

Northern Sydney Regional Waste Strategy

A Regional Response to the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041

October 2022



Northern Sydney Regional Waste Strategy

Prepared for Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC)

Prepared by

MRA Consulting Group (MRA)
Registered as Mike Ritchie & Associates Pty Ltd
ABN 13 143 273 812

Suite 408 Henry Lawson Building
19 Roseby Street
Drummoyne NSW 2047

+61 2 8541 6169
info@mraconsulting.com.au
mraconsulting.com.au

Version History

| Ver | Date | Status | Author | Approver | Signature |
|-----|------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0.1 | 24/08/2022 | Draft | Bec Larkin, Patrick Arnold | Louise Cannon | |
| 0.2 | 29/08/2022 | Post review by John Carse | Bec Larkin, Patrick Arnold | Louise Cannon | |
| 1 | 20/09/2022 | Final for GM approval | Bec Larkin, Louise Cannon | Louise Cannon | |
| 2 | 17/10/2022 | Final v2 post NSROC comments for GM approval | Louise Cannon | Louise Cannon | Required on final PDF only |

Disclaimer

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Acknowledgements

This program is funded and supported by the NSW EPA through the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041.

Acknowledgement of Country

NSROC and its member councils acknowledge the traditional custodians as the first protectors of the land, water, sea and sky on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

We recognise the ongoing connection to their land, their waters and surrounding communities and acknowledge their ancient history here on this land.

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Executive Summary

This Northern Sydney Regional Waste Strategy (herein referred to as the Strategy) is the regional response to the New South Wales (NSW) Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (herein referred to as the WASM strategy). Regional waste groups, such as NSROC, are a key delivery partner for the WASM strategy.

Northern Sydney Regional Waste Strategy Purpose:

- Outline NSROC's regional priorities based on the needs and opportunities for member councils to work together;
- Set regional objectives and outcomes to be achieved;
- Guide the allocation of resources based on prioritisation of objectives;
- Communicate councils' and NSROC's priorities to send market signals and gain council buy-in for regional initiatives; and
- Provide a framework for NSROC to coordinate a regional approach to implement WASM.

NSROC Role in Strategy delivery:

- Advocacy;
- Collaboration;
- Research / investigation;
- Coordination; and
- Helping deliver better outcomes.

This Strategy provides a 20-year vision while focusing on the initiatives required in the 5-year period from 2022-2027 and how progress will be monitored. The document starts by setting out a summary of global and local waste industry changes which have an impact on the region, then moves onto present the new strategic priorities and objectives the region wants to achieve over the next 5 years and beyond.

A comprehensive consultation was undertaken with NSROC member councils, in the form of individual council interviews and several group workshops, to outline the Strategy's vision and to identify and prioritise key objectives and initiatives for the region. It is intended that each member council will endorse the Strategy document signifying their commitment to being part of its successful delivery, at a contribution level considerate of council size and local priorities.

Context

The national, state and local context for the development of this strategy is presented in Sections 2 and 3.1, and is underpinned by the drivers outlined in the WASM strategy. Of particular relevance to this Strategy is the NSW Government mandate for the councils to provide food and garden waste collections by 2030, the NSW target of reducing carbon emissions by 35% by 2030, and the limited space to dispose of residual waste within the Greater Sydney area in the next 15 years.

The total population for the NSROC region is expected to grow from 656,000 people in 2020 to 680,000 in 2027 and 752,000 in 2041. Waste generation is expected to grow alongside this from 268,000 tonnes in 2020, 278,000 tonnes in 2027 and 306,000 tonnes in 2041. Increases in the population and associated number of dwellings in the NSROC region will have a direct impact on domestic waste generation and the demand for waste collection and disposal services.

The majority of the NSROC councils do not have ownership or control over waste sites in their LGA and those that do, do not own, manage, or control waste transfer, processing, or disposal sites for municipal solid waste (MSW). There is a complete dependence on privately-owned waste service contractors.

In the future, all NSROC councils may benefit from a joint procurement of a waste processing service. Depending on the infrastructure, a regional approach would typically be required to achieve the necessary volumes and contract term to justify the capital cost of a new waste facility (such as a regional transfer station) and hence provide value to councils. Benefits can include increased recycling and/or diversion of waste from landfill, as well as innovation and potential influence over commercial activity.

Councils' willingness to invest in waste infrastructure in this region is demonstrated by the establishment of two CRCs for household problem waste. One is operated by Hornsby Council and the other by North Sydney Council on behalf of six NSROC member partners on a shared cost model. There are plans for a third CRC which is also likely to be operated on a shared cost model.

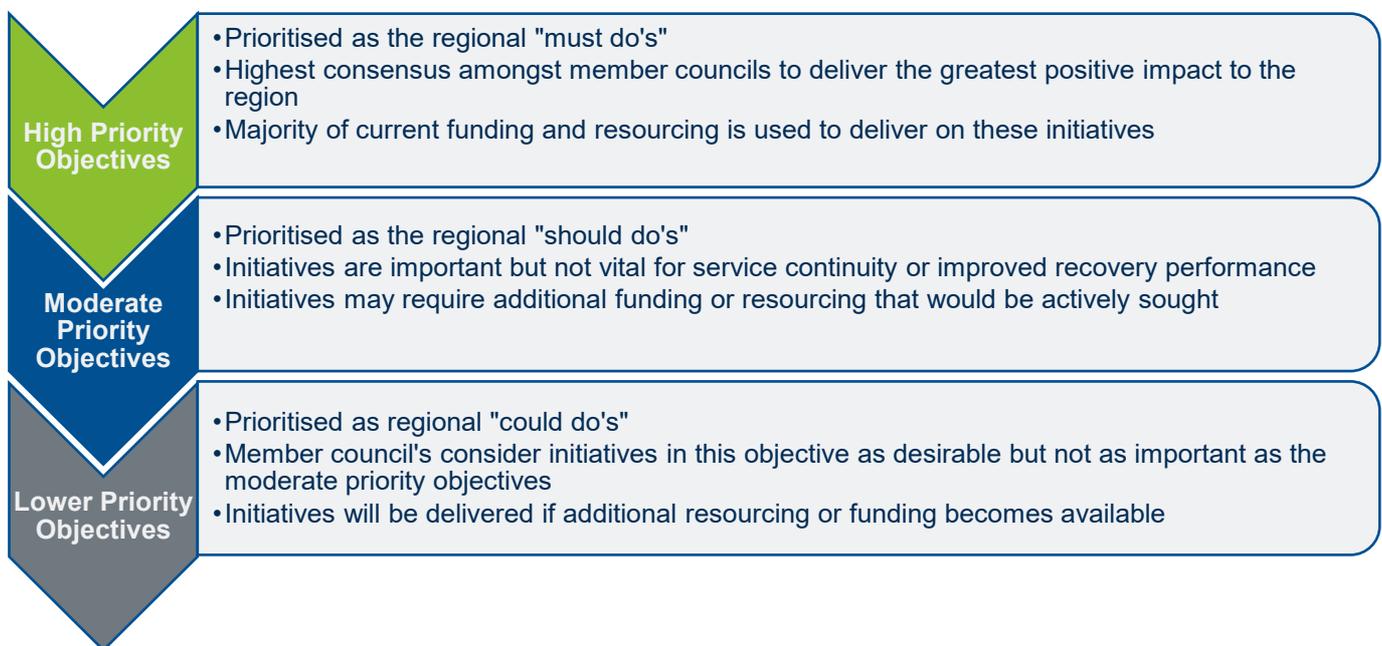
The Strategic Framework

NSROC councils have developed a **vision** for this Strategy to guide the long-term direction and capture the overarching motivation for NSROC.

“A collaborative alliance of councils investigating and delivering balanced outcomes to recover resources, protect the environment and enhance community well-being.”

The table overleaf outlines the strategy themes, objectives and prioritisation category, as well as a summary of the initiatives which will deliver the desired outcomes. The more detailed tables in Section 5 also identify how each theme aligns with the WASM priority and potential funding areas, and also presents a timeline for NSROC to carry out the initiatives.

In order to prioritise the objectives, the member councils participated in an objective importance ranking exercise which generated the objective prioritisation results. The top three objectives also had the highest consensus amongst the councils. The prioritised objectives inform the level of importance the region places on the initiatives and actions for each objective, and can be summarised in the graphic below.



Implementation

The indicators of success for each objective, will be measured individually by each council, since NSROC does not have direct control over them. The success measures include quantitative elements such as tonnage/capita levels and recovery rates of certain waste streams, as well as softer measures such as member council participation in NSROC meetings and results of community surveys measuring improved knowledge.

Implementation of the strategy will be delivered via a yearly Action Plan where the scope and deliverables of each action are agreed by member councils. NSROC will engage member councils periodically to review and if necessary, re-prioritise the initiatives. This will allow NSROC and its member councils to respond to changes or announcements from government or the market, such as funding opportunities or processing technology becoming available.

Lastly, NSROC will stay abreast of the WASM Program Delivery grant programs and apply for funding specific to regional waste groups to deliver regional initiatives outlined in this Strategy. Where grant funding only applies to individual councils (i.e. regional groups cannot apply), NSROC will communicate these opportunities to member councils. Contribution of this grant funding to NSROC for implementation and delivery of regional initiatives is up to the discretion of each member council.

| Theme | Objectives | Priority | Outcomes | Initiatives |
|----------------------------|--|----------|---|--|
| 1. Avoid & reduce waste | 1.1 Embed circular economy principles | Moderate | Reduced total waste generated per capita | 1.1a Guidelines to incorporate recycled content. |
| | | | | 1.1b Coordinate circular economy initiatives |
| | 1.2 Lead initiatives to reduce emissions | Moderate | Reduced carbon emissions | 1.2a Cost Benefit analysis to reduce carbon emissions |
| | | | | 1.2b Ensure tenders include consideration of carbon emissions |
| 2. Recover Resources | 2.1 Research a pathway to 80% recovery | High | Improved resource recovery outcomes | 2.1a Cost Benefit analysis on pathway for region to reach 80% diversion |
| | 2.2 Research organics recovery solutions | High | Majority of organic waste from landfill diverted | 2.2a Organics collection & processing options analysis |
| | | | | 2.2b Organics processing joint procurement assessment |
| | 2.3 Lead initiatives to increase plastic recovery | Moderate | Improved plastics recovery across member councils | 2.3a Plastics industry scan for opportunities to divert plastic |
| | | | | 2.3b Plastics social research to increase recycling |
| | | Lower | | 2.3c Research soft plastics kerbside collection options |
| | | | | 2.3d Incorporate plastic waste management into the strategy |
| 3. Protect the Environment | 3.1 Improve usage, accessibility and recovery at CRCs | Moderate | Improved recovery of problem waste streams | 3.1a Identify long term site for CRC |
| | | Lower | | 3.1b Expansion of CRC accepted material |
| | | | | 3.1c Establish third CRC in region |
| | 3.2 Collaborate with other ROCs to reduce illegal dumping and litter | Lower | Reduced illegal dumping and litter | 3.2a Research into management of bulky waste dumping in MUDs |
| | | | | 3.2b Support NSW Litter Prevention and Illegal Dumping Strategies |
| 4. Strategic Collaboration | 4.1 Identify infrastructure needs and create roadmap | High | Regional infrastructure needs are met | 4.1a Identification of potential infrastructure sites |
| | 4.2 Identify opportunities for service collaboration | Moderate | Opportunities for regional collaboration are identified | 4.2a Assessment of joint procurement options for waste processing/disposal |

| Theme | Objectives | Priority | Outcomes | Initiatives |
|---------------------------|---|----------|---|---|
| | 4.3 Build regional waste management resilience | Lower | Resilient waste management services | 4.3a Build regional resilience improvement opportunities |
| 5. Education & Engagement | 5.1 Collaborate to implement a behaviour change program to divert waste from landfill | Moderate | An informed community | 5.1a Regional data collation and visualisation |
| | | | | 5.1b Support councils undertake standardised community knowledge survey |
| | | | | 5.1c Develop a regional organics education strategy and community engagement plan |
| | | | | 5.1d Develop education resources on waste treatment technologies |
| | | | | 5.1e Develop education resources for bulky waste and recycling in MUDs |
| | 5.2 Continual regional advocacy and knowledge sharing | Moderate | Strong advocacy of better waste management outcomes | 5.2a Advocacy to State & Federal Government |
| | | | | 5.2b Advocacy and engagement with industry |
| | | | | 5.2c Advocacy and resources for engagement with councillors |
| | | | | 5.2d Engage with other regional waste management groups |

1 Introduction

The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) is a voluntary organisation made up of the following member councils:

- City of Ryde Council (Ryde);
- Hornsby Shire Council (Hornsby);
- Hunter's Hill Council (Hunter's Hill);
- Ku-ring-gai Council (Ku-ring-gai);
- Lane Cove Council (Lane Cove);
- Mosman Council (Mosman);
- North Sydney Council (North Sydney); and
- Willoughby City Council (Willoughby).

The NSROC member councils regularly engage and collaborate on waste and resource recovery projects in the region that can provide more sustainable and valuable outcomes than if the councils were to work alone.

1.1 Purpose of the Strategy

This Northern Sydney Regional Waste Strategy (herein referred to as the Strategy) is the regional response to the New South Wales (NSW) Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (herein referred to as the WASM strategy). Regional waste groups, such as NSROC, are a key delivery partner for the WASM strategy. The purpose of this Strategy is to:

- Outline NSROC's regional priorities based on the needs and opportunities for member councils to work together;
- Set regional objectives and outcomes to be achieved;
- Guide the allocation of resources based on prioritisation of objectives;
- Communicate councils' and NSROC's priorities to send market signals and gain council buy-in for regional initiatives; and
- Provide a framework for NSROC to coordinate a regional approach to implement WASM.

The role of NSROC in delivering the initiatives within the Strategy will fall into five key activities:

1. Advocacy;
2. Collaboration;
3. Research / investigation;
4. Coordination; and
5. Helping deliver better outcomes.

This Strategy provides a 20-year vision while focusing on the initiatives required in the 5-year period from 2022-2027 and how progress will be monitored.

1.2 Development of the Strategy

This Strategy was prepared for NSROC by MRA Consulting Group (MRA) utilising the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) 'Taking a regional response to the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy Guidance Document 2022'. Comprehensive consultation was undertaken with NSROC member councils, in the form of individual council interviews and several group workshops, to outline the Strategy's vision and to identify and prioritise key objectives and initiatives for the region.

This Strategy document starts by setting out a summary of global and local waste industry changes which have an impact on the region, then moves on to present the new strategic priorities and objectives the region wants to achieve over the next 5 years and beyond.

It is intended that each member council will endorse the Strategy document signifying their commitment to being part of its successful delivery, at a contribution level considerate of council size and local priorities.

2 Context

This section provides the current policy and market context at the national and state level. Specific regional context for NSROC is provided in Section 3.1.

2.1 Key policy and market drivers

The key legislative and policy drivers for waste management in the region are largely outlined in the NSW WASM Strategy 2041, which also reflects the NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement¹, Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030² and the National Waste Policy Action Plan³. A description of these documents and other relevant legislation and policies are provided in Appendix A.

As outlined in the WASM strategy and other relevant reports, the key national and state contextual matters, drivers and challenges include:

- A global push towards a circular economy;
- The global market for recyclable material has changed with some countries banning the import of some recyclable material and Australia banning the export of some recyclable material to expand our reprocessing infrastructure. This has led to reduced demand for recycled material;
- The NSW Government has committed to a target of reducing carbon emissions by 35% by 2030;
- The NSW Government has mandated the requirement for councils to provide food and garden waste collections to all NSW households by 2030;
- There is limited space to dispose of residual waste with landfills servicing Greater Sydney likely to reach capacity within 15 years; and
- Waste has a negative impact on the environment in the form of litter and illegal dumping or when not properly managed.

It is important for councils and the community to be aware that the impact of current market drivers and the waste management infrastructure crisis across the Sydney metro will cause rising costs, whilst transitioning away from landfill disposal and increasing resource recovery.

2.2 Alignment with national and state targets and strategies

The NSROC Strategy is written in the context of the NSW WASM Strategy 2041⁴, released in July 2021, replacing the previous NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-21⁵ and Waste Less, Recycle More initiative⁶. The WASM strategy represents a 20-year vision for waste management and resource recovery in NSW, including a focus on the circular economy, reducing carbon emissions and meeting infrastructure needs.

The WASM strategy outlines a number of targets⁷:

1. Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030;
2. Have an 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030;
3. Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry;
4. Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025;
5. Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030;
6. Net zero emissions from organics to landfill by 2030; and
7. Reduce overall litter by 60% by 2030.

¹ NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement (2019)

² NSW Government, The Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020-2030 (2020).

³ National Waste Policy Action Plan (2019)

⁴ [Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 Stage 1 2021-2027](#) (2021) NSW Government.

⁵ [NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-21](#) (2014) NSW Government.

⁶ [Waste Less, Recycle More](#) initiative

⁷ Note: #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 are also targets as set out in the National Waste Policy Action Plan (2019)

The WASM strategy also identified the same targets as set out in the NSW Plastics Action Plan:

- Triple the plastics recycling rate by 2030; and
- Reduce plastic litter by 30% by 2025.

The state government is responsible for pursuing the WASM targets and relies on the support of local councils through their management of waste and recycling services for households. NSROC's organisational goal is to support its member councils to implement strategic regional waste initiatives which are likely to contribute to the WASM targets.

The WASM strategy has three priority (or focus) areas:

1. Meeting our future infrastructure and service needs;
2. Reducing carbon emissions through better waste and materials management; and
3. Building on previous work to protect the environment and human health from waste pollution.

NSROC and its member councils support these priority areas and recognise that the alignment of the Strategy's strategic framework with these WASM priority areas will help ensure a level of consistency across regional groups in NSW (see Section 5.1 for further information). Furthermore, Section 5.1 also highlights the potential WASM strategy funding areas, which are expected to be aligned to relevant themes/objectives in this Strategy. However, at the time of writing, only limited information about grant and program funding has so far been provided by the NSW Government but is expected during 2022/23.

3 Where are we today?

This section provides specific regional context for the NSROC region including current waste and recovery performance, services and infrastructure, and an update on achievements through the previous strategy.

3.1 Regional context

The total population for the NSROC region is expected to grow from 656,000 people in 2020 to 680,000 in 2027 and 752,000 in 2041, see Figure 1⁸. Waste generation is expected to grow alongside this from 268,000 tonnes in 2020, 278,000 tonnes in 2027 and 306,000 tonnes in 2041.

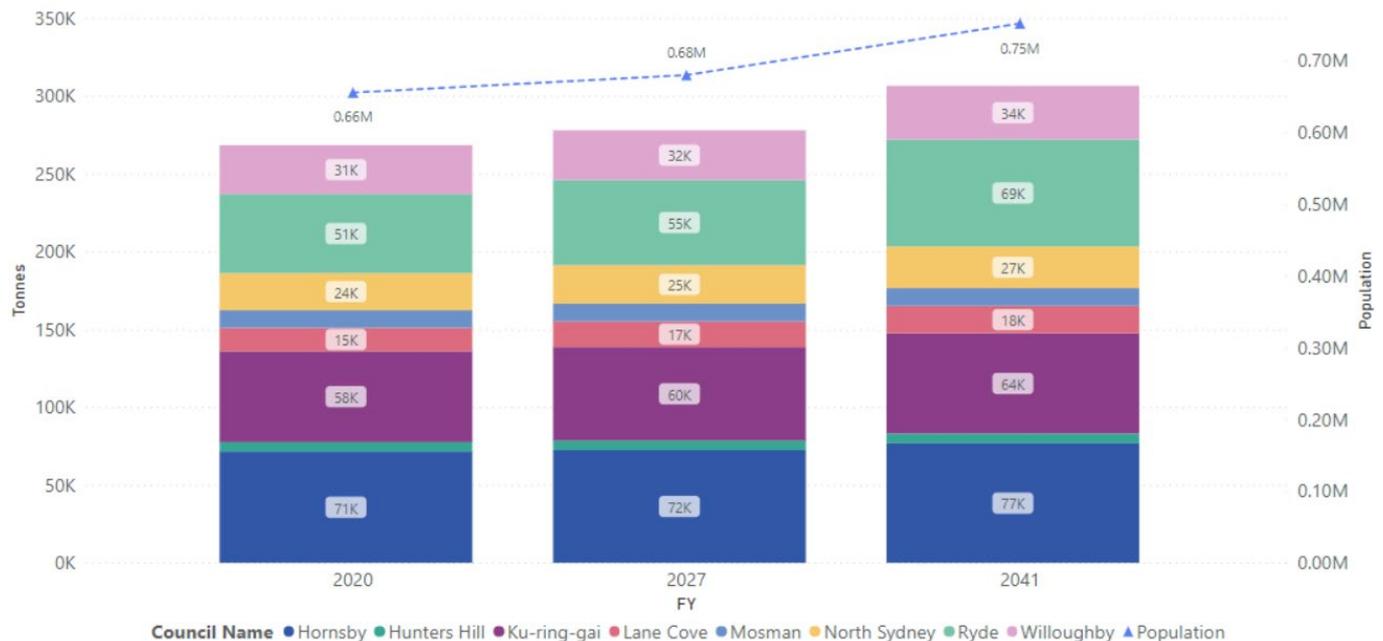


Figure 1 Population and waste generation forecasting to 2041

Increases in the population and associated number of dwellings in the NSROC region will have a direct impact on domestic waste generation and the demand for waste collection and disposal services. These new residents will be predominantly housed in multi-unit dwellings (MUDs). Resource recovery in MUDs is often significantly less than single-unit dwellings (SUDs) due to challenges such as reduced space for recycling and storage of waste, increased contamination, a lower volume of garden refuse and a more transient population.

The following local considerations also significantly impact member councils' management of waste and any resource recovery:

- Infrastructure (see Section 3.4): The majority of the NSROC councils do not have ownership or control over waste sites in their LGA and those that do, do not own, manage, or control waste transfer, processing, or disposal sites for municipal solid waste (MSW). There is a complete dependence on privately-owned waste service contractors. If councils do not secure long term processing contracts, they face uncertainty about service continuity and the costs for waste management. The result of this will be inability to meet state landfill diversion target and/or organics recovery mandate.
- State Planning: Although the planning priorities identified in the North District Plan (see Appendix A) incorporate both improved sustainability and waste infrastructure and management as priorities, the state government has not identified an implementation plan that would help deliver those priorities more cohesively than attempts by individual councils.

⁸ Department of Planning and Environment LGA (ASGS 2020) 2022 CPA Population and Dwelling projections: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Research-and-Demography/Population-Projections/Explore-the-data>

- **IPART:** The current NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) Review of the domestic waste management charge service charges 2021/22⁹ proposed two alternatives of either a waste peg or benchmarking of similar councils as the basis for future increases in the domestic waste management charge (DWMC) after 2022/23. Either alternative could have considerable bearing on the ability of councils to fund waste management initiatives and the delivery of strategic priorities. IPART received many submissions and expects to issue a final report in October 2022. However, it has agreed that it is not in the best interests of ratepayers and councils to implement a waste peg and supports the regulatory approach recommended by the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG). IPART has also recognised that it is OLG's role to address many of the issues identified throughout the review.
- **Funding:** The WASM strategy grant funding directly available to member councils has reduced by approximately 80% compared to the previous 2014-2021 Waste Less, Recycle More grant program and most will be offered on a contestable basis. This will further impact domestic waste management and councils' contributions towards WASM targets.

3.2 Previous Regional Achievements

Table 1 is a summary of some key regional achievement across the key themes and project areas of the previous regional Strategy.

Table 1 Summary Regional Achievements

| Topic | 2014-2017 Achievements | 2018-2021 Achievements |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Diversions from landfill | Increased from 51% to 53% but remained well below the 70% target. | Decreased from 53% to 49% in 2020/21. This is due to the China Sword, waste export regulations and the alternative waste treatment (AWT) ban. |
| Per capita waste generation | Increased by 2% | Decreased in 2020/21 to 409 kg/person/year which was 2.5% lower per capita than the baseline 2013/14. |
| Community Recycling Centres | Two community recycling centres (CRCs) had been established and Ku-ring-gai Council was investigating the feasibility of establishing another CRC facility. | The two CRCs at Artarmon and Thornleigh are both popular and busy. A third regional facility has been proposed at North Ryde once zoning issues are addressed. |
| Illegal dumping | Several councils had obtained good results with targeted illegal dumping programs. NSROC had been unsuccessful in persuading councils to adopt the EPA's Regional Illegal Dumping database and instead was seeking a mechanism for automated data transfers between councils' Customer Request Management systems and the EPA database. | A project was initially proposed to employ a regional ranger dedicated to litter and illegal dumping as a pilot, but this did not proceed because councils felt that the shared resource would be spread too thinly to be effective. The template Waste By law, if made a condition of development consent, could offer councils better control of illegal dumping near MUDs by placing responsibility on the owners corporation to control it. |
| Litter | A Regional Litter Plan and Implementation Plan was developed, and two public place regional litter projects undertaken. | Funding was obtained for a pilot study undertaken at the City of Ryde to identify the cost of litter management which other councils can use as a basis for identifying their own costs. |

⁹ IPART <https://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au/Home/Industries/Local-Government/Reviews/Domestic-Waste-Management-Service-Charges/Review-of-domestic-waste-management-service-charges>

| Topic | 2014-2017 Achievements | 2018-2021 Achievements |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Community Participation | Active community participation in litter control had been achieved by both the regional litter projects as well as projects at individual councils. The state government introduced container deposit legislation into parliament as a litter reduction measure. | NSROC was unable to obtain EPA funding for the baseline survey on community behaviour. |
| Circular economy | | A report was commissioned to identify companies and organisations undertaking circular activities in the region. Two pilot circular economy projects undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • textile drop-off in partnership with Ku-ring-gai and • regional support for plastic-free July |
| Textiles | | The Local Government Textile Action Plan which was developed in conjunction with other metropolitan regional organisation of councils. NSROC is represented on the Clothing Market Steering Group convened by Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC). Its goal is to increase source separated clothing collection and diversification of recovery markets.. |

Other projects/initiatives planned or currently underway for NSROC include:

- A joint research pilot involving five of the NSROC member councils into food organics collections across a range of dwelling types. North Sydney is also undertaking a trial of food organics collections in MUDs. The results of these projects will provide useful guidance on the future management of organic waste for all NSROC councils;
- Opportunities for improved plastic waste management will be considered for incorporation into this Strategy building on two planned projects involving social research and an industry scan which will highlight new potential opportunities for the region;
- An investigation is nearing completion identifying potential locations suitable for organics processing or aggregation and transfer in the region, and
- Scoping has commenced for an investigation of the full implications (both positive and negative) of the proposed food organics (FO)/food organics & garden organics (FOGO) mandate including emissions impacts and costs of offering a different service.

3.3 Current waste services and performance

All NSROC councils provide kerbside collection services for the following waste streams:

- Residual waste (red bin);
- Dry recyclables (yellow bin);
- Garden organics (green bin) (as an additional charge in some local government areas (LGAs)); and
- Bulky waste (as a clean-up service).

Some councils provide a separate bin for paper/cardboard recycling (blue bin).

The exact configuration of the waste and recycling services offered differs for each NSROC member council based on several factors, such as:

- The proportion of MUDs and SUDs in each council (for example MUDs make up 33% of residences in Ku-ring-gai, 40% in Hunter’s Hill compared to 26% in Hornsby and 89% in North Sydney¹⁰); and
- The wide range in population densities across the councils (for example, Hornsby has 334 residents per square kilometre while North Sydney has 7,162 residents per square kilometre).

These differences mean that some residents in the region with larger properties have a higher demand for garden waste collections, while residents living in MUDs have a much lower requirement for green waste collection but a higher demand for bulky waste collection due to restrictions on waste storage space and the propensity for increased turnover in occupancy.

Figure 2 provides the tonnes generated in each waste stream for each NSROC council¹¹.

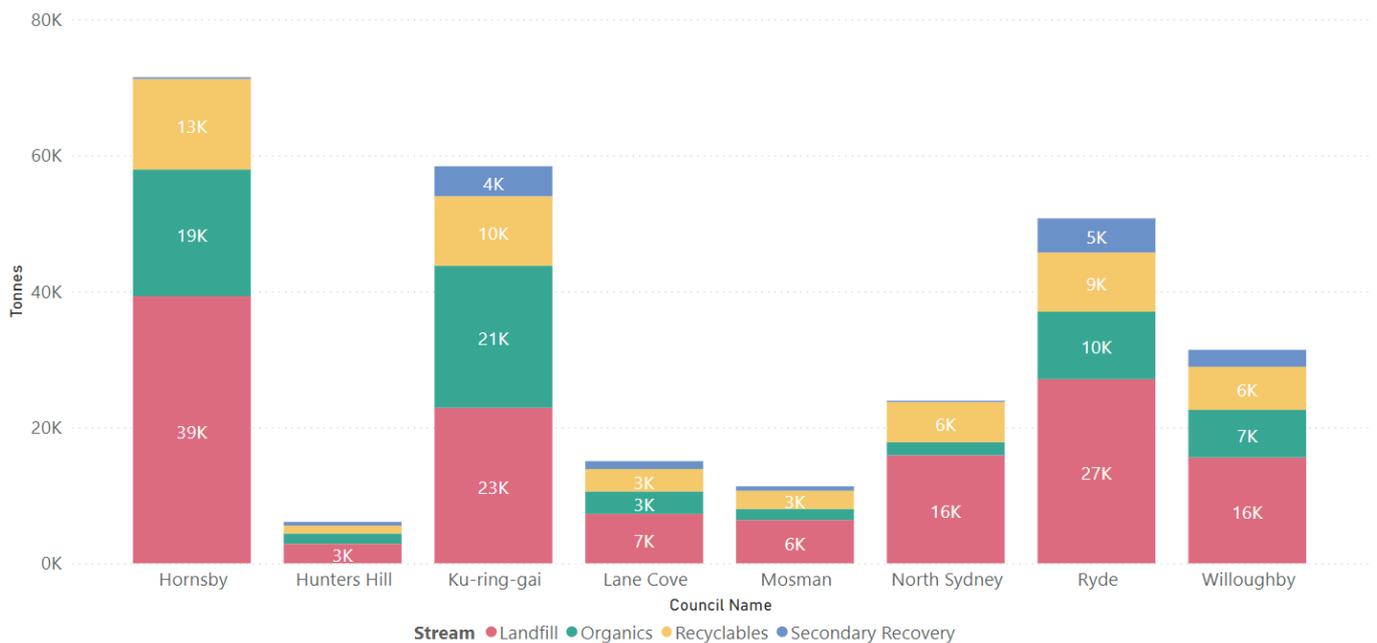


Figure 2 Comparison of tonnes generated for each waste stream by NSROC councils

The secondary recovery stream includes material recovered through AWT, and from drop-off or clean-up operations.

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021, compiled by .id (informed decisions)

¹¹ 2020-21 Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery (WARR) Data: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/recycling-and-reuse/warr-strategy/policy-makers/surveys>

Across these streams, NSROC councils achieved recycling rates ranging between 44% and 61% in 2020, see Figure 3 for recycling rates by council from 2017-2020. The steep decline of a 73% recycling rate in 2017 to 39% in 2018 for North Sydney can be attributed to the ban of application of mixed waste organic outputs (MWOO) to land.

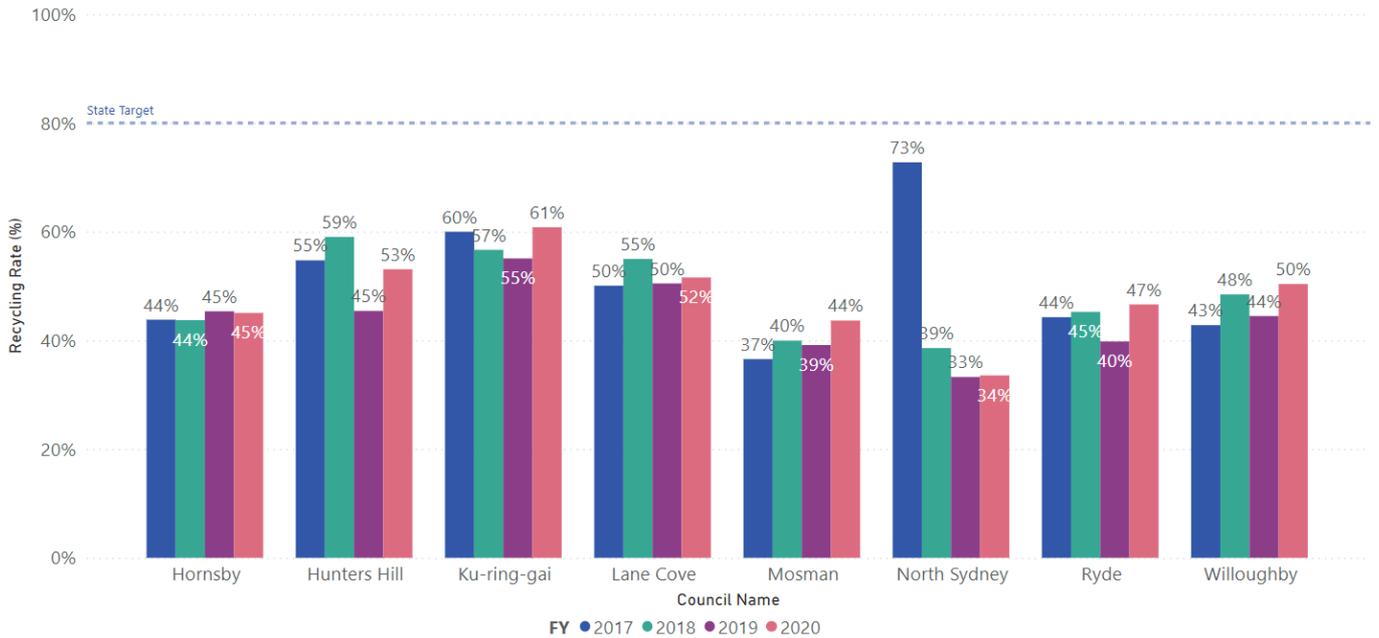


Figure 3 Recycling rates by council and year

Figure 4 compares NSROC recycling rates from 2017-2020 with the wider regions of New South Wales (NSW), Sydney Metropolitan Area (SMA) and Extended Regulated Area (ERA). In 2020, NSROC was leading with a recycling rate of 48% compared to 46% in all other wider regions.

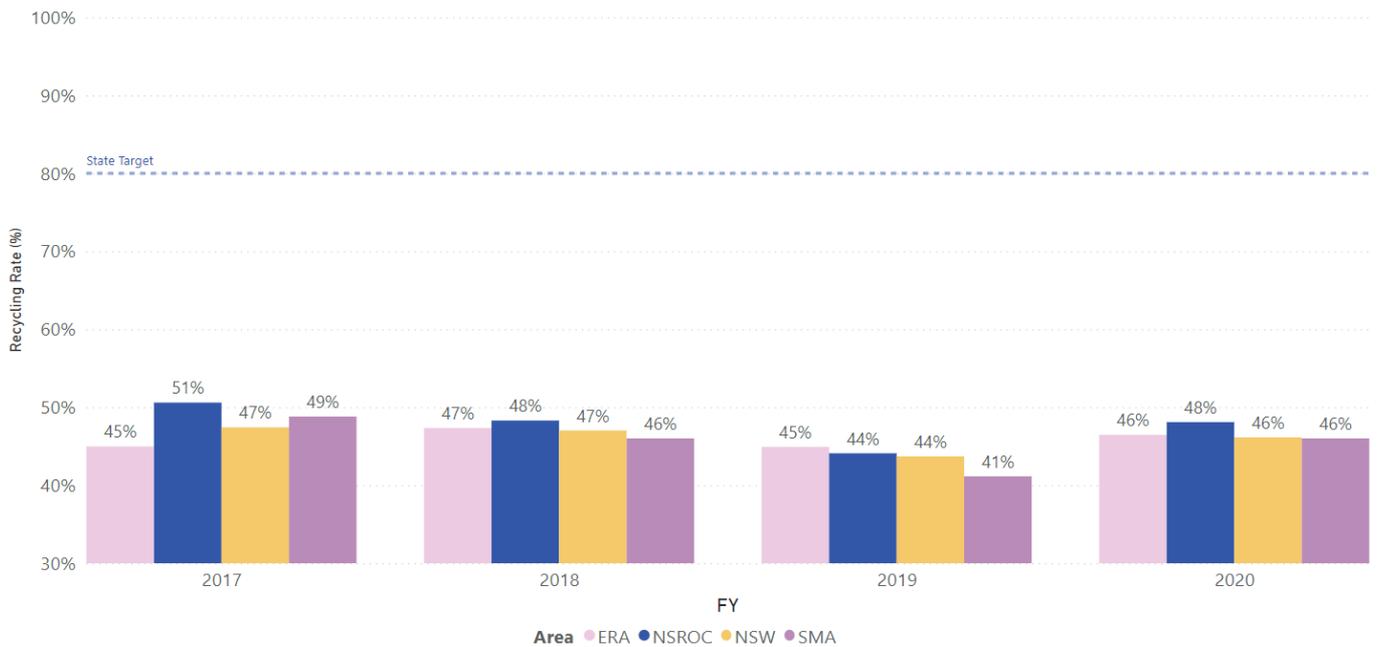


Figure 4 Recycling rate by year and region

These graphs show how challenging it will be to reach the state target of 80% diversion from landfill given the relative consistency over the four years.

3.4 Current waste infrastructure

The WASM Strategy indicates that for Greater Sydney, inert landfill capacity will be exceeded by 2028 and putrescible landfill capacity will be exceeded by 2036. Whether additional capacity becomes available or not, resource recovery should take precedence over landfilling material based on the philosophy of the waste hierarchy and targets currently set for the state. The WASM strategy identifies the need for increased recycling and recovery of waste to meet growing demands.

The majority of the NSROC councils do not have ownership or control over waste sites in their LGA and those that do, do not own, manage, or control waste transfer, processing, or disposal sites for municipal solid waste (MSW). There is a complete dependence on privately-owned waste service contractors. The annotated map of the region in Figure 5 highlights the location and type of infrastructure currently utilised by member councils.

Currently, five NSROC councils collectively known as the Northern Sydney Waste Alliance have a contract with Veolia to process 33,000 tonnes of residual waste each year with the contract ending December 2025 (with the option to extend for 5 years). Waste collected is taken to a transfer station facility in the region and sent to the Veolia Woodlawn facility. Hornsby, North Sydney, and Mosman councils are not included in the joint residual waste contract with Veolia.

In the future, all NSROC councils may benefit from a joint procurement of a waste processing service. Depending on the infrastructure, a regional approach would typically be required to achieve the necessary volumes and contract term to justify the capital cost of a new waste facility (such as a regional transfer station) and hence provide value to councils. Benefits can include increased recycling and/or diversion of waste from landfill, as well as innovation and potential influence over commercial activity.

Councils' willingness to invest in waste infrastructure in this region is demonstrated by the establishment of two CRCs for household problem waste. One is operated by Hornsby Council and the other by North Sydney Council on behalf of six NSROC member partners on a shared cost model. There are plans for a third CRC which is also likely to be operated on a shared cost model.

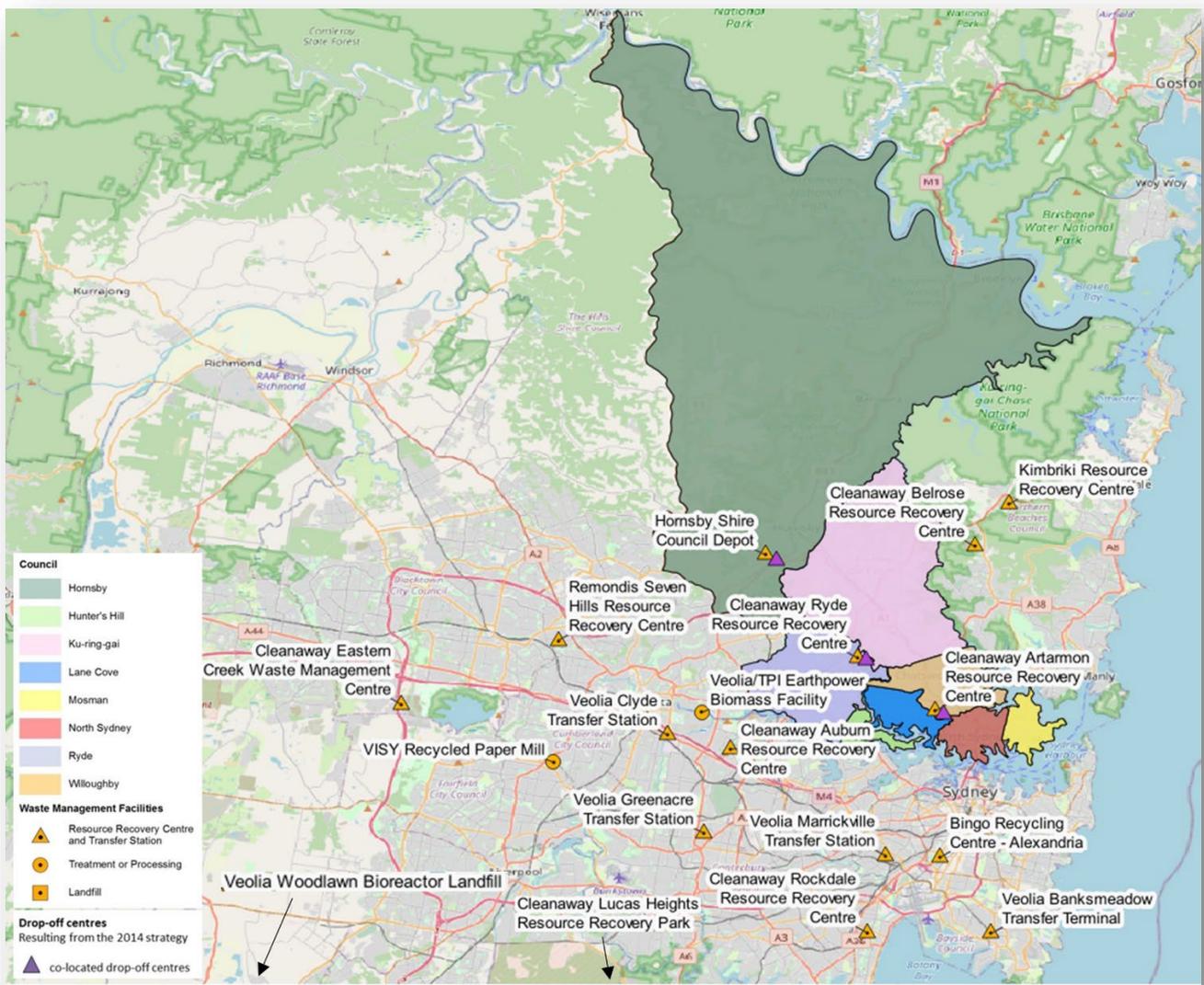


Figure 5 Existing infrastructure

3.4.1 Organics collection & processing

With the mandate requiring councils to provide kerbside collection of food and garden organics to households by 2030, changes will be required for the region in terms of organic collection services and processing infrastructure. Most council's existing waste contracts have several years remaining which provides an opportunity to better investigate available options. All councils have identified managing the organics mandate as a high priority and those councils participating in pilot research studies intend to share learnings to assist each other in organics management. NSROC is also liaising with other metropolitan regional waste groups to share its knowledge and experience on the pilot studies.

Table 2 is an extract from the "WASM: Guide to future infrastructure needs" and highlights the volume and type of organics infrastructure required in Greater Sydney. NSROC is currently identifying sites that may be appropriate for infrastructure for the transfer or processing of the region's organic waste (as well as the transfer of other waste streams).

Table 2 WASM Organics Infrastructure Need¹²

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Capacity Gap 2030 <i>(assumes all existing pipeline facilities are brought online)</i></p> | <p>1.1 million tpa in FOGO/FO processing capacity required (capacity deficit) to service the MLA. May include new facilities as well as conversion of existing AWT and GO processing capacity.</p> <p>This estimate incorporates the assumption that it is mandatory for all councils to provide kerbside FOGO services to all households by 2030 and mandatory food waste collection for select businesses by 2025.</p> |
| <p>Capacity gap 2040 <i>(assumes all infrastructure needs to meet capacity gap 2030 are brought online)</i></p> | <p>-233,000 tpa (capacity deficit*)</p> <p>*This is only to process source-separated organics.</p> |
| <p>Infrastructure Needs 2030 <i>(assumes all existing pipeline facilities are brought online)</i></p> | <p>To service Greater Sydney (which includes NSROC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x medium in vessel composting (IVC) systems (FOGO, minor FO) (20,000 tpa to 70,000 tpa per site) - 6 x large IVC (FOGO, minor FO) (70,000 tpa to 100,000 tpa per site) or 12 x large outdoor aerated composting (>50,000 tpa per site) - 2 x medium anaerobic digestion (AD) systems (FO) (30,000 tpa) - 4 x large AD (FO) (50,000 tpa per site) - Potentially up to 250,000 tpa of transfer stations to transfer Sydney organics to regional processing |
| <p>Infrastructure Needs 2040 <i>(assumes all infrastructure needs to meet capacity gap 2030 are brought online)</i></p> | <p>To service Greater Sydney (which includes NSROC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 x medium outdoor composting for C&I non-food organics (10,000 tpa to 50,000 tpa per site) - 1 x medium IVC (20,000 tpa to 70,000 tpa) or 1 outdoor aerated compost (FOGO, minor FO) (10,000 tpa to 50,000 tpa) - 1 x large IVC (70,000 tpa to 100,000 tpa) or 2 x large outdoor aerated compost (FOGO, minor FO) (>50,000 tpa) - 1 x large AD (FO) (50,000 tpa) |

¹² DPIE (2021) NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy: A guide to future infrastructure needs

4 Where do we want to get to?

This section outlines the long-term vision as well as the strategic framework. The strategic framework is made up of 5 themes which are consistent with the WASM and state goals. The objectives and long term-outcomes under each theme demonstrate where we want to get to.

4.1 Strategy vision

NSROC councils have developed a vision for this Strategy to guide the long-term direction and capture the overarching motivation for NSROC.

VISION

A collaborative alliance of councils investigating and delivering balanced outcomes to recover resources, protect the environment and enhance community well-being.

This vision will be achieved by pursuing regional objectives and long-term outcomes.

4.2 Strategic framework

In addition to the four WASM themes:

- Theme 1: avoid or reduce
- Theme 2: recover resources
- Theme 3: protect the environment
- Theme 4: strategic collaboration

The NSROC Strategy includes a 5th theme (Education & Engagement) to reflect the importance of advocacy and engagement.

Figure 6 illustrates where the region's objectives and desired long-term outcomes sit under the five themes and how they align with the WASM priority and funding areas. The objectives, describing what we want to achieve, and the long-term outcomes, describing what success will look like are provided in detail in Section 5.

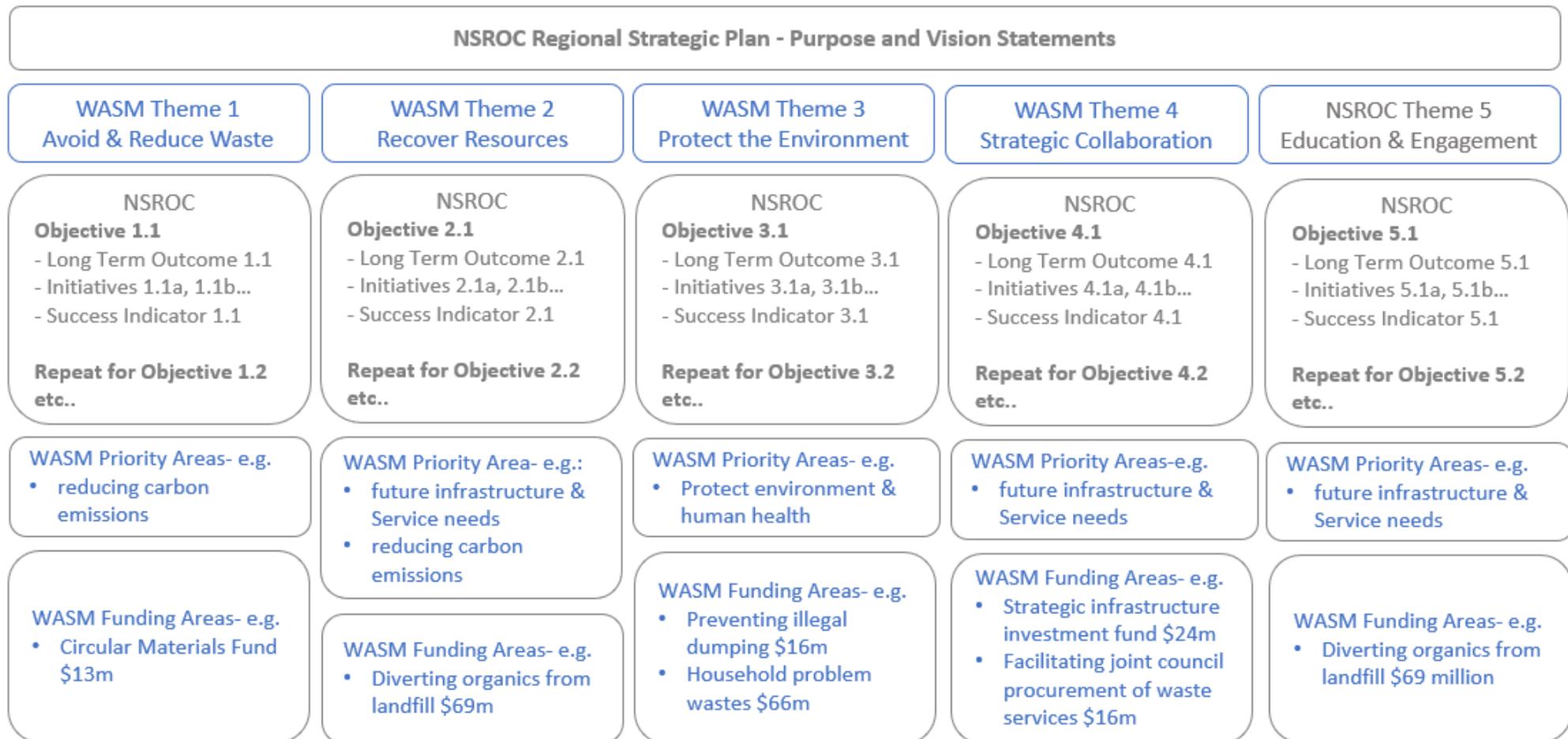


Figure 6 NSROC Strategic Framework and link to WASM regional strategy requirements

5 How are we going to get there?

This section outlines the objectives for each theme and the initiatives required to achieve them as well as the desired long-term outcomes. The objectives are numbered to reflect the theme numbering and prioritised for the region by NSROC member councils. For each objective, there are success indicators that can be used to measure how NSROC, and the member councils, are tracking.

5.1 Themes, Objectives, Outcomes, and Initiatives

The following tables outline the objectives, outcomes, and initiatives for each theme as well as how they align with the WASM priority and funding areas. A timeline for NSROC to carry out the initiatives is provided in Table 8.

The WASM priority areas include:

1. Meeting our future infrastructure and service needs
2. Reducing carbon emissions through better waste and materials management.
3. Building on our work to protect the environment and human health from waste pollution.

Each theme has been aligned to one or more WASM priority areas. This is demonstrated in the summary tables below.

THEME 1: Avoid & Reduce

Adopting a circular economy approach will reduce the region's carbon emissions through design considerations and efficient production to minimise waste. Table 3 outlines the objectives, outcomes, initiatives and WASM funding areas for this theme.

Table 3 Theme 1: Avoid or Reduce objectives, outcomes & initiatives

| Objective | Long-term outcome | Initiatives | WASM Priority Area alignment | | | Funding area |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 1.1: Embed circular economy principles (incl recycled content procurement) to encourage upstream solutions that will reduce waste. | Reduced total waste generated per capita | 1.1a Provide pragmatic guidelines and education for councils to incorporate more recycled content and innovative products. | | | | Circular Innovation Fund \$13 million |
| | | 1.1b Coordinate regional Circular Economy initiatives, workshops, webinars, and resources for repairing and avoiding waste generation | | | | |
| 1.2: Lead initiatives and share learnings to reduce emissions related to waste in the region. | Reduced carbon emissions | 1.2a Cost Benefit Analysis (link 2.1a) for reducing carbon emissions (incl. carbon credits, social impacts) | | ✓ | | Circular Innovation Fund \$13 million |
| | | 1.2b Ensure all collections or processing tenders from NSROC or member councils include weighting or consideration of carbon emission associated with transport, processing etc to ensure Climate Change is embedded in decision making. | | | | |

THEME 2: Recover Resources

The Federal and State recovery target has been set at 80% across all waste streams by 2030 with sub-targets focused on tripling plastics recycling and halving the amount of organics sent to landfill. Table 4 outlines the objectives, outcomes, initiatives and WASM funding areas for this theme.

Table 4 Theme 2: Recover Resources objectives, outcomes & initiatives

| Objective | Long-term outcome | Initiatives | WASM Priority Area alignment | | | Funding area |
|---|---|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 2.1: Undertake research to allow councils to make informed decisions on a pathway to 80% recovery. | Improved resource recovery outcomes | 2.1a High level Cost Benefit Analysis on pathway for region to reach 80% diversion (incl industry engagement (link 5.2b), social impacts, options for bulky waste recovery) | | | | None identified |
| 2.2: Undertake research to allow councils to make informed decisions on implementing organics recovery solutions. | Majority of organic waste from landfill diverted | 2.2a: Organics Collection & Processing Options Analysis incl literature review, technology options, collection performance, carbon emissions & cost modelling, risk assessment (incl regulations/legislation changes) | | | | Diverting organics from landfill \$69 million |
| | | 2.2b: Organics Processing Joint Procurement and Governance assessment, including industry engagement (link 5.2b), & Organics Implementation Roadmap | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 2.3: Lead initiatives and share learnings to increase plastic recovery. | Improved plastics recovery across member councils | 2.3a Plastics Industry Scan to examine current and future opportunities for councils to divert plastics from landfill (kerbside and CRC) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Circular Materials Fund \$10 million Education program for single-use plastic phase outs \$1 million |
| | | 2.3b Plastics Social Research to look at how plastic recycling can be increased, and contamination decreased by residents utilising the knowledge gained through the Plastic Industry Scan. | | | | |
| | | 2.3c Research into soft plastics kerbside collection options incl industry engagement (link 5.2b) | | | | |
| | | 2.3d Incorporate plastic waste management into the Strategy to reduce and manage plastic waste, aligned to NSW Plastics Plan | | | | |

THEME 3: Protect the Environment

Poor waste management will damage our natural environment and/or impact human health and community well-being. A regionally coordinated approach plays an important role in protecting the environment. Table 5 outlines the objectives, outcomes, initiatives and WASM funding areas for this theme.

Table 5 Theme 3: Protect the Environment objectives, outcomes & initiatives

| Objective | Long-term outcome | Initiatives | WASM Priority Area alignment | | | Funding area |
|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 3.1: Identify and implement opportunities of increased usage and accessibility to CRCs, and improved material recovery. | Improved recovery of problem waste streams | 3.1a Identify long term site for the CRC in lower part of region | ✓ | | | Household problem waste \$66 million |
| | | 3.1b Expansion of CRC accepted material collected and processed | | | | |
| | | 3.1c Support establishment of the third CRC in region | | | | |
| 3.2: Collaborate with other ROCs to reduce illegally dumped material (incl asbestos) and litter. | Reduced illegal dumping and litter | 3.2a Desktop research summary into best practice management of bulky waste dumping from MUDs (link to 5.2d) | ✓ | | ✓ | Preventing illegal dumping \$16 million Litter prevention \$38 million |
| | | 3.2b Support councils to deliver the NSW Litter Prevention Strategy and Illegal Dumping Strategy | | | | |

THEME 4: Strategic Collaboration

One of the key roles of NSROC is to identify opportunities for strategic collaboration, such as joint procurement, to deliver efficiencies that member councils would not be able to achieve alone. This provides value to councils that can be put towards achieving higher resource recovery outcomes. Table 6 outlines the objectives, outcomes, initiatives, WASM funding areas for this theme.

Table 6 Theme 4: Strategic Collaboration objectives, outcomes & initiatives

| Objective | Long-term outcome | Initiatives | WASM Priority Area alignment | | | Funding area |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 4.1: Identify infrastructure needs and opportunities and create a roadmap for implementation. | Regional infrastructure needs are met | 4.1a Identification of potential sites for a waste transfer station and organics processing | | | | Regional Coordination and Strategy Program \$15.6 million Strategic infrastructure investment fund \$24 million |
| | | 4.1b Options analysis for regional infrastructure needs (waste transfer, processing, and disposal) incl joint procurement options | | | | |
| 4.2: Identify and coordinate opportunities for regional collaboration to meet service needs. | Opportunities for regional collaboration are identified | 4.2a Research Report to assess joint procurement options for waste processing / disposal | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Facilitating joint council procurement of waste services \$16 million |
| 4.3: Build regional waste management resilience and collaborate to implement solutions. | Resilient waste management services | 4.3a Assess and build regional resilience improvement opportunities to extreme weather events incl. regional continuity planning and regional disaster management plans (incl supporting SSROC grant application 2022 for resilience project | | | | Strategic infrastructure investment fund \$24 million |

THEME 5: Education & Engagement

Education and continual engagement are necessary for the effective adoption of waste and resource recovery services across the region. An ongoing program will foster behaviour change to increase service participation, improve recovery, reduce waste generated, and foster collaboration and knowledge sharing. Table 7 outlines the objectives, outcomes, initiatives and WASM funding areas for this Theme.

Table 7 Theme 5: Education & Engagement objectives, outcomes & initiatives

| Objective | Long-term outcome | Initiatives | WASM Priority Area | | | Funding area |
|--|---|--|--------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| 5.1: Collaborate with councils on implementing a long-term behaviour change program to improve diversion of waste from landfill. | An informed community | 5.1a Regional data collation and visualisation to support councils to engage with community | | | | Diverting organics from landfill \$69 million |
| | | 5.1b Support councils to undertake community knowledge survey with standardised questions for regional aggregation | | | | |
| | | 5.1c Develop a regional organics education strategy and community engagement plan | | | | |
| | | 5.1d Develop regional community education resources for waste treatment technologies to support a social licence (e.g. energy from waste, advanced recycling & composting) | | | | |
| | | 5.1e Develop regional community education resources for bulky waste and recycling contamination in MUDs | | | | |
| 5.2: Continual regional advocacy and knowledge sharing. | Strong advocacy of better waste management outcomes | 5.2a Advocacy to State /Federal Gov (e.g. for specific funding streams incl. caddy liners, local recovered material end market development, strategic planning support for local waste infrastructure, levy hypothecation, DWMC capping, Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE) planning legislation) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | None identified |
| | | 5.2b Advocacy and engagement with industry to support councils with informed decision making (incl around waste infrastructure, plastic packaging alternatives) | | | | |
| | | 5.2c Advocacy and development of resources for engaging with all member councils' councillors (incl. energy from waste (EfW) political acceptance and organics collections) | | | | |
| | | 5.2d Engage with other regional waste management groups to share relevant information and resources | | | | |

5.2 Outcome of prioritisation

The member councils participated in an objective importance ranking exercise which generated the objective prioritisation results. The top three objectives also had the highest consensus amongst the councils.

The prioritised objectives inform the level of importance the region places on the initiatives and actions for each objective. A summary of how each priority objective is classified and the associated objectives is summarised in Figure 7 below.

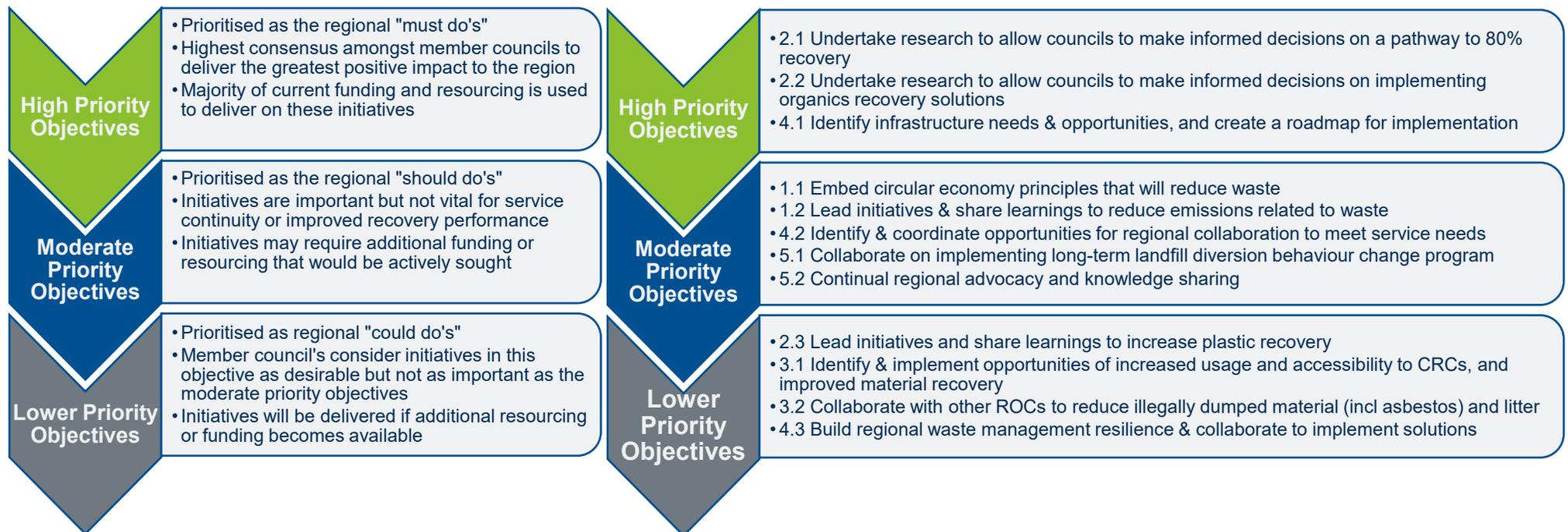


Figure 7 NSROC Prioritised Objectives and high, moderate and lower priority categorisation explanation

5.3 Timeline for initiatives

A high-level timeline for undertaking the initiatives in Section 5.1 is shown in Table 8. This timeline will be further refined into annual Action Plans so that the Strategy remains flexible and adaptive as funding opportunities arise and priorities change over time.

Table 8 Timeline for initiatives

| Theme | Objective | Priority | Initiatives ¹³ | | | | |
|--|--|----------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Theme 1: Avoid & Reduce | 1.1: Embed circular economy principles (incl recycled content procurement) to encourage upstream solutions that will reduce waste. | Moderate | | | 1.1a | 1.1b | |
| | 1.2: Lead initiatives and share learnings to reduce emissions related to waste in the region. | Moderate | | 1.2a 1.2b (ongoing) | | | |
| Theme 2: Recover Resources | 2.1: Undertake research to allow councils to make informed decisions on a pathway to 80% recovery. | High | 2.1a | | | | |
| | 2.2: Undertake research to allow councils to make informed decisions on implementing organics recovery solutions. | High | 2.2a | 2.2b | | | |
| | 2.3: Lead initiatives and share learnings to increase plastic recovery. | Moderate | 2.3a | 2.3b | | | |
| | | Lower | | | 2.3c | 2.3d | |
| Theme 3: Protect the Environment | 3.1: Identify and implement opportunities of increased usage and accessibility to CRCs, and improved material recovery. | Moderate | 3.1a | | | | |
| | 3.2: Collaborate with other ROCs to reduce illegally dumped material (incl asbestos) and litter. | Lower | | | 3.2a | 3.2b | 3.1b 3.1c |
| Theme 4: Strategic Collaboration | 4.1: Identify infrastructure needs and opportunities and create a roadmap for implementation. | High | 4.1a | 4.1b | | | |
| | 4.2: Identify and coordinate opportunities for regional collaboration to meet service needs. | Moderate | 4.2a | | | | |
| | 4.3: Build regional waste management resilience and collaborate to implement solutions. | Lower | | | | 4.3a | |
| Theme 5: Education & Engagement | 5.1: Collaborate with councils on implementing a long-term behaviour change program to improve diversion of waste from landfill. | Moderate | | 5.1a | 5.1b | 5.1c 5.1d | 5.1e |
| | 5.2: Continual regional advocacy and knowledge sharing. | Moderate | 5.2a (ongoing) 5.2d (ongoing) | 5.2b | | 5.2c | |

¹³ Refer to Section 5.1 for Initiative references

5.4 How we will measure success

To monitor and evaluate progress against the Strategy themes, objectives and long-term outcomes, council success indicators have been identified as shown in Table 9 below. These indicators should be measured individually by each council as NSROC does not have direct control over them.

Table 9 Success indicators

| Theme | Objective | Long-term outcome | Member council success indicators |
|--|--|---|--|
| Theme 1: Avoid & Reduce | 1.1: Embed circular economy principles (incl recycled content procurement) to encourage upstream solutions that will reduce waste. | Reduced total waste generated per capita | Waste tonnage/capita - LGA WARR Report |
| | 1.2: Lead initiatives and share learnings to reduce emissions related to waste in the region. | Reduced carbon emissions | Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO _{2e}) tonnes - <i>baseline yet to be determined</i> |
| Theme 2: Recover Resources | 2.1: Undertake research to allow councils to make informed decisions on a pathway to 80% recovery. | Improved resource recovery outcomes | Overall Recovery % Rate - LGA WARR Report |
| | 2.2: Undertake research to allow councils to make informed decisions on implementing organics recovery solutions. | Majority of organic waste from landfill diverted | Organics Recovery Rate (%) - LGA WARR Report |
| | 2.3: Lead initiatives and share learnings to increase plastic recovery. | Improved plastics recovery across member councils | Plastics recovery rate (%) - <i>Baseline yet to be determined</i> |
| Theme 3: Protect the Environment | 3.1: Identify and implement opportunities of increased usage and accessibility to CRCs, and improved material recovery. | Improved recovery of problem waste streams | CRC tonnes & recovery rates |
| | 3.2: Collaborate with other ROCs to reduce illegally dumped material (incl asbestos) and litter. | Reduced illegal dumping and litter | Illegal Dumping Incidents Litter Volumes |
| Theme 4: Strategic Collaboration | 4.1: Identify infrastructure needs and opportunities and create a roadmap for implementation. | Regional infrastructure needs are met | Member council participation in NSROC meetings across all initiatives, and number of sub regional working groups |
| | 4.2: Identify and coordinate opportunities for regional collaboration to meet service needs. | Opportunities for regional collaboration are identified | |
| | 4.3: Build regional waste management resilience and collaborate to implement solutions. | Resilient waste management services | |
| Theme 5: Education & Engagement | 5.1: Collaborate with councils on implementing a long-term behaviour change program to improve diversion of waste from landfill. | An informed community | Community Surveys - number of participants, improved knowledge metric |
| | 5.2: Continual regional advocacy and knowledge sharing. | Strong advocacy of better waste management outcomes | Number of NSROC meetings/workshops with industry, government, councillors, other regional groups |

5.5 How will the strategy be delivered?

1. NSROC to develop an annual Action Plan with timeframes to deliver on the Strategy objectives and initiatives. The Action Plan will outline the expected actions, the responsible organisations involved in their delivery, and success indicators, or KPIs. The Action Plan will be updated annually to allow for adjustment to projects or timelines for delivery;
2. NSROC to develop scope of NSROC initiatives/projects and seek input and agreement by member councils;
3. NSROC to stay abreast of WASM Program Delivery grant programs and apply for funding specific to regional waste groups to deliver regional initiatives outlined in this Strategy. Where grant funding only applies to individual councils (i.e. regional groups cannot apply), NSROC is to communicate these opportunities to member councils. Contribution of this grant funding to NSROC for implementation and delivery of regional initiatives is up to the discretion of the member councils; and
4. NSROC to engage member councils periodically for the review and prioritisation of initiatives – during consultation for this Strategy, it was noted by member councils that they would value an opportunity for periodic reviews of initiatives and re-prioritisation as appropriate. This would allow NSROC and its member councils to respond to changes or announcements from government or the market, such as funding opportunities or processing technology becoming available.

Glossary

| Terminology | Definition |
|-------------------|---|
| AWT | Alternative waste treatment |
| CO ₂ e | Carbon dioxide equivalent |
| CRC | Community Recycling Centre |
| DPIE | Department of Planning and Environment |
| DWMC | Domestic waste management charge |
| EfW | Energy from Waste |
| EPA | Environment Protection Authority |
| ERA | Extended Regulated Area |
| FO | Food organics |
| FOGO | Food organics & garden organics |
| IPART | Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal |
| LGA | Local government areas |
| MRA | MRA Consulting Group |
| MSW | Municipal solid waste |
| MUD | Multi-unit dwelling |
| MWOO | Mixed waste organic outputs |
| NSROC | Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| ROC | Regional Organisation of Councils |
| SMA | Sydney Metropolitan Area |
| SSROC | Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils |
| SUD | Single-unit dwelling |
| WARR | Waste and Resource Recovery |
| WASM strategy | NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 |

Appendix A Relevant policies and reports

Table 10: Current legislation and government policies and reports

| Legislation / Policy / Report | Short Description / Relevance |
|--|--|
| Australian Government (Commonwealth) | |
| National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019 | <p>The Action Plan supplements the 2018 National Waste Policy, setting targets and actions to guide investment and national efforts. The targets relevant to NSROC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass, and tyres, commencing in the second half of 2020, • Reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030, • 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030, • Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry, • Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025, • Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030, and <p>Make comprehensive, economy-wide, and timely data publicly available to support better consumer, investment, and policy decisions.</p> |
| <i>Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020</i> | <p>The Commonwealth Government has outlined a timeline to regulate the export of waste plastic, paper, glass, and tyres, that have not been processed into value added materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste glass from January 2021; • Mixed waste plastics from July 2021 and unprocessed single plastic polymers from July 2022; • All whole tyres including baled tyres from December 2021; and • Mixed paper and cardboard from July 2024. <p>The Commonwealth Government is partnering with state and territory governments and investing \$190 million through the Recycling Modernisation Fund to build Australia's domestic capacity to process these wastes into value added materials.</p> |
| New South Wales (State) | |
| <i>Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act 1997</i> | <p>The POEO Act is the state's principal environmental protection legislation. The Act defines 'waste' for regulatory purposes, lays out management and licensing requirements for waste operations and establishes offences. The associated Regulation includes Resource Recovery Exemptions and Orders to support the reuse of permitted waste for alternative purposes.</p> |
| <i>NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 (WARR Act)</i> | <p>The WARR Act is the primary Act governing resource recovery in NSW. The objectives of the WARR Act are to promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most efficient use of resources, including resource recovery and waste avoidance; • A reduction in environmental harm, including pollution through waste; • A consideration of the resource management hierarchy through avoidance of unnecessary resource consumption and disposal; and • Resource recovery, which includes reuse, reprocessing, recycling, and energy recovery. <p>The WARR Act defines the Waste Hierarchy, which ranks waste management options in order of general environmental desirability. The waste hierarchy is intended for use alongside other assessment tools, such as cost benefit analysis, to guide decision-making.</p> |
| NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 | <p>The new NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy provides a framework for waste management in NSW. The strategy outlines four key directions for the future of waste management:</p> |

| Legislation / Policy / Report | Short Description / Relevance |
|--|--|
| (Stage 1: 2021-2027) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generate less waste by avoiding and 'designing out' waste, to keep materials circulating in the economy; 2. Improve collection and sorting to maximise circular economy outcomes and lower costs; 3. Plan for future infrastructure by ensuring the right infrastructure is located in the right place and at the right time; and 4. Create end markets by fostering demand for recycled products in NSW (particularly glass, paper, organics, plastics, and metals) so that recovered materials re-enter our economy and drive business and employment opportunities. <p>The initial Stage 1 targets have been set to be achieved by 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person; • Have an 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams; • Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics while tripling plastics recycling rates; • Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill and achieve net zero emissions from organics sent to landfill, and • Overall litter reduction target of 60% <p>The NSW Strategy guides the development of council's resource recovery targets, especially for organic waste through mandating Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) services for all of NSW by 2030.</p> |
| NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy: A guide to future infrastructure needs | <p>The guide to future infrastructure needs supplements the NSW WASM Strategy 2041 and outlines the infrastructure needs for the state's waste and circular economy network based on expected material flows, current and planned capacity and policy changes proposed in the WASM Strategy.</p> <p>The guide focuses on infrastructure needs for the MSW and C&I waste streams for the following materials: plastics, organics, glass, paper and cardboard, tyres, residual waste, MRFs and hazardous waste.</p> |
| NSW Waste from Energy Policy Statement 2015 | <p>The Energy from Waste (EfW) Policy Statement outlines the policy framework that applies to facilities that thermally treat waste for energy recovery in NSW. Facilities seeking to recover energy by thermally treating waste or waste-derived materials must ensure the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poses minimal risk to human health and the environment; • Is not prioritised over waste management options higher up on the waste hierarchy, i.e. avoid, reuse or recycling options; and <p>Meets international best practice techniques.</p> |
| Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan: supporting the NSW WASM Strategy 2041 | <p>The Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan states that "the NSW Government supports thermal energy recovery as a residual waste management option where it can deliver positive outcomes for the community while protecting human health and the environment".</p> <p>The document outlines the role of EfW in NSW and guides strategic planning for future infrastructure so that it meets the needs of the state, and it maximises efficiencies for waste management and energy recovery (i.e. co-locating EfW, resource recovery and waste facilities).</p> |
| <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> | <p>Defines how councils may exercise their powers and the manner in which councils are managed and financed. With respect to waste management, councils must make and levy an annual charge for the provision of domestic waste management services (s. 496). Council charges for domestic waste management must be calculated so as to not exceed the reasonable cost to the council of providing those services.</p> |

| Legislation / Policy / Report | Short Description / Relevance |
|---|---|
| Waste Less Recycle More Initiative (WLRM) 2014-2021 | <p>The WLRM grant program provided funding for organisations, including councils, to improve their management of waste and recovery of resources.</p> <p>Phase 1 of WLRM provided \$465.7 million over the period July 2012 to June 2017, focusing on funding new, large-scale waste and recycling infrastructure, recycling facility upgrades, drop off centres, food and garden organics processing and recycling innovations. Phase 2 of WLRM commenced on 1 July 2017, with the capacity to award \$337 million over four years. Additional grants are planned to be released following the 2021 publication of the 20-Year NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041.</p> |
| NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good To Waste 2019 | <p>The NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement was developed by the NSW Government to provide clear directions and principles to direct the NSW economy's transition to a circular economy. The NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement lists seven key principles to lead the transition towards a circular economy in NSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of all resources; • Valuing resource productivity; • Designing out waste and pollution; • Maintaining the value of products and materials; • Developing new solutions for resource efficiency; • Creating new circular economy jobs; and • Fostering behaviour change through education and engagement. <p>The Circular Economy Policy Statement provides a framework for NSROC to review and transition operations to meet circular economy goals.</p> |
| NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2017-21 | <p>The NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2017-21 provides a framework for the NSW EPA and partner organisations (including local councils) to reduce illegal dumping in NSW by 30% by 2020. The NSW EPA updated the Illegal Dumping Strategy action table to provide a revised set of actions to achieve the set targets in the last two years of the Strategy (2020-21).</p> |
| Changes to the use of Mixed Waste Organic Outputs (MWOO) | <p>Alternative Waste Treatment (AWT) facilities process mixed waste or garbage to produce a compost-like material known as 'mixed waste organic outputs' (MWOO), which was applied to land as a soil amendment under strict controls (as well as in mine rehabilitation and other uses).</p> <p>In October 2018, the EPA changed its regulations to prohibit the application of MWOO to land due to risks associated with physical and chemical contaminants. Previously, six of NSROC's councils used AWT to achieve previous state diversion targets. The revocation of the MWOO Resource Recovery Order and Exemption has impacted council recycling rates.</p> |
| North District Plan | <p>NSROC councils are part of the North District region: one of the five districts that make up Greater Sydney. The North District Plan sets out the planning priorities for the North District region with a focus on infrastructure, liveability, productivity, and sustainability. It is a guide for implementing the Greater Sydney Region Plan¹⁴ and provides a 20-year plan to achieve the 40-year vision. Reducing carbon emissions and managing energy, water and waste efficiently is one of the planning priorities to improve sustainability and the plan lists actions for councils to identify new locations for waste recycling and management; and support innovative solutions to reduce the volume of waste and reduce waste transport requirements.</p> |

¹⁴ [Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities](#) (2018) Greater Sydney Commission.