



WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



Derwent Valley
COUNCIL

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Executive Summary

During 2020 the Derwent Valley Council partnered with Optimum Standard and RMCG to develop a Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy.

The development of the Strategy occurred during a period impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. As a result the ability for Council to undertake wide spread community consultation was severely impacted. In total there were 33 Resident Surveys completed and 12 Business Surveys returned.

The Council has now reviewed the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, resulting in the preparation of this high level Waste Management Strategy. The review included:

- **Reviewing and refreshing the 67 actions to determine their relevance.**
It was identified that a number of the actions included in the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy although 'aspirational' would either be difficult to achieve or something the Council has limited capacity or ability to influence. A large number of the actions were similar to others included in the Strategy, and therefore have been discounted at this stage. There are now 23 identified actions for the Council to progress over the next 10 years.
- **Connect the Strategy to reality and the actual work at Peppermint Hill**
It is established that waste management is one of the largest single areas of the Council's budget. It is made more complex for Derwent Valley due to the Council continuing to operate its own landfill site at Peppermint Hill. Records indicate the Peppermint Hill site commenced operations in the early 1950's. During the sites life it appears there has been up to four (4) fill sites, some of which have merged into each other to create larger fill areas.

Landfill management in Tasmania is heavily regulated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). The Peppermint Hill Landfill Site continues

to operate under a 2004 Environmental Protection Notice (EPN) which requires the site to be operated in such a manner that:

- **it reflects the Peppermint Hill Environmental Management Plan – July 2003.**
- **it maintains 'current' best practice environmental management.**
- **there would be a decrease in the volume of waste disposal within the confines of Peppermint Hill Waste Depot.**
- **proper environmental management of the activity is maintained.**
- **it reflects changes in accepted technology.**
- **it accepts maximum quantities (excluding clean fill) of 6,500 tonnes per year.**
- **the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) 'must be critically reviewed by February 2007 and then at 5-yearly intervals (required to be submitted within 3 months of each completion).**
- **a public complaints register is maintained and made available for inspection by an authorised officer upon request.**
- **the operation of the Environmental Management Plan will be reviewed annually by the EHO with a report provided to the Council.**

Considering the future of Peppermint Hill will largely determine the future direction for the majority of Council's waste management decisions. This matter is a complex issue and there are a number of existing and future challenges relating to the landfill operation. A high priority under this Waste Management Strategy is for the Council to 'consider future options relating to the delivery of waste management, including the longer term viability of operating the Peppermint Hill Landfill Site'.

- **Connect the Strategy to the state-wide context (Draft Waste Action Plan -DPIWE)**

There is significant work being undertaken at the State Government level in relation to waste management.

It has been determined a State Landfill Levy will be introduced from 1 July 2022, further adding to the costs experienced by Council in managing the community's waste. A container deposit scheme is also being introduced in Tasmania in the near future. The State Draft Waste Action Plan is nearing finalisation and will impact future Council waste management decisions.

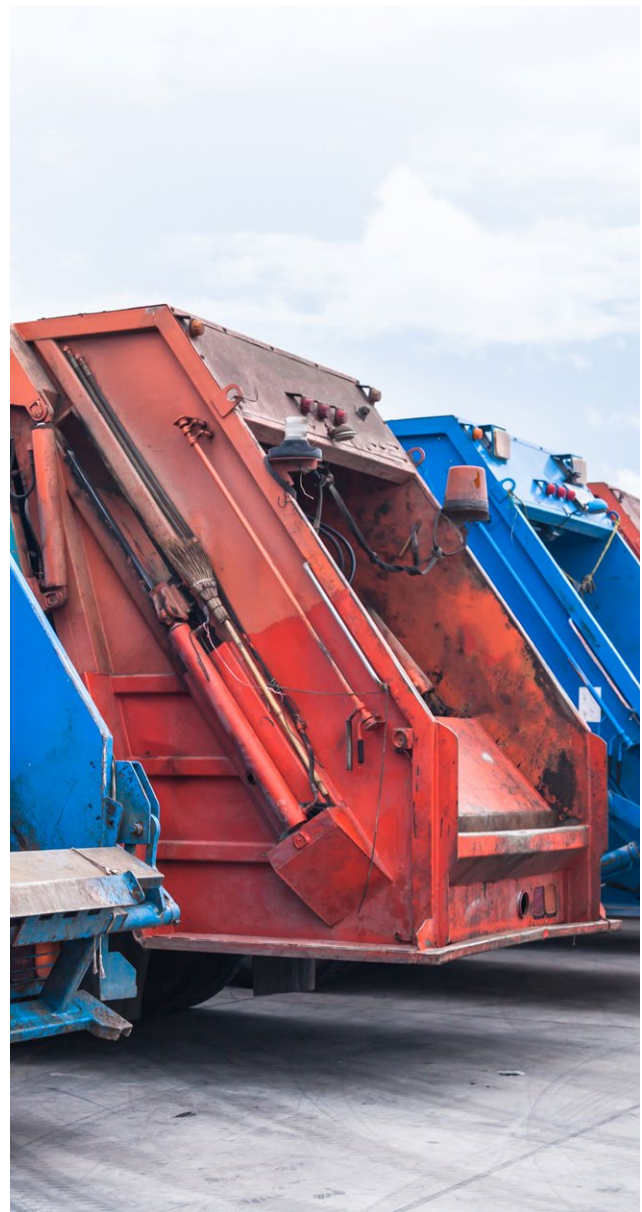
Another high priority action under this Waste Management Strategy is for the Council to 'align actions with the State Government's Waste Action Plan'.

Providing education opportunities for the community to improve waste management outcomes, focussed on environmental impacts and challenges is identified under this Waste Management Strategy.

- **Align any actions with the Long Term Financial Plan – spreading the costs over the next 10 years or beyond**

This Waste Management Strategy includes projected funding requirements in excess of \$2.6 million over 10 years. This is to meet the costs of further progressing waste management improvements across the municipal area but does not include capital expenditure for new infrastructure (i.e. transfer station or improvements to the landfill site). An amount of \$1.5 million has been included in the forward capital program as Council's contribution to the development of a new weighbridge, but this will be subject to Council successfully attracting grant funding to assist with the meeting the cost.

The future delivery of waste management services to the Derwent Valley community will be one of the most challenging areas the Council will be required to deal with over the next 10 – 20 years. This Waste Management Strategy has been prepared to assist Council in meeting these challenges.



Goals And Objectives

Goal 1: Promote the sustainable management of resources

The 'Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy – December 2020' said:

The natural environment plays a huge role in the health and welfare of our community.

In the 'Our Valley 2030, Derwent Valley Community Strategic Plan' it notes the community told us that:

"We want to be known for the beauty of our preserved natural environment, produce and lifestyle. We want to be clean and green".

Being sustainable meant that we need to manage our resources in a way that they are not depleted so that future generations can benefit from them. To manage our resources well, we need to work together and maintain the economic viability of our region and our assets. We need to do this in the best possible way and divert waste from landfill.

What we will do:

- Share ideas and knowledge and build a shared responsibility for waste and resource recovery in our community and region.*
- By learning from what we have done in the past and identifying better ways of managing our waste and resource recovery we can accomplish our goals in the most effective and economically responsible way.*
- It helps to bring people together and builds the partnerships we need to get things done.*
- Develop and maintain an effective and timely waste management and resource recovery education campaign to keep our community engaged and informed.*

- There is no such thing as a 'throw away' item – it all must go somewhere. Education campaigns increase our awareness and understanding of the harms of poor waste management and what needs to be done to reduce this harm and increase resource recovery.*
- Support waste avoidance and lead by example.*
- Waste is made up of different materials that should be treated differently. Some probably shouldn't be produced, some should be reused, and some recycled or composted. Waste avoidance is simply avoiding the production of waste in the first place. It is at the top of the waste hierarchy which is commonly shortened to 'reduce reuse recycle'.*

Revised Objectives

As a result of the review it was determined to revise the objectives under Goal 1 as follows:

- Share ideas and knowledge and build a shared responsibility for waste and resource recovery within the community.
- Develop and implement a waste management education program to keep the community both engaged and informed.
- Support waste avoidance programs and as a Council 'lead by example'.

Actions

The revised actions to meet the goals and objectives are listed below. This includes who will be responsible to progress the action, the delivery method, funding estimate, priority and timeframe. (Note: the reference number refers to the original action under the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy – December 2020).

Ref No.	Revised Action	Responsibility	Delivery Method	Funding Estimate	Priority	Timeframe
1.1	Establish the Environmental & Sustainability Advisory Body with a key objective of providing the focus and leadership of Council's responses for the implementation of its Waste Management Strategy. This includes strategies for educating the community and reporting on achievements and areas identified for improvement.	General Manager	Internal / Consultant	\$ 200,000	Medium	Ongoing
1.2	Align Council's actions with the State Government's Waste Action Plan.	Executive Leadership Team	Internal	\$ 10,000	High	2022-23
1.3	Provide education opportunities for the community to understand the need for improved waste management, including the reduction of roadside litter, focused on environmental impacts.	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ 30,000	Medium	Ongoing
1.17	Work closely with the Southern Regional Waste Group on joint initiatives for improving waste management outcomes for the community.	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ 15,000	Medium	Ongoing

Goal 2: Provide our whole community with convenient and affordable waste services

The 'Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy – December 2020' said:

Dumping waste into landfill at the rate we are is simply not sustainable in the long run. Our waste management activities need to be well thought out and sustainable.

Finding the right mix of residential and commercial waste management and resource recovery activities that are convenient and affordable for our whole community is essential.

What we will do:

- *Provide our whole community with convenient and affordable collection and drop-off services.*
- *Our Valley stretches from New Norfolk to the localities of Bushy Park, Maydena and Strathgordon – we have a small population, with many different needs, in a large area.*
- *There are many in our community who experience all the waste management services that Council provides and many who would like to experience more than they currently have. We will face challenges to have waste services that fit in well with everyone's needs and will need to do this in a number of planned steps over time so that it is as fair as possible.*
- *Decrease waste to landfill.*
- *A number of Councils in Tasmania are moving to a Zero Waste to Landfill by 2030. Reducing, reusing, and recycling creates more jobs than disposal at landfill and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It is good for the environment and can help us keep materials in use for longer.*
- *Many of you had aspirations to be more 'clean and green' and talked about new forms of energy from landfill.*

- *You told us that the Peppermint Hill landfill site is an essential service for our region. By introducing different ways to manage waste and reuse and recycle materials, you thought that we could increase the use of natural materials and help sustain the life of our landfill.*
- *Develop effective pathways for re-use of materials.*
- *Developing a way for us to reuse materials helps us improve our economy and benefit everyone. Keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible also helps us look after our environment.*

Revised Objectives

As a result of the review it was determined to revise the objectives under Goal 2 as follows:

- Provide the community with affordable and sustainable waste management services.
- Decrease waste going to landfill.
- Encourage the circular economy and the reuse of materials.

Actions

The revised actions to meet the goals and objectives are listed below. This includes who will be responsible to progress the action, the delivery method, funding estimate, priority and timeframe. (Note: the reference number refers to the original action under the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy – December 2020).



Ref No.	Revised Action	Responsibility	Delivery Method	Funding Estimate	Priority	Timeframe
2.1	Also refer Action 1.1 The Environmental & Sustainability Advisory Body to provide the focus and leadership of Council's responses for the implementation of its Waste Management Strategy. This includes strategies for educating the community and reporting on achievements and areas identified for improvement.	Environmental & Sustainability Advisory	Internal	\$ -	High	Ongoing
2.2	Review current collection service restrictions and develop plans to include more residents and areas for household waste and recycling collection.	Infrastructure Services	Internal / Contractor	\$ -	Medium	2022-23
2.4	Encourage the Tip Site Operator to divert as much material as possible from entering the landfill.	Infrastructure Services	Internal / Contractor	\$ 50,000	High	Ongoing
2.5	Investigate the option of a FOGO (Food Organics & Garden Organics) collection service being provided in Derwent Valley (could occur in conjunction with other Regional Councils) .	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ 25,000	Medium	2023-24
2.8	Progressively upgrade all waste only public place bins to dual waste and recycling units along the foreshore, parks, and other open spaces.	Infrastructure Services	Internal / Contractor	\$ 450,000	Medium	Ongoing
2.10	Investigate opportunities to encourage hard waste diversion through Garage Sale Trail, or Rethink Waste initiatives	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ 5,000	High	2022-23
2.12	Provide recycling options at all Council operated facilities.	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ 5,000	High	2022-23
2.14	Encourage waste minimisation and resource recovery plans to be considered as part of development application processes.	Executive Leadership Team	Internal	\$ -	Low	Ongoing
2.15	Ensure all construction and demolition materials generated from Council operations (such as road works) are managed appropriately and recycled where possible.	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ -	Medium	Ongoing

Goal 3: Minimise the negative impact of waste on our natural environment

The 'Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy – December 2020' said:

Mismanaged waste can have a huge impact on our natural environment and human health. A lot of the materials disposed of in the general waste bin can last in the environment anywhere from hundreds to thousands of years.

Many of you said what concerned you the most about waste in our area was its effect on the environment (including water, land, and animals).

As a community, you are focussed on finding good solutions for the future of the landfill and creating sustainable choices that balance out the use and protection of natural resources in our region.

What we will do:

- Maintain a safe and environmentally responsible landfill and resource recovery operation to meet future needs.*
- Waste and recycling infrastructure costs our community, and these costs continue to rise over time. In conversation, you told us that making decisions based on what is the lowest cost to manage waste is not sustainable and will not help us meet current operational costs to manage waste as well as future infrastructure needs.*
- Many of you said that you would be prepared to pay more to help cover the costs of improving our waste management and resource recovery services.*
- You believe that there is no single solution but many, in many areas, working together.*
- Promote the sustainable management and use of waste and recycling infrastructure.*

- Recycling is not simple, and you have told us that more needs to be done to help you recycle better. Recycling and resource recovery can create new outputs and valuable products and you gave us some ideas.*
- Reduce litter and illegally dumped rubbish in public places.*
- Not everyone intends to litter, but we know that people are more likely to litter in areas that are already littered. Dumping rubbish is more deliberate and can have a greater impact on the environment over time. This can include polluting natural habitats and creating fire hazards. It costs our community to remove rubbish and rectify any damage that litter and illegal dumping causes.*

You believe that we could be a lot more environmentally friendly that we are now and would like to see more done to combat littering and illegal dumping of rubbish in parks and bushland.

Revised Objectives

As a result of the review it was determined to revise the objectives under Goal 3 as follows:

- Provide safe and environmentally responsible waste management services and facilities to meet the community's current and future needs.
- Promote cost effective management and use of waste and recycling infrastructure.
- Reduce litter and the illegal dumping of rubbish.

Actions

The revised actions to meet the goals and objectives are listed below. This includes who will be responsible to progress the action, the delivery method, funding estimate, priority and timeframe. (Note: the reference number refers to the original action under the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy – December 2020).

Ref No.	Revised Action	Responsibility	Delivery Method	Funding Estimate	Priority	Timeframe
3.1	Conduct a waste audit to establish a kerbside recycling and waste material profile and use this information for future infrastructure development plans.	Infrastructure Services	Internal / Contractor	\$ 10,000	Medium	Ongoing
3.3	Consider future options relating to the delivery of waste management including the longer term viability of operating the Peppermint Hill Landfill Site.	Executive Leadership Team	Internal / Consultant	\$ 100,000	High	2022-23
3.5	Plan for the introduction of a weighbridge if funding options are available to support investment or it is required through regulation (subject to external funding opportunities).	General Manager	Internal / Consultant	\$ 1,500,000	High	2024-25
3.7	Understand the contamination rates of recycling collections to inform future education programs.	Infrastructure Services	Internal / Contractor	\$ 10,000	Medium	Ongoing
3.9	Upgrade facilities for receiving recycling materials at National Park and Molesworth (and any other areas) to complement decisions taken in relation to the Peppermint Hill Waste Refuse Site.	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ 80,000	Medium	2024-25
3.13	Review operational hours and the services provided at Council waste facilities, aimed at supporting increased waste diversion and reducing rates of littering and illegal dumping.	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ -	Low	2025-26

Ref No.	Revised Action	Responsibility	Delivery Method	Funding Estimate	Priority	Timeframe
3.17	<p>Consider the introduction of a By-law banning single use plastic including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • single use plastic drinking straws; • single-use plastic cutlery; • single use plastic drink stirrers; • expanded polystyrene cups; • expanded polystyrene bowls; • expanded polystyrene plates; <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanded polystyrene clam shell containers. 	Council	Internal / Consultant	\$ 35,000	Low	2025-26
3.23	<p>Improve signage across the municipal area to reduce illegal dumping and roadside litter littering, and encourage diversion of waste to Council provided facilities.</p>	Infrastructure Services	Internal	\$ 20,000	Medium	2023-24

Goal 4: Work together for the benefit of our region

The 'Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy – December 2020' said:

Many of you have strong views about waste and resource recovery management in our region. You know that more is possible, and you want better services than currently provided. You said that as a region we should be more connected and collaborate to provide affordable waste and resource recovery services to all – that this is important for ensuring that responsible and sustainable solutions for landfill occur.

Working together requires us to develop confident and creative solutions to ensure we thrive in strong, connected communities, whilst preserving what makes our individual communities unique. It requires a share belief of enhancing prosperity and wellbeing for all.

What we will do:

- *Build a sustainable and achievable infrastructure development plan for the Derwent Valley Council.*

Regardless of the size, shape, or budget of a local government area there are practical constraints on the capacity of some councils to deliver on all the expectations of its community – and we are no different.

You said that you understand this but think that more could be done to get our planning right and achieve the things that are important for you – and this includes understanding the full impact of receiving waste from other Councils on our area's infrastructure assets.

- *Work with surrounding Councils and Waste Strategy South to develop a regional waste management and resource recovery plan.*

Local and regional development is not the responsibility of any single council or regional authority. It is a co-responsibility that requires the support and input of many individuals. It is informed by what makes each area special – its places, people, industry, cultural characteristics, and innovation capacity.

Our region's councils are at different points in their waste management journey and may not always be aware of the extent to which they are influencing developments in other areas.

You know that developing a regional waste management and resource recovery plan will have many parts and take time – but you told us that if we are already receiving waste from others that we need to create a sustainable plan that works for the future benefit of everyone.

Revised Objectives

As a result of the review it was determined to revise the objectives under Goal 4 as follows:

- Develop a sustainable and achievable infrastructure development plan for the future provision of waste management services to the Derwent Valley community.
- Work with surrounding councils and Waste Strategy South to develop a regional waste management and resource recovery plan.

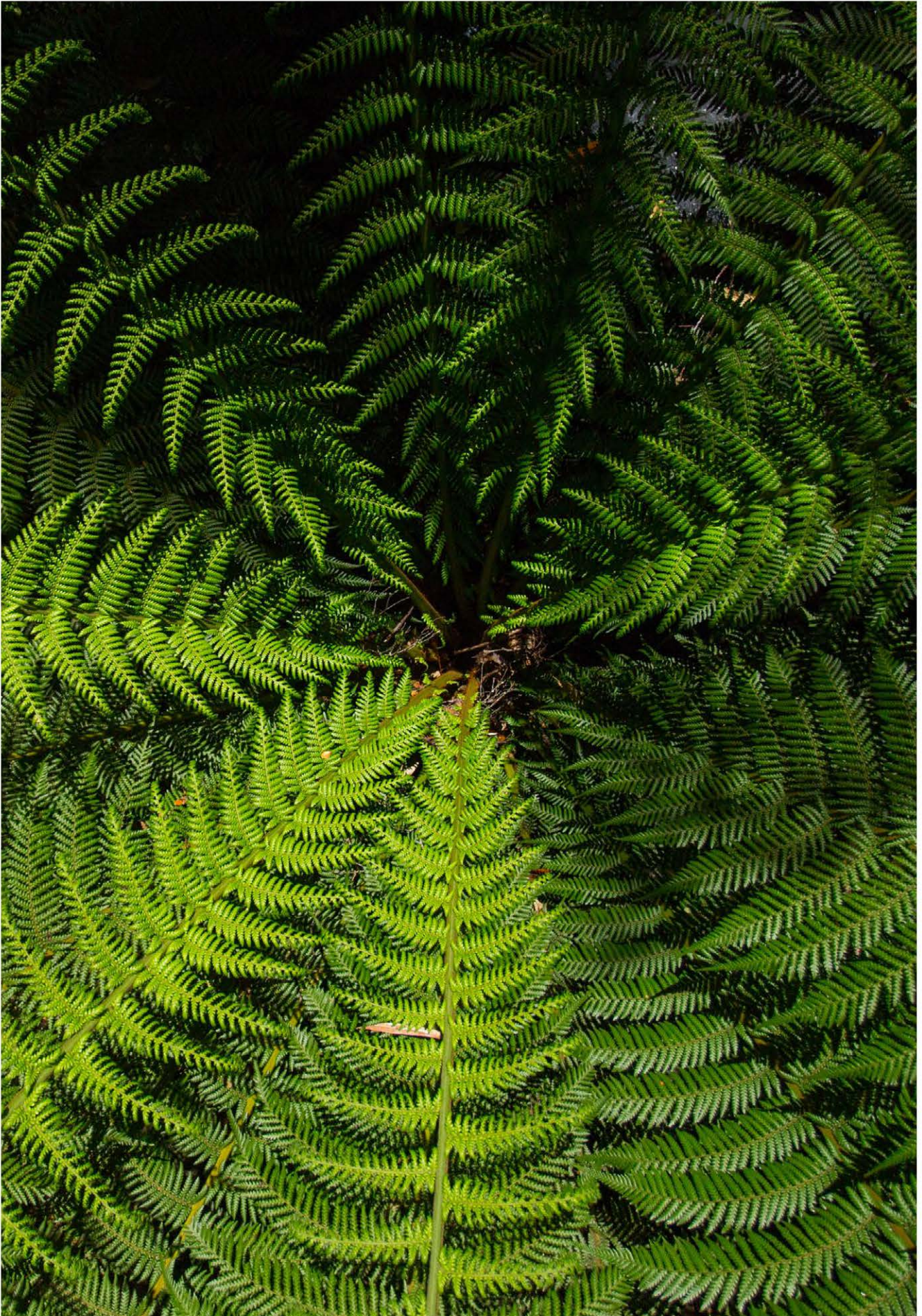
The revised actions to meet the goals and objectives are listed below. This includes who will be responsible to progress the action, the delivery method, funding estimate, priority and timeframe. (Note: the reference number refers to the original action under the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy – December 2020).

Ref No.	Revised Action	Responsibility	Delivery Method	Funding Estimate	Priority	Timeframe
4.3	Model the timing and impact of State and Federal Policies related to waste levies and container deposit schemes and integrate into budget and future financial planning activities (including the collection of roadside litter).	Infrastructure Services	Internal / Consultant	\$ 10,000	High	2022-23
4.5	Work with surrounding Councils on regional waste management and resource recovery through the Joint Authority.	General Manager	Internal / Consultant	\$ 50,000	High	Ongoing



Projected Funding Model

Goal	Funding Estimate	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
Promote the sustainable management of resources	255,000	34,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500	24,500
Provide our whole community with convenient and affordable collection and drop off services	535,000	80,000	95,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Minimise the negative impact of waste on our natural environment	1,755,000	101,000	31,000	1,581,000	36,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Work together for the future benefit of our region	60,000	15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,605,000	\$ 230,500	\$ 155,500	\$ 1,655,500	\$ 110,500	\$ 75,500	\$ 75,500	\$ 75,500	\$ 75,500	\$ 75,500	\$ 75,500





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