



# Waste Management Plan 2020–2025

## Summary and FAQs

The Waste Management Plan (WMP) is an essential document for Council to ensure it is equipped and organised to manage the variety of waste services provided to the community.

The WMP assists Council to manage:

- kerbside waste collection
- kerbside disposals and processing
- the closed Trafalgar landfill site
- transfer stations
- hard waste
- street litter bins
- e-waste
- littering and illegal dumping
- education and engagement to reduce, re-use and recycle, and to support key service changes.

In February 2020, Victorian Government released *Recycling Victoria: a new economy, Circular Economy Policy* and a 10-year action plan to improve recycling infrastructure and services.

Waste management is now considered an essential service in Victoria.

### Find out more and provide your feedback

To ensure the community is provided with an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft WMP, as well as the changes required under *Recycling Victoria*, Council is conducting community consultation.

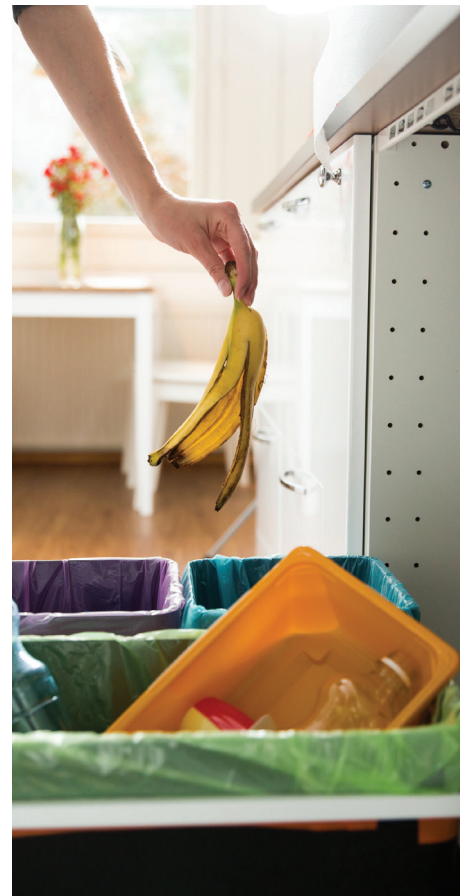
This consultation opportunity is open from Thursday 17 December 2020 until 5.00pm Friday 5 February 2021.

## Background

The current WMP 2010–2020 will expire at the end of 2020. To ensure Council has direction and a strategic plan in place, a review of the previous WMP was completed to inform a new five-year plan for 2020–2025.

The new draft WMP provides the community with information on Council's waste policies and plans, as well as regional, State and Federal policies, plans and regulation. The draft WMP also provides an overview of Council's current waste and recycling services, waste and recycling infrastructure, waste and resources generated, community engagement, and Council performance.

Additionally, the draft WMP explores challenges and opportunities for the municipality including, waste avoidance and minimisation, community development, collection and recovery, waste and recycling trends, funding opportunities, performance and monitoring, and assessment of options.



# Our transition plan to new services:

For Council to accommodate the new waste services outlined in *Recycling Victoria*, Council has undertaken extensive transition planning this year to determine how these services would be best implemented, and this is outlined in the WMP.

The following pages detail the key changes required as part of *Recycling Victoria*, which include introducing a food organics and garden organics service (FOGO), separating glass from recycling and consistent bin lid colours.

## 1. Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)



### Baw Baw Shire Council will introduce food organics into the kerbside garden organics (green waste) bin service by 2023.

From Council's recent 2020/21 waste audit, it was identified that 43% of the contents in Baw Baw Shire resident's garbage bins is made up of food. Food can include fruit and vegetables, but also cooked and/or raw meat, seafood, dairy and grains, including bread, pasta, rice.

The 2018 study prepared by Resource Recovery Gippsland (RRG) estimates that, based on 2017/2018 figures, organics recovery in Baw Baw would increase by about 57% as a result of a FOGO service, which in turn would decrease garbage by about 36%. This would increase overall diversion rates (the amount of waste materials not being sent to landfill and instead is recycled or composted) to about 70%.

#### Will a FOGO service reduce the amount of rubbish in my bin?

Introducing a FOGO service will allow for residents to reduce their garbage bin content by nearly half, which can allow for the bin to be picked up less frequently. FOGO will maximise diversion of waste from landfill and increase environmental benefits including, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing food organics, reducing the risk of groundwater contamination from landfills and supporting increased recycling of food waste into compost products.

42 Victorian Councils provide a FOGO service or were in the process of providing FOGO to their community. Ten of these Victorian Councils that have implemented a FOGO service to date have changed the bin pickup frequency to a weekly FOGO and fortnightly garbage.

It is evident in the landfill diversion rates that the weekly FOGO and fortnightly garbage is the most effective way to introduce FOGO, with

landfill diversion rates being 13% higher than weekly garbage and fortnightly FOGO. With the cost of sending waste to landfill increasing every year, this is a lot.

#### Won't it be more expensive?

Throughout Council's transitional planning that has been occurring this year, it has been identified that implementing a weekly FOGO and fortnightly garbage, is slightly cheaper than weekly garbage and fortnightly FOGO.

#### How often will my bin be picked up?

The preferred kerbside service for FOGO in Baw Baw Shire is:

- weekly FOGO collection service, including the provision of a kitchen caddy
- fortnightly garbage
- fortnightly recycling

In summary, Council research and the RRG business case study found this model supported the greatest improvement at the most affordable cost, improved diversion rates, reduced reliance on landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

#### We have a larger family, how will we cope with a reduced bin pick up?

The assessment in the RRG business case indicates the average household (around 2.5 occupants) will easily adjust to this new service. Recognising that some larger families or those with additional medical needs may have different needs, Council will consider providing an option to up-size the garbage bin.

## 1. Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO)



### Won't it be messy to dispose of all of my food scraps directly in the bin?

The RRG business case also recommends the provision of kitchen caddies and compostable bags with the rollout of the FOGO service and will be considered by Council.

### I have been composting my food waste for years already, why is this necessary?

Results from a Baw Baw Shire Council survey in 2019 suggest that our community is largely supportive of FOGO, with almost three quarters of surveyed residents stating that they would participate in the system.

More types of foods are included in FOGO that aren't accepted in regular household compost bin including, meats, seafood, wheat and grains.

### Will there be an odour with just a fortnightly pick up?

Research conducted by other Council's on odours released from garbage bins containing disposable nappies, hygiene products and medical waste over an extended period demonstrated that odours do not significantly increase after a one-week period regardless of the amount of time or contents of the bin. Other findings from the research also identified additional way to reduce odour released from the garbage bin, including storing your bin in the shade, keeping the lid closed, checking for any cracks and tightly wrapping any items before putting them in the bin.

### I don't have a kerbside waste service, what I can do?

For Baw Baw Shire residents without a kerbside service, Council will continue to support composting at the source via its existing compost bin rebate program scheme and will consider providing an alternative FOGO drop off location, such as at our transfer stations.

### How much will these new services cost?

Council is required to introduce these new waste services, as outlined in the State Government's *Recycling Victoria* policy. These new services will incur an additional cost, which Council will consider in its future annual waste service charge. The community will be informed of any future changes to service and associated costs before these new services are introduced.



### Main changes for Baw Baw Shire:

The FOGO kerbside service includes providing the ability to put food into the kerbside green organics bin by 2022/23. The main change of introducing a FOGO service will be the bin pick up frequency including:

- Weekly FOGO pickup
- Fortnightly garbage pickup
- Fortnightly recycling pickup.

There is the potential for a kitchen caddy, which is a small bin with a lid and bin liners to be provided to all households.

Options to up-size garbage bins will be considered for those homes that require it.

### We would like to hear from you:

*What are your thoughts on a FOGO service? Would this work for you?*



## 2. Glass separation



**Baw Baw Shire Council will introduce a separate recovery system for glass to remove glass from recycling bins by 2026.**

### Why should glass be recycled differently?

Baw Baw Shire residents currently put their glass into their yellow-lidded kerbside commingled recycling bin including, bottles and jars. Glass going into the recycling bin creates significant contamination issues through glass breakage. When glass breaks, the glass fines (shards) damage and contaminate the rest of the recycling, sometimes resulting in the recyclables going to landfill. Removing glass from the recycling bin will allow cardboard, paper, plastics and metals to be recycled more effectively.

To address the issue of broken glass contamination, the Victorian Government has announced that all Victorians must have access to a separate glass recycling service by 2027. This can be either a glass-only purple-lidded bin included in kerbside collection services, or by establishing local glass drop-off locations. Glass will no longer be accepted in commingled recycling after the introduction of a dedicated glass service.

### What about a Container Deposit Scheme?

The Victorian Government is also introducing a Container Deposit Scheme in 2022/23. This will result in community members being able to recycle their bottles and cans at local glass drop-off locations to receive a .10c refund per item.

The community uptake of the CDS service will influence what kind of glass service Council decides to introduce. The impact of CDS service will need to be examined before a decision is made. If the uptake of the CDS service by the community is successful, a glass kerbside bin may not be required. However, if the community do not want to use the CDS service, Council may progress with introducing a glass kerbside bin.



### Main changes for Baw Baw Shire:

The new glass separation service will be introduced to Baw Baw Shire by 2025/26.

Council has two options to achieve glass separation:

- Provide residents with a dedicated 120L purple-lidded glass-only bin, that will have a monthly pickup.
- Establish a series of localised drop off centres from residents to drop off their glass.

### We would like to hear from you:

*Would you use a CDS program or would you prefer a glass-only bin at home?*

### 3. Bin Lid Colours



#### **Baw Baw Shire Council will upgrade kerbside bin lids to ensure they are consistent with colours specified by the Victorian Government.**

To ensure consistency and to reduce confusion within the community, the Victorian Government has developed a standardised colouring system for Victoria's kerbside bin lids. The standard of Victorian bin lid colours is:

- **Red** for garbage
- **Yellow** for recycling
- **Light green** for green organics (to become FOGO in 2022/23)
- **Purple** for a glass-only bin (if introduced)

#### **What will happen to the bin lids that do not comply with the Victorian Government colours?**

Some recycling and green waste bin lids will require updating to comply with the Victorian Government's colour standard, therefore Council will ensure the bin lids that get replaced will be recycled and made into new products.

#### **Main changes for Baw Baw Shire:**

Currently Council has achieved the compliance for all red garbage bin lids, although require updates to some recycling and green organics bin lids.

#### **Where can I find out more and provide feedback?**

For more information and to provide your feedback about the new Waste Management Plan and Recycling Victoria: a new economy policy and plan, please visit the Council website at [bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay](http://bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/HaveYourSay)

This consultation opportunity will be open from Thursday 17 December 2020 to Friday 5 February 2021.

#### **Contact us**

We're here to help! For more information, please contact Council's Environment team on 5624 2411 or by email at [Environment@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:Environment@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au)