

# Frequently Asked Questions: State and Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Planning 2017

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## 1. What is the purpose of the Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementations Plans (Regional Implementation Plans) and what difference will they make?

The purpose of the Regional Implementation Plans is to identify waste and resource recovery infrastructure and service needs and how these can be met over at least the next 10 years for each waste and resource recovery region in Victoria.

Each of the Regional Implementation Plans provides details of their region's waste and resource recovery infrastructure, environmental and financial performance, projected waste volumes and population changes. The plans reflect community ideas and industry and government requirements.

The Regional Implementation Plans will assist to achieve:

- reduction of waste going into landfill
- increased resource recovery and improved industry viability
- management and resource recovery facilities and landfills to provide the best economic, community, environment and public health outcomes for local communities.

The Regional Implementation Plans include a schedule of existing and future waste and resource recovery infrastructure including the sequencing of landfill airspace over the next ten years. Importantly, the plans work collectively with the SWRRIP to establish an integrated waste and resource recovery management system for Victoria.

## Waste and resource recovery regions in Victoria



## 2. What is the purpose of the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan?

The SWRRIP led by SV on behalf of the Victorian Government, provides Victoria with the long term vision and roadmap to guide future planning for waste and resource recovery infrastructure to achieve an integrated system that:

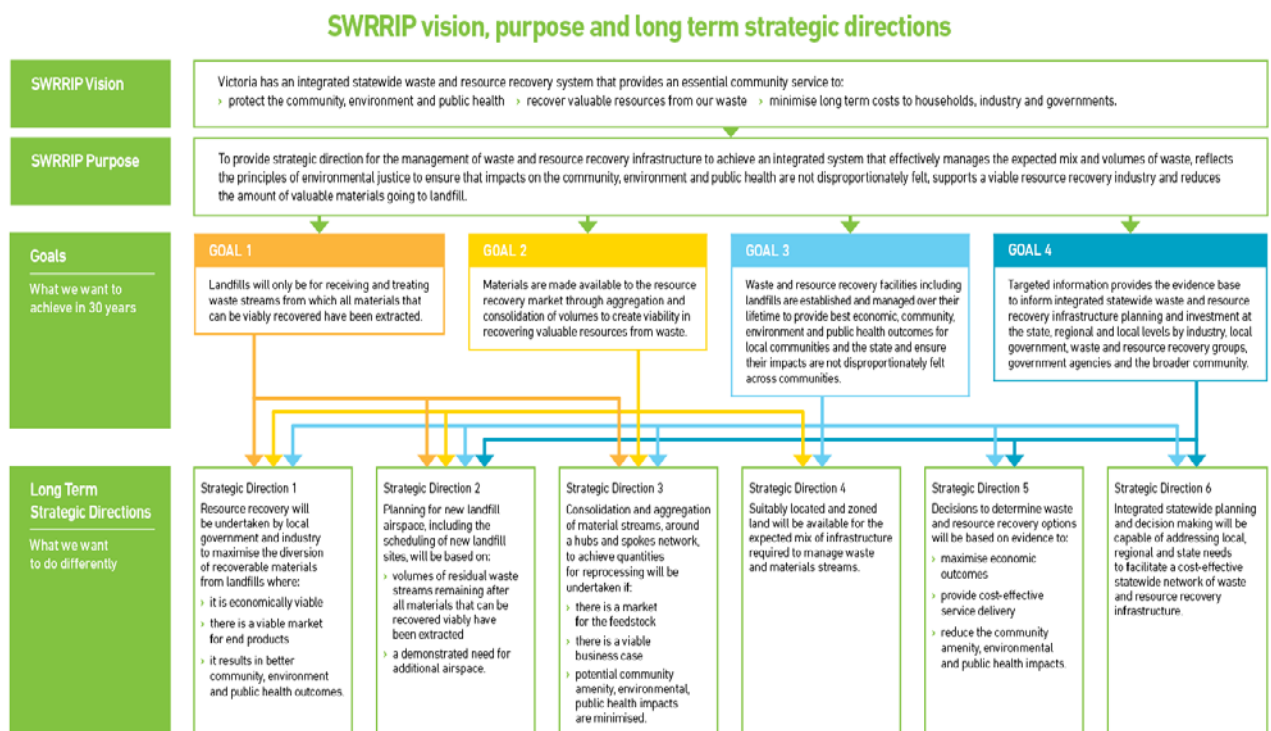
- effectively manages the expected mix and volumes of waste
- reflects the principles of environmental justice to ensure that impacts on the community, environment and public health are not disproportionately felt
- supports a viable resource recovery industry
- reduces the amount of valuable materials going to landfill.

## 3. How will the Regional Implementation Plans achieve the SWRRIP goals?

The SWRRIP provides the roadmap to ensure Victoria has the infrastructure to effectively manage waste and resource recovery for the next 30 years.

Each Regional Implementation Plan will support the achievement of the goals and implement the SWRRIPs strategic directions to ensure we guide investment and have well positioned infrastructure.

The SWRRIP goals and strategic directions are:



## 4. How were the Regional Implementation Plans developed?

Each Waste and Resource Recovery Group (seven in total) developed their own Regional Implementation Plan. This is one of their key objectives as a state government statutory authority.

Each plan was developed over approximately a year via consultation and based on state and regional data. Each of the Regional Groups had a similar approach to developing their plans as follows:

- Assessment of current waste generation and infrastructure requirements plus future generation and capacity needs

- Engagement with the waste and resource recovery industry about existing facilities and developing plans for new or expanding infrastructure
- Consultation with local governments regarding waste and resource recovery services, land use planning, facilities and community expectations
- Collaboration with other Groups, Sustainability Victoria, EPA Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Identifying priorities and options to meet the needs of the region
- Public consultation on their draft Regional Implementation Plan.

## 5. Are there similarities and differences between each of the seven Regional Implementation Plans?

There are similarities between the Regional Implementation Plans as each provides an understanding of their region's current waste infrastructure, environmental and financial performance, projected waste volumes and population changes. The plans also reflect community ideas and industry and government requirements.

No new landfills have been identified in any of the Regional Implementation Plans.

Each plan is slightly different though as they reflect their region's unique features including geography, major industries, tourism activities and local communities.

## 6. How will the Regional Implementation Plans be implemented?

Each Group will lead on the implementation of their Regional Implementation Plan. The plans identify the strategic approach and practical actions to be undertaken over the next 10 years.

The Groups will work in partnership with local government, industry and communities to realise these priority actions, including:

- Support local governments to collaboratively procure services to enable materials to be aggregated more effectively for recycling
- Develop and improve resource recovery and waste data
- Research, provide advice and facilitate forums and discussions to foster sector innovation and share knowledge
- Support local government and industry to improve land use planning practices and the operation and management of infrastructure
- Support closure of landfills where appropriate and increase resource recovery via improvement and expansion of infrastructure, often with a focus on priority materials.

## 7. How can I (industry, local government or community) get involved in delivering the Regional Implementation Plans?

Each plan identifies emerging opportunities in the region – the waste and resource recovery sector was engaged during the development of the plans and there will be more opportunities to be involved in solutions during implementation.

[Keep in contact with your relevant Group.](#)

## 8. What are the collective resource recovery infrastructure needs and opportunities identified in the Regional Implementation Plans?

Ensuring there is an effective network of resource recovery centres and transfer stations was a key priority identified for each region. This recognises the import role this infrastructure plays in the sorting, aggregation and consolidation of materials to make them available as feedstocks for reprocessing.

The recovery of organic material, especially from food waste, is a focus of all of the plans. Proposed actions include:

- Investigating opportunities to increase organics recovery with local government
- Supporting local government and industry to identify suitable expansion of existing facilities or new facilities for garden and food organics reprocessing
- Investigating viable and innovative opportunities to increase recovery of food and garden organics as feedstock for regional processing facilities.

The Regional Implementation Plans identify a need for organics treatment facilities, such as composting, anaerobic digesters and waste from energy facilities.

Nearly half of the plastics recovered in Victoria are re-processed locally; many of the regional implementation plans identify further opportunities for more plastics recovery and reprocessing.

## 9. What are the recovery rates in the regions and how are they expected to change?

The overall recovery rate (also known as the diversion rate) is the amount recovered as a percentage of the total amount of waste generated. The data informing this overall calculation is available at a state level, but not at a regional level. In 2015-16 it was approximately 67%. Whilst this is comparable to other states and similar countries, collectively the plans are expected to achieve an increase in the overall recovery rate over the next five years.

Each Regional Implementation Plan includes more specific recovery rates for some of the priority materials where more granular data is available, most typically for waste collected by councils through kerbside services. The Groups and Sustainability Victoria will be focusing on improving data, especially from businesses and industry, so we can better understand the opportunities to improve recovery rates.

## 10. Is there sufficient landfill air space?

The Regional Implementation Plans focus on reducing our reliance on landfills through maximizing the viable recovery of materials from our wastes. We do however also need to ensure that the wastes that cannot be recovered can be managed to ensure our community amenity, the environment and public health are protected. Each Group has analysed the current and projected disposal needs for at least the next 10 years, and assessed whether there is sufficient landfill airspace available (within the region or in adjoining regions) to meet this need.

Whilst some existing landfills may require approvals for expansion, there are no new landfills needed in Victoria for the next 10 years. The plans have identified and scheduled existing landfills available to meet regional needs over this 10 year period and include an indication of the continued role of existing sites for a 30 year period to provide clarity to communities. The landfill airspace need will be monitored annually and will be reviewed in 3-5 years.

## 11. What happens to closed landfills?

Local governments, private operators and the EPA all play a role in managing and monitoring closed landfills, typically for around 30 years after closure.

The Regional Implementation Plans identify many of the closed landfills in each region and the Groups will facilitate discussions to enable risks from closed or closing landfills to be managed to protect human health, amenity and the environment.

## 12. Do the Regional Implementation Plans consider disposal of asbestos?

The Regional Implementation Plans identify which landfills in the region are licensed to accept asbestos. Management of asbestos requires maintaining and enhancing the existing network that provides ready access for asbestos disposal at appropriately licensed landfills. This could be built on

the existing network of landfill infrastructure. The Government will continue to guidance on a statewide approach to the management of asbestos.

### 13. How will the Regional Implementation Plans be funded?

Implementation of the plans will be led by the Groups. The Victorian Government is committed to implementing the SWRRIP and the Regional Implementation Plans. There is government funding for a range of state programs and the Groups are funded to lead and facilitate the actions in their Regional Implementation Plans.

### 14. What economic benefits will the Regional Implementation Plans bring about?

In 2015-16 the overall recovery rate (the amount recovered as a percentage of the total amount of waste generated) was approximately 67%. The recovery of these materials contributes to Victoria's economy. Increasing the recovery of more valuable resources better supports our economy.

A 2009 report prepared for the Commonwealth Government by Access Economics found that resource recovery generates more jobs than landfills - for the same amount of material managed, there are over three jobs compared to every one job at landfill.

More efficient management of our waste can reduce costs to councils, businesses and households.

### 15. When will the SWRRIP and Regional Implementation Plans be reviewed and amended?

The 10 year Regional Implementation Plans will be active until 2027 (except the Metropolitan Implementation Plan that will be active until 2026) but a Regional Group may prepare draft amendments to its plan at any time, including any schedule of existing and required waste and resource recovery infrastructure within a plan. Regional Groups are expecting to evaluate progress in 3-5 years and may need to update the plans then.

The SWRRIPs timeframe takes it to 2045 but Sustainability Victoria will integrate the now complete Regional Implementation Plans to form a strategic statewide approach to waste planning. This amendment will occur in 2017.

In 2020 the SWRRIP will be evaluated and reviewed.

### 16. Where are the hubs of state importance and what's next?

A concept introduced in the SWRRIP is the hubs and spokes – essentially the aggregation of one or more materials to facilitate efficient management and/or increase the viability of recovery. In some instances co-locating a number of facilities in one location can enable efficiencies. The approach can also link with land use planning. For example buffers may support more than one facility and the recognition of a waste and resource recovery hub in local and regional strategic plans can provide an indication to investors and waste businesses that an area is suitable. The concept of a hub is not intended to exclude other uses.

The SWRRIP identifies 23 existing waste and resource recovery hubs of state importance. These have been identified as currently undertaking activities or managing one or more waste and material streams significant at the state level. Hubs can be one facility or a precinct with a number of facilities.

Some Regional Implementation Plans identify hubs that are important at the regional and local level. Hubs are not determined only by the amounts of materials managed - in some more remote areas relatively small facilities can play a regionally-significant role and similarly quite large facilities might be considered of local significance if servicing only one area and if alternatives are readily available.

#### State hubs



<b>WRR region and location</b>
<b>Metropolitan Melbourne</b>
1. The Brooklyn precinct
2. Werribee Landfill, Wyndham
3. Deer Park precinct TPI landfill and Boral Quarry
4. Laverton precinct
5. Cooper Street precinct, Epping
6. Wollert Hansen Quarry and Landfill
7. South Clayton precinct
8. Hallam Road, Hampton Park
9. Lyndhurst Landfill, Taylors Road, Lyndhurst
10. Ordish Road Precinct, South Dandenong
11. Owens Illinois, Spotswood
12. SKM Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), Coolaroo
13. Veolia Organics facility, Bulla
14. Citywide Resource Recovery Centre, Footscray
<b>Barwon South West</b>
15. Corangamite Landfill, Naroghid
<b>Gippsland</b>
16. Gippsland Water's Soil and Organics Recycling Facility, Dutson Downs
<b>Goulburn Valley</b>
17. Western Composting, Shepparton
18. Ellwaste Patho Landfill, Echuca
19. Cosgrove Landfill, Shepparton
<b>Grampians Central West</b>
20. Statewide Landfill, Stawell
21. Maddingley Brown Coal Landfill, Bacchus Marsh
<b>Loddon Mallee</b>
22. Eaglehawk Landfill, Bendigo
23. Mildura Landfill, Mildura

17. What is the Victorian Government's commitment to reducing waste?

The 30 year SWRRIP is the Victorian Government commitment to managing waste and improving resource recovery. As part of delivering this plan a number of our current projects focus on reducing waste:

- **Love Food Hate Waste** – the campaign was launched in 2014 and raises awareness about avoidable food waste from households and provides tips and hints to reduce waste and save money. More information at [www.lovefoodhatewaste.vic.gov.au](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.vic.gov.au)
- **Victorian Government e-waste ban from landfill** - e-waste (electronic waste) is growing up to three times faster than general municipal waste in Australia. It covers a range of items we all use and discard from our daily working and home lives, including televisions, computers, mobile phones, kitchen appliances and white goods. These items contain both hazardous and valuable materials that can be recovered when they reach the end of their working life.
- **Regional Implementation Plans** include various practical actions to be undertaken over the next 10 years to reduce waste and increase resource recovery.
- **Victorian Government Climate Change Act** – new targets announced in 2016 to cut carbon dioxide by 2050. Sustainability Victoria is leading delivery of a new voluntary pledge program for all Victorians, TAKE2 – recognising the great work already taking place by councils and industry and showcasing this to inspire others. Victorian Government, business, communities and individuals can make a pledge and commit to actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More information at [www.take2.vic.gov.au](http://www.take2.vic.gov.au)

## 18. What is the Victorian Government’s commitment to procurement of waste services?

Councils are responsible for providing and procuring residential waste services in their area. Multi councils or “collaborative” procurements for waste and resource recovery services and/or infrastructure can deliver cost savings, better services and environmental benefits.

The Groups have a statutory function to facilitate collaborative procurement of waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure for their region in accordance with the *Environment Protection Act 1970* (Vic).