area | $65.30/t |
| Regional regulated area | $20.40/t |
| Victoria | Rural  | $15/t |
| Metro & provincial | $30/t |
| South Australia | Adelaide Metropolitan Area | $26/t |
| SA Non Metro | $13/t |
| Western Australia | MSW in Perth | $28/m3 |
| Tasmania | Voluntary levy | $2/t |

## Local Government Infrastructure

In considering the type of infrastructure and services provided by Australian councils, the most logical groupings may be based on the remoteness of the LGA, rather than the jurisdiction it is located in. In terms of the challenges of providing services to its community, for example, a remote NSW council will likely have more in common with a remote Western Australian council than it would a Sydney metropolitan council.

Council websites often provide information about key waste management services, such as kerbside collection frequencies and bin configurations, as well as on infrastructure located within an LGA. It is not always immediately clear whether the various facilities are owned and operated by, or on behalf of, the local government, and there are no centralised databases of council owned infrastructure publicly available for any jurisdiction.

There are several examples of multiple councils undertaking joint infrastructure projects. The trend toward regional or multi-council collaboration is, in part, a response to the increasing complexity of waste management operations - including increasing capital costs involved in establishing facilities, more advanced technology use and the requirements for more skilled labour in providing services – which increases the incentives to establish fewer, higher volume, centralised facilities.

There are several potential models for delivering multi-council infrastructure projects. The key element will generally involve each party guaranteeing a minimum volume of material for processing, often at an agreed processing cost (which may be subject to change, such as through rise and fall arrangements in the contract).

### National Landfill Survey

In 2005 the Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) undertook the first National Landfill Survey, which attempted to contact every operating landfill in Australia and ask a series of simple questions about size, siting, annual tonnage, waste types and typical features of a modern landfill site.

The survey reached over 650 landfills sites, ranging from the smallest rural sites to the largest metropolitan landfill. An expanded National Landfill Survey was underway at the time of publication, a joint initiative of WMAA, DSEWPaC, the ABS, the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, and Geosciences Australia.

This broader landfill survey indirectly gathers information about landfill ownership through collection of the Australian Business Number (ABN) associated with each facility. The results available at the time of publication are summarised in Table 14-39. Of 583 landfills where the owner has been identified, 86% are council owned. For the larger landfills (greater than 30,000tpa) private ownership is quite high (24%) but there are very few privately owned landfills in the smaller annual throughput range (less than 30,000tpa).

Table 14-39 Australian landfill ownership, based on the 2011 WMAA National Landfill Survey (preliminary data)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | All landfills  | Operating landfills | Large landfills (>30,000 tpa) | Small landfills (<30,000 tpa) |
| Council owned | 575 | (86%) | 451 | (88%) | 39 | (76%) | 64 | (97%) |
| Private owned | 94 | (14%) | 61 | (12%) | 12 | (24%) | 2 | (3%) |
| Unknown owner | 86 |  | NA |  | NA |  | NA |  |
| Total with owner | 669 |  | 512 |  | 51 |  | 66 |  |

While some non-operational landfills have been identified in the National Landfill Survey, the actual number of council-owned landfills that are no longer operational (and may be in various states of closure, which could still require ongoing work in terms of managing legacy landfill gas emissions, leachate and settlement) is not currently known. It is understood that Geosciences Australia does intend to identify and map the location of closed landfills, if possible.

It should also be noted that, based on Hyder’s experience developing Greenhouse Gas Inventories for numerous Australian councils, emissions from landfills will commonly contribute around 60% of the total Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions attributed to a council, and will commonly be the potential ‘trigger’ point for a carbon price liability (set as facilities emitting more than 25,000t of CO2e per annum or 10,000t CO2e in the case of landfills within a prescribed distance of landfills that are liable under the scheme).

### Inside Waste *Industry Report 2011*–*12*

In March-April 2011, WME Media attempted to quantify the services and infrastructure provided by Australian councils through the inaugural Inside Waste Local Government Survey, which represents a unique attempt to gather information about the role of local government in waste management and recycling. The overall response rate to the survey was low (58 respondents in total, around 10% of Australian LGAs) but covered a relatively even mixture of metropolitan, regional and remote councils across the various Australian jurisdictions.

Results from the survey are detailed in the *Inside Waste Industry Report 2011-12*, with key information about the waste facilities owned or managed by or on behalf of surveyed councils reproduced in .

Table 14-40 Summary of waste management facilities owned/managed by or on behalf of surveyed councils, based on survey results published in the *Inside Waste Industry Report 2011-12*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Remoteness of the LGA | % of councils that own one or more landfill | Average no. of landfills per council | % of councils that own one or more transfer station | Average no. of transfer stations per council | % of councils that own one or more MRF | Average no. of MRFs per council |
| Metropolitan | 36% | 1.5 | 23% | 3.8[[27]](#footnote-28) | 0% | N/A |
| Regional | 90% | 1.6 | 43% | 2.9 | 10% | 1.5 |
| Remote | 87% | 2.2 | 33% | 2.6 | 13% | 1.0 |
| Overall | 69% | 1.8 | 33% | 3.1 | 7% | 1.3 |

Extrapolating from the average number of landfills per councils information as shown above, it could be estimated that there are some 1,070 council-owned landfills in Australia, of which almost two-thirds are located in remote areas. While the thin data set behind the figures should be noted, this estimate is higher than, but within the same order of magnitude as, the number of landfills identified through the 2005 WMAA National Landfill Survey.

A high proportion of respondents to the Inside Waste Local Government Survey (69%) reported owning at least one landfill, with a significantly higher incidence reported in regional and remote areas (90% and 87% respectively) in comparison to metropolitan areas (36%).

A similar trend was noted in the number of transfer stations and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) owned by councils, with the survey results suggesting regional and remote councils are more likely to own their own waste management infrastructure than metropolitan councils. The most likely explanation is that metropolitan councils are more likely to attract private sector operators due to the concentrated population and higher waste volumes being managed.

It should be noted that, based on the information above, councils are much less likely to own a MRF than a landfill, or transfer station. This highlights the tendency for councils to outsource ownership and operation of facilities with a higher set-up cost and more complex operating requirements. Numerous council owned landfills were established many years ago; although they may still have a long service life into the future, it is likely that more councils will seek private sector assistance in procuring disposal facilities, due to the increasing complexity of their establishment (this is further discussed in Section ).

The Inside Waste survey also asked respondents to provide information about collection services offered within their LGA, with key findings reproduced in .

Table 14-41 Summary of collection services offered by LGA remoteness, based on survey results published in the *Inside Waste Industry Report 2011-12*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Remoteness of the LGA | No. survey respondents | % 1-bin collection (refuse only) | % 2-bin collection (refuse + recycling) | % 3-bin collection (refuse + recycling + green waste) | % 3-bin collection (refuse + recycling + combined food and garden organics) |
| Metropolitan | 22 | 0% | 14% | 73% | 14% |
| Regional | 21 | 0% | 52% | 38% | 10% |
| Remote | 15 | 53% | 47% | 0% | 0% |
| Overall | 58 | 14% | 36% | 41% | 9% |

The Inside Waste Local Government Survey also gathered information about the use of private sector contractors to provide collection services, as opposed to councils using internal day labour to provide the service. Information about local government’s interactions with the private sector is provided in Section .

# Private sector interactions

The top five private sector waste companies were estimated to account for 44% of total Australian waste industry revenue in 2008–09[[28]](#footnote-29). Based on the IBISWorld 2009 Industry Report, the top five companies (by market share) in 2008–09 were:

1. Transpacific Industries
2. Veolia Environmental Services
3. Visy
4. JJ Richards & Sons
5. SITA Australia.

There has been a period of rapid consolidation in the waste sector over recent years, driven primarily by Transpacific Industries which is Australia’s largest private sector waste operator. Between April 2005 and mid-2007 the company acquired more than 25 waste management businesses, including Cleanaway (which was acquired for $1.25 billion and was, at the time, Australia’s largest waste company, with over 85 municipal customers across all Australian states, other than Tasmania).

It should be noted that, of the top five companies listed above, Transpacific Industries is the only company that is publicly listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX:TPI). It therefore has a higher duty of information disclosure than other companies.

At its Annual General Meeting in November 2008, TPI claimed to have won 99 of a total 214 public waste tenders that were available in the 2007–08 financial year. The company claimed the total value of the 214 tenders was approximately $157 million. According to TPI, 32 of those 214 tenders were for municipal solid waste, worth $62.8 million collectively. It won 12 of those (38% of the contracts, but representing 58% of the value)[[29]](#footnote-30).

SITA Australia, which in 2010 acquired WSN Environmental Solutions from the NSW Government, claimed at the time of publication to hold 55 municipal contracts across Australia.

The waste collection and transport segment of the industry is very competitive, with some very large operators and many small operators competing for local government contracts. The market is becoming increasingly concentrated in the segments of the industry where there are higher barriers to entry, for example in developing landfill or recycling facilities that have complicated approvals processes and high capital establishment costs.

A national study of 126 operating MRFs, conducted by market researcher Synovate in 2007 on behalf of the National Packaging Covenant Council, found 10 major companies with multiple MRF operations processed 85% of collected comingled recyclables (primarily from the domestic waste stream). Only a small number of councils operate their own MRF facilities in Australia.

A higher number of councils own and operate their own landfill facilities, which is in part due to the long service life of those facilities; landfills established by councils several decades ago may still have remaining capacity and continue to be operated by the council. It should also be noted that local governments will often have the required in-house skills to operate an existing landfill, although they may not have the required skills to operate a resource recovery facility or to design and construct a new landfill facility. There is a high involvement of private sector operators in establishing new landfills, especially high-capacity sites that may be designed to service multiple council contracts.

The Australian Landfill Owners Association (ALOA) is an incorporated entity comprising landfill owners across Australia. Members of the Association operate a large number of landfills, and claim to jointly receive and manage over 70% of the total solid waste generated in Australia.

As of August 2011, the ALOA website lists 28 members of which 18 are private companies and 10 are local government organisations. The private company ALOA members are:

* Alexandra Landfill Pty Ltd (Dial a Dump)
* Blacktown Waste Services Pty Ltd
* Boral Waste Solutions
* Brandown Pty Ltd
* Breen Holdings Pty Ltd T/A Kurnell Landfill Company
* Hanson Landfill Services
* Hi Quality Group
* Integrated Waste Services
* Lucas Waste Management Pty Ltd
* Maddingley Brown Coal P/L
* Sita Environmental Solutions
* Thiess Services Pty Ltd
* Ti Tree Bioenergy
* Transpacific Industries Group Limited
* Veolia Environmental Services
* Waste Assets Management Corporation
* West Australian Landfill Services
* Western Land Reclamation Pty Ltd.

## ABS waste management data

The ABS released *Waste Management Services, Australia, 2009-10* in June 2011. It presents estimates of the financial performance of waste management services organisations for 2009-10, as well as providing some information on waste facilities operated, waste activities undertaken, quantities of waste received and processed, and factors hampering resource recovery. Estimates are based on directly collected data from the Waste Management Services Survey, comprising the Economic Activity Survey (EAS) and Local Government Survey [[30]](#footnote-31).

Based on the ABS methodology, an estimated 2,667 organisations were involved in the provision of waste management services in Australia at the end of June 2010, with 2,120 of those (79%) being private and public trading sector businesses classified to the waste collection, treatment and disposal services industry.

The ABS found total employment of 32,737 across the entire waste management services industry[[31]](#footnote-32), with 26,812 people (82%) employed by private and public trading sector businesses. Total income for those businesses is estimated at $8.596 billion for the year ended June 2010.

The previous ABS data release[[32]](#footnote-33) found that, at the end of June 2003, waste management businesses within the private and public trading sector had employment of 14,386 persons. This suggests there has been a 9.3% per annum increase in private sector employment over the seven year period between 2003 and 2010.

The ABS found the domestic and municipal waste stream contributed 27.3% to the overall income from waste services in 2010, with the commercial and industrial waste stream contributing 61.4% and the construction and demolition waste stream 10.5%. On this basis, the total income for private and public trading sector businesses derived from the domestic and municipal waste stream can be estimated as $2.347 billion.

A summary of waste management service operations, based on the latest ABS publication across all waste streams, is displayed in . While not specific to the municipal waste stream, which is of primary relevance to local government, the ABS data highlights the scale of private sector involvement in the management of waste and recycling in Australia. Further detail regarding specific areas of interaction between local government and private sector operators is provided in the following sections of this report.

Table 15-42 Summary of the Australian waste management services industry for the year ended June 2010 (ABS, *Waste Management Services, Australia, 2009*–*10*)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Units | Private and public trading sector | General government sector | Total | % by private and public trading sector |
| Businesses at end June | no. | 2,120 | 547 | 2,667 | 79% |
| Employment at end June | no. | 26,812 | 5,925 | 32,737 | 82% |
| Owner/drivers on contract | no. | 943 | 739 | 1,682 | 56% |
| **Income** |  |  |  | 0 |  |
| Income from waste services |  |  |  | 0 |  |
| Recyclables (including green waste) | $m | 832.1 | 81.3 | 913 | 91% |
| Non-recyclable waste | $m | 4,317.0 | 425.4 | 4,742 | 91% |
| *Total income from waste services* | $m | *5,149.1* | *506.7* | *5,656* | 91% |
| Income from sales of recyclable or recoverable material | $m | 2,231.4 | 42.5 | 2,274 | 98% |
| Income from energy generated from waste | $m | 11.8 | 1.6 | 13 | 88% |
| Other sources of income | $m | 1,203.7 | 2,050.8 | 3,255 | 37% |
| *Total income* | $m | *8,596.0* | *2,601.6* | *11,198* | 77% |
| **Expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wages and salaries | $m | 1,566.9 | 329.0 | 1,896 | 83% |
| Contract and subcontract expenses for waste management services | $m | 557.7 | 1,049.3 | 1,607 | 35% |
| Fees for the treatment/processing and/or disposal of waste | $m | 635.4 | 312.4 | 948 | 67% |
| Other expenses | $m | 5,228.7 | 484.4 | 5,713 | 92% |
| *Total expenses* | $m | *7,988.7* | *2,175.1* | *10,164* | 79% |
| **Waste quantities** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disposed at landfills | '000 t | 10,177.6 | 7,552.5 | 17,730 | 57% |
| Recovered or reprocessed (all facilities) | '000 t | 10,021.3 | 3,128.7 | 13,150 | 76% |

## Contract duration

Depending on population serviced, local governments can aggregate significant volumes of waste and recycling from their communities. This makes the municipal stream an attractive target for many private operators involved in waste and recycling services, given the potential to secure significant business on the back of one contract. Contracts involving the management of commercial and industrial (C&D) or construction and demolition (C&D) waste streams are usually negotiated on a company-by-company basis, and – individually – will generally involve smaller volumes and shorter timeframes than municipal contracts.

Where a private sector operator secures sufficient material volumes from the municipal sector, this may present synergies and opportunities to extend services to other market sectors. For example, a private contract may require the security of winning a council contract in order to construct significant infrastructure such as a Material Recovery Facility (MRF), but in designing a facility to service the municipal contract, the provider may seek to scale the facility in anticipation of being able to also secure a portion of the C&I recycling stream.

When local government requires services from the private sector, it will generally go through a tender process. A key feature of local government tenders is the duration of the contract offered. This is generally expected to reflect the level of investment required in order to perform the required services.

The provision of new waste collection vehicles in order to undertake a collection contract, for example, may require a 5-7 year contract period, given 7 years is a common turnover/replacement period for collection vehicles. Where new vehicles are not required, a shorter contract timeframe may be offered. The provision of an advanced waste treatment plant that will require multi-million dollar capital investments, however, will generally require longer timeframes – usually of at least 10 years – in order for the private sector to recoup costs involved with servicing the contract.

Contract terms and other conditions can vary significantly between different LGAs, and between different services within a single LGA. In some jurisdictions, ‘model contracts’ have been developed by state agencies in order to provide some guidance to local governments on best practice contracts for procuring various services from the private sector.

In NSW, for example, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) developed a Model Waste and Recycling Collection Contract in consultation with peak industry body, the Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW. The OEH promotes the benefits of using the model contract to local government, such as:

* Improved quality of documents by effectively setting a minimum standard
* Time and money saved on preparation costs for tenders and contracts
* A greater focus on the results and outcomes sought to be achieved, as less time is needed to develop the principal documents
* Higher quality tenders as tenderers become accustomed to the standard documents and can then focus their efforts on the service and outcome components of their submission
* Reduced time spent on contract administration through adoption of consistent approaches.

## Professional advice

Local governments commonly engage the services of private sector consultants in order to provide them specialist information and advice. There are a large number of service providers in the marketplace; the *Inside Waste Industry Report 2011–12* lists 25 ‘leading consultancies in waste management’ and while the total number of consultancies offering waste and recycling advice is unknown, it is likely to number several hundred.

Consultancies that are active and influential in terms of providing local governments advice on waste and recycling range from large multinational firms through to boutique firms with less than five staff.

## Collection services

There is a common philosophical divide, across all Australian jurisdictions, between those local governments which seek to manage and operate waste collection services using their own internal ‘day labour’, and those which seek to outsource these services to private sector operators.

Councils which preference ‘day labour’ for collection services commonly cite factors including:

* Greater flexibility (for example the ability to quickly alter services)
* The desire to remain ‘in control’ of this core function for council
* The provision of employment within council.

Councils which preference the outsourcing of collection services to private sector operators commonly cite factors such as:

* Private operators knowing the ‘wheels business’, which is not core business for councils
* Greater cost efficiency
* Ability to outsource risk and more accurately budget for the services.

There has been a general trend toward increasing reliance on private sector operators, especially as waste collection services have become more complex through the inclusion of additional services (such as commingled recycling, greenwaste and garden organics).

The *Inside Waste Industry Report 2011*–*12*, based on a survey of local government, suggests that across Australia approximately 65% of residual waste collections are currently contracted to the private sector; approximately 80% of recycling collections are contracted out; and approximately 75% of green waste collection services are contracted out. The reliance on contractors differs between jurisdictions, as shown in [[33]](#footnote-34).

Table 15-43 Reliance on private sector operators for collection services (*Inside Waste Industry Report, 2011-12*)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction | % of refuse collections contracted to private operators | % of recycling collections contracted to private operators | % of greenwaste collections contracted to private operators |
| NSW | 67% | 78% | 77% |
| Victoria | 80% | 90% | 83% |
| Western Australia | 47% | 70% | 57% |
| Tasmania | 75% | 75% | 100% |

A variety of contract lengths may be offered for collection services, as outlined in Section . Important considerations in relation to collection contracts include the provision of equipment, including collection vehicles. Other elements that may be included in some collection contracts include provision of bins, provision of call centres to field community enquires, and provision of education services. Contract terms will generally reflect the level of investment required.

## Processing

The reprocessing of materials recovered from the municipal recycling stream – such as paper and cardboard, aluminium and steel cans, or plastic containers – is generally always undertaken by private sector operators (either within Australia or internationally). However, some local governments play a key role in separating materials ready for reprocessing, commonly through the use of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) or through provision of source-separated collection containers at transfer stations or drop off centres.

The increasing sophistication of MRFs, and the reliance on new technologies designed to recover resources from the municipal waste stream, has led to increasing involvement of private sector operators. Modern recycling facilities are becoming more expensive and complex to design and build, and require specialist skills to operate. Advanced MRFs are commonly constructed and operated by private sector contractors, with a variety of procurement models used by local governments throughout Australia.

The same is true of Advanced Waste Treatment (AWT) facilities designed to recover resources from the residual waste stream. Existing Australian AWTs are all operated by private sector organisations.

As with collection contracts, the decision to keep processing services ‘in house’ or to outsource them to the private sector often comes down to the philosophical view of the specific council. Unlike collection contracts, however, local government does not generally have the required skills, or available capital, to develop highly advanced processing services. Electing to use day labour may therefore limit the level of sophistication of the processing facility.

Local governments that seek to procure advanced processing technologies will commonly tender for the provision of such services. Although a range of procurement models have been used, the common arrangement is for local government to provide guaranteed material flows (such as a minimum tonnes per year), over a set timeframe (often a fixed period with the option to extend the arrangements for further periods, if both parties consent to doing so). Private sector contractors are invited to tender based on their proposed facility, with a critical factor being the gate fee that will be charged at the facility. This gate fee covers the operational and capital costs of the facility.

For less sophisticated processing services, particularly relying on a high degree of manual labour and requiring limited investment in plant and equipment, shorter contract periods may be offered.

Risk sharing arrangements between each party in the contract, particularly in relation to fluctuations in commodity prices (affecting the re-sale value of recovered materials), will have a strong influence on the overall costs of providing processing services.

## Disposal

As highlighted in Section , regional and remote councils are more likely to own their own waste management infrastructure than metropolitan councils, and one explanation for this is that metropolitan councils are more likely to attract private sector operators due to the concentrated population and higher waste volumes being managed.

While the level of technical sophistication employed at modern disposal (landfill) sites is not at the same level as is required at a MRF or AWT, landfill design and operation has become increasingly technical in response to community expectations about performance. In response, regulatory pressure has increased the burden on sites in terms of gaining planning approvals as well as managing ongoing environmental monitoring and compliance obligations.

Given approval processes for the construction of a new landfill facility are increasingly difficult to navigate, and because there are cost advantages due to the economies of scale involved with operating high-volume landfill sites, there has been a general move toward development of centralised, high volume landfill sites to service metropolitan communities.

There are several examples of high volume landfills that are owned and operated by a particular local government, but service the disposal needs of other surrounding councils. However, there is also a large private sector involvement in landfill operations, particularly in metropolitan areas.

As with processing facilities, the gate-fee for disposal that a private operator charges a local government client is designed to cover operational and capital costs of the facility, including any provisions for the management of the site post closure.

Security of disposal capacity is often a major concern for local governments, given limited ability to influence the generation of waste by the community. Contract arrangements for the disposal of waste at privately operated landfill facilities vary between parties.

# Summary and conclusions

Data from the ABS *National Regional Profile 2005–09* has been used as the primary determinant of the number, name, population and size of LGAs and, for the purposes of this study, the number of Australian local governments has been determined to be 559. Of this total, 116 are considered ‘metropolitan’, 128 considered ‘regional’ and 315 considered ‘remote’.

A telephone survey conducted by Hyder highlighted that, within a select group of industry stakeholders, there is a high level of interest in being able to readily access reliable information about local government waste and recycling. However, the stakeholders consulted generally rated access to such information as ‘moderate’. Perceived availability of information varied considerably between jurisdictions.

The quality of available data has not been thoroughly assessed within this project, although in some jurisdictions there are strong indicators that quality is not high. There are also several obvious inconsistencies relating to the terminology and/or methodology used in different jurisdictions. For example, information relating to per capita performance appears to be variously based on ABS population data, council-provided data on the number of rateable properties, or ABS data on number of households.

Several stakeholders noted development of a standard national methodology for undertaking compositional audits of waste (and to a lesser extent recycling) would be of significant value in helping to increase confidence in the baseline data that is available. This is recommended as an area of further investigation for the Australian Government.

In performing an objective analysis of the LGA-specific information about waste and recycling that is publicly available in Australia, Hyder also found significant variance between different jurisdictions (as shown in ). Furthermore, it is noted that there is a significant difference between the level of information that is collected by various jurisdictional agencies, and the level of information that is eventually made publicly available by those agencies.

There are 17 selected indicators of waste and recycling performance for LGAs identified in this report. Across the 6 states and the Northern Territory, there is therefore potential for 119 articles of data to be collected and reported. Across those 7 jurisdictions, information is collected around 60 data points on an annual basis (50% of the potential) and information is made publicly available across 27 data points (23% of the potential). Performance varies by jurisdiction:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NSW** | * Data is collected for 15 indicators on an annual basis;
* LGA-specific data for 8 of these indicators is made available to the public on an annual basis.
 |
| **Victoria** | * Data is collected for 15 indicators on an annual basis; and
* Council-specific data for 7 of these indicators is made available to the public on an annual basis.
 |
| **Queensland** | * Data is collected for 15 indicators on an annual basis; and
* Some data for 8 of these indicators has been made available to the public.
 |
| **South Australia** | * Data is collected for 11 indicators on an annual basis, and some data is collected for a further 3 indicators; and
* Some data for 2 of these indicators has been made available to the public.
 |
| **Western Australia** | * Data is collected for 17 indicators on an annual basis; and
* Limited data for these indicators is made available to the public.
 |
| **Tasmania** | * Data is collected for 1 indicator on an annual basis; and
* Some data for 1 indicator has been made available to the public.
 |
| **Northern Territory** | * Data is collected for 1 indicator on an annual basis; and
* Data for that 1 indicator has been made available to the public.
 |

This report details an increasing trend toward private sector involvement in the management of local government waste and recycling, through the various stages of collection, processing and/or disposal. There are, however, a large number of councils (especially in regional and remote areas) that predominately perform required activities using their own internal day labour and council-owned facilities.

In terms of major council-owned waste management infrastructure, the most common facilities are landfills. These facilities may have long service lives, and may also require significant ongoing management after the operational phase of the facility’s lifespan. It is also noted that, for those councils which own their own landfill, this will generally be by far the greatest contributor to the council’s total Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions, and may therefore be the trigger for carbon price liability for councils.

This report navigates and explains a relatively complex series of reporting pathways for information about local government’s role and performance in relation to waste and recycling within each Australian jurisdiction. The degree to which these mechanisms serve the needs of potential users of the relevant information is also assessed. However, the quality of the available information has not been assessed.

Local government plays a critical role in Australian waste management and recycling. It is hoped that, by identifying various mechanisms used across the different jurisdictions, this report will aid in the identification of opportunities to provide a more streamlined and standardised approach to the collection and assessment of information about council roles and performance.

1. . In the ACT the role of local government is performed by the territory government. However, this report does provide a summary of available information regarding waste and recycling in the ACT. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Australian Local Government Association (ALGA, 2009), *Submission to the House Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee Review of the Effectiveness of Legislation Administering the Conduct of Referendums*. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. For example, Australia has no equivalent of the Waste Data Flow system in the United Kingdom, which accepts, validates and reports council-by-council data on waste and recycling - [www.wastedataflow.org](http://www.wastedataflow.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. drumMUSTER is a national program for the collection and recycling of cleaned, non returnable chemical containers that have been used for products relating to crop production and on-farm animal health. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. www.lgsa.org.au/www/html/255-state-of-the-environment-reporting.asp [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. The NSW *Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2009-2010* includes a prominent disclaimer that information within the report is entirely dependent on the accuracy of data supplied by councils. While population data is based on ABS projections as at 30 June 2009, it is understood that data relating to the number of households is supplied by individual councils. The apparent number of occupants per household ranges from a minimum of 1.74 (Snowy River) to a maximum of 3.44 (Uralla). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. [www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/localgovernment/guide-to-local-government/what-councils-do/waste-management](http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/localgovernment/guide-to-local-government/what-councils-do/waste-management) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. The Victorian Government has introduced into Parliament the [Environment Protection Amendment (Landfill Levies) Bill 2011](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/docs/EP-Amendment-%28Landfill%20Levies%29Bill-2011.pdf). If passed, this Bill will amend the *Environment Protection Act 1970*, bringing forward increases to the municipal and industrial landfill levy over the next four years. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Note that Brisbane City Council is Australia’s most populous council, and accounts for 24% of Queensland’s total population. The Gold Coast City Council accounts for a further 12% of the state’s population. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia* (ABS cat. no. 3235.0), published August, 2010. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Local Government Grants Commission South Australia (2011) *Annual Report 2009–10* [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. <http://www.lga.sa.gov.au> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia* (ABS cat. no. 3235.0), published August, 2010 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. Personal communications between Hyder and DEC staff, July 2011 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. WALGGC(22 August 2005) *Non-rate revenue working party report*, circular #7, 05-06 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. Department of Local Government Australian Bureau of Statistics Information Return 2009–10 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. Department of Local Government (2011) Western Australian Local Government Accounting Manual Edition 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. www.northtaswaste.com.au [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia* (ABS cat. no. 3235.0), published August, 2010 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. Local Government Division Department of Premier & Cabinet (2009) *Measuring Council Performance in Tasmania 2007 - 2008* [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. <http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgd/measuring_council_performance> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. State Grants Commission’s Annual Report 2010-11 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. [www.legassembly.act.gov.au/education/role-of-the-assembly.asp](http://www.legassembly.act.gov.au/education/role-of-the-assembly.asp) [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. *National Waste Data Systems Requirements Study* (2009), prepared by NetBalance for the Australian Government [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. Northern Territory Grants Commission Annual Report 2009-10 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. Due to the low number of survey responses, this figure is skewed by one metropolitan council operating seven transfer stations. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. IBISWorld Industry Report, May 2009: *Waste Disposal Services in Australia* [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. [www.insidewaste.com.au/storyview.asp?storyid=447673](http://www.insidewaste.com.au/storyview.asp?storyid=447673) [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. Methodology for the ABS data collection, and limitations to the ABS scope, are outlined in Section 5.2.5. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. This includes all waste streams, not only municipal wastes [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. ABS 2003: *Waste Management Services, Australia, 2002-03* [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
33. Information published in the *Inside Waste Industry Report 2011-12* is based on survey responses from 58 Australian local governments. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)