



Council's Role in Waste and Litter Management

Council has a range of roles in the waste, resource recovery and litter management sector and at times can move between several roles. These roles include being a planner, capacity builder, service provider, resource provider, partner and broker, and advocate and supporter. Examples are as follows:

- **Service provider** - Council provides direct waste services predominately to households and some commercial properties. This includes general waste, recycling and hard waste collection services. Other services include optional green waste collections and cardboard collections for commercial properties. Council's litter services include the collection of waste from litter bins, illegal dumping, street sweeping, seaweed collections and stormwater management
- **Planner** - Council's waste and litter strategies and policies provide the strategic direction and actions for Council and the community regarding waste and litter. Council reviews operational waste management plans for planning applications for mixed use developments, aged care centres, child care centres, and commercial and education developments. Council is also in the process of developing a Drainage Assets Management Plan that will incorporate the management of existing litter traps and potential locations to install new ones
- **Capacity builder** - Council provides community education programs on waste avoidance, recycling and litter prevention. Programs include the Say no to Plastics campaign, Clean Up Australia Day activities, community composting programs, and Garage Sale Trail
- **Resource provider** - Council runs an Operations Centre from where litter management services are delivered from. The Operations Centre is also where the annual electronic waste and Detox Your Home recycling events are run from
- **Partner and broker** - Council partners with other stakeholders to deliver waste and recycling services. Examples include the lighting recycling program with ToxFree, Bunnings Altona and Simmers Hardware, Williamstown. Another example is the partnership with SIMS Recycling to provide the annual electronic waste recycling event
- **Advocate** - Council is only one level of government, therefore advocates to the State and Federal Governments for the needs of Council and the community. Council provides submissions to the Federal and Victorian Government on various advocacy issues including alternatives to landfills, resource recovery infrastructure, household chemical recycling facilities, product stewardship, a container deposit scheme and increased funding to local government
- **Supporter** - Council provides support both financial and in-kind to a range of community organisations to help build community capacity and influence behaviour change. Examples of this is through Council's Environment Grants program and the delivery of Council's community education programs and initiatives



While Council aims to meet the needs of its community, Council cannot undertake waste and litter management alone. For example, Council has limited control over people's behaviours but can deliver behaviour change programs as well as support community groups, business and industry to spread the message, act responsibly and lead by example. Similarly, Council works with the Victorian and Federal Government to ensure businesses and industry in the local area abide by the necessary rules. This can only be done so within a regulatory framework.

Council also advocates to Victorian and Federal Governments on many key issues the community are passionate about but which fall outside Council's control. Many waste-reducing interventions require Victorian or National policy and regulation, funding support and collaborative planning, procurement and decision-making. These include interventions to reduce single use plastic use and plastic pollution, expansion of product stewardship schemes, alternatives to landfill and resource recovery infrastructure.

Council does not own or operate a landfill, transfer station or any other type of waste and resource recovery facility therefore works with others to ensure long term planning and delivery of these facilities to support service delivery.

Council's operations also do not extend to managing construction and demolition waste nor the management of operating landfills. Council's role within the commercial and industrial sectors is limited to those businesses utilising Council's municipal waste services or providing advice when requested. Council does not offer specific waste and recycling initiatives or advice to businesses although provides general advice and directs businesses to other organisations to resources such as Sustainability Victoria.

Council currently own and service 25 litter traps throughout the municipality however there are a number of litter traps owned by Melbourne Water which Council does not have control over.

Lastly, Council does not have control over national and state litter prevention programs or the legislation that underpins waste and litter management in Victoria. Rather, Council can ensure regulation is upheld or encouraged through community local laws, environmental health and statutory planning.