



Waste Action Plan

2025-2028



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Wynyard Council Chambers – Recycling Hub

The recycling hub located at the Wynyard Council Chambers serves as a convenient drop-off point for various recyclable materials, complementing the region's kerbside collection services.

This facility enables residents to responsibly dispose of items that are not suitable for regular kerbside bins, thereby reducing landfill waste and promoting environmental sustainability.

By providing this dedicated space, the Council supports community efforts to manage waste effectively and encourages proactive participation in recycling initiatives.





Clean Up Australia Day

Waratah-Wynyard supports the community in Clean Up Australia Day events.

In 2024, the Waratah-Wynyard Youth Leaders (WWYL) collected litter from the East Wynyard beach, collecting and disposing of glass bottles, plastic, cigarette butts and even a car tyre.

INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose and Rationale

Waratah-Wynyard's Waste Action Plan builds upon and replaces the previous Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy (2019-2024), reflecting a renewed focus on targeted, community-driven initiatives. This shift highlights the value of locally tailored actions that directly benefit our residents while contributing positively to the wider region. By prioritising practical, place-based solutions, the Council aims to address the unique waste management and resource recovery needs specific to our area.

At the same time, the plan respects and complements the extensive strategic efforts already underway at regional, state, and national levels. Rather than duplicating these broader frameworks, the Waste Action Plan is designed to fill local gaps, support effective implementation, and deliver measurable results where they matter most - right here within our community.

Critically, the Waste Action Plan has been informed by the strategic direction of the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group (CCWVG), whose regional strategy has played a fundamental role in shaping local actions. By aligning with the CCWVG's broader objectives, the plan ensures consistency whilst addressing Waratah-Wynyard's specific challenges and opportunities.

2. Current Waste Management Services

Waratah-Wynyard Council currently provides a range of waste and recycling services and infrastructure, including kerbside waste, organics and recycling collection, two waste transfer stations, an informal reuse shop, public place waste and recycling bins, management of litter and illegally dumped waste as well as a variety of education programs and activities.

In an average year, Council*:

Collects 4,300 tonnes
of waste



Services 210 bins
located in public places



Collects 710 tonnes
of recycling



Services over 5,000 properties
with kerbside collection



Collects 1,150 tonnes
of organics for compost



Attends to 64,000 customer visits
at the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station



*Based on quantities at end of 2024/25

Outline of Waste Services in Waratah-Wynyard

Kerbside Collection	<p>Kerbside collection services are offered in designated urban and rural collection zones in Wynyard, Somerset, Boat Harbour Beach, Sisters Beach and Waratah. The service is mandatory for properties with dwellings in compulsory collection zones (township areas and along connector roads) and opt in for other areas of the municipality depending on route accessibility and local demand.</p> <p>Urban collection zones are provided a three-bin (waste, recycling, organics) fortnightly collection service. Rural collection zones are provided a two-bin (waste, recycling) fortnightly collection service.</p> <p>The cost of the kerbside service is shared equally amongst all those who have access to the service, regardless of whether they intend to use it. The costs are based on the service available to the property – for example, those in a 2-bin collection zone pay less than those in a 3-bin collection zone.</p>
Waste Transfer Stations	<p>Council currently has two waste transfer stations located in Wynyard and Waratah. The Wynyard Waste Transfer Station takes the majority of waste from the community. There is an average of one customer every two minutes at this site (over 64,000 customer visits each year). The Waratah Waste Transfer Station is unmanned and open at all hours and is intended to service the local rural community.</p> <p>The cost of operating these sites are covered by a utility charge that is levied on properties in the municipality, alongside specialist fees and charges for difficult-to-dispose of items such as tyres. Due to this model, residents and property owners typically do not pay to dispose of waste (subject to the type of material). Most business-quantities of waste and all non-local residents/businesses attract fees to use the site.</p>
Reuse Shop	<p>An informal reuse shop is offered at the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station. The shop resells many household items that can still be used such as furniture, toys, books, gardening items, tools etc</p>
Public Place Bins	<p>Public place bins include management of public place waste and recycling bins as well as general litter management throughout the municipality's facilities, parks and sporting grounds. At the time of writing this document, Council provides over 210 public place bins, varying in size from small 60L basket-style bins through to full-sized skip bins. All public place bins are emptied by Council's kerbside collection contractor.</p>
Litter and Illegal Dumping	<p>Illegal dumping of waste or littering can cause significant environmental issues including land contamination, pollution of waterways, increased fire risk and harm to local wildlife and their habitats. Council supports the monitoring and reporting of illegal dumping and when on public land, may be required to clean up the dumped waste which can cost the community every year.</p>
Education Programs and Activities	<p>Waste education activities and events are supported through the regional Cradle Coast Waste Management Group. This partnership allows waste management education and promotion to remain consistent across the northwest coast. Under this arrangement, numerous activities are undertaken such as the provision of fact sheets and social media messaging, upkeep of websites, school workshops, event-based education, media articles and television advertising and the development of other education materials and tools.</p>

2025-2028 ACTION PLAN – A SUMMARY

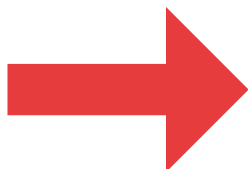
REGIONAL STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Waste diversion

Regional planning and efficiencies

Partnerships

Community engagement



REGIONAL OBJECTIVES AND LOCAL ACTIONS

REGIONAL OBJECTIVE 1 (R1)

Establish consistent practices for waste management

Local actions that support this goal:

- Consider options to participate in a regional kerbside waste collection contract
- Plan for improvements to the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station
- Participate in regional activities and service reviews

REGIONAL OBJECTIVE 2 (R2)

Target 60% municipal solid waste resource recovery

Local actions that support this goal:

- Complete the Waratah Waste Transfer Station redevelopment project
- Review options to improve bin density at the waste transfer stations
- Review options to introduce sustainable resale of rubble, soil and other stockpiled products from the waste transfer stations
- Trial the separation of recyclables and FOGO products at the annual Wynyard Tulip Festival
- Construct a Resale Shop at the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station
- Encourage and support community-led waste initiatives such as repair cafes, swap meets and resale shops and stalls

REGIONAL OBJECTIVE 3 (R3)

Target <10% contamination rate in kerbside recycling bins

Local actions that support this goal:

- Support regular bin audits and the application of a progressive strike-system to reduce contamination

REGIONAL OBJECTIVE 4 (R4)

Phase out priority single-use plastics

Local actions that support this goal:

- Explore feasible actions to limit single-use plastics within the scope of local government, acknowledging regulatory limitations

OTHER ACTIONS

These actions do not directly align with regional objectives however provide benefit to the local community

- Consolidate public place bins (replacing basket bins with larger bins where appropriate) and streamline collection schedule to maximise affordability of service
- Review local waste data collection methods and where possible align local and regional reporting to ensure consistency and accuracy
- Review bin replacement policy for kerbside bins consistent with community expectations
- Installation of wheelie bin support rail at the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station (Bay 2)
- Pilot the installation of container docking stations on high-use public bins to support the safe and dignified collection of Recycle Rewards containers
- Achieve a full cost recovery model whereby the costs of waste services are not subsidised by the general rate



Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) Kerbside Collection

In July 2024 Council commenced a kerbside collection service for organics. This project was part of a regional roll-out in the Cradle Coast area.

During the first year over 1,100 tonnes of material has been diverted from landfill and turned into valuable compost for resale – ultimately winding up in local gardens in our area.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

1. Why Reducing Waste Matters to Our Community

Reducing waste is a vital part of building a healthier, more sustainable, and more resilient community. It's not just about managing garbage - it's about rethinking how we use resources and what kind of future we want to create together. Here's why it's essential:

Environmental Protection

By cutting down on waste, we reduce pollution in our air, water, and soil. This helps protect local wildlife, prevent habitat loss, and reduce the harmful effects of landfills on our environment.

Resource Conservation

Many of the materials we discard—plastic, metal, paper, and food—come from limited natural resources. Reducing waste means we use these resources more wisely, helping to preserve them for future generations.

Climate Action

Organic waste in landfills produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. By diverting food and yard waste through composting and recycling programs, we can significantly lower our community's carbon footprint.

Economic Benefits

Waste reduction can lead to significant cost savings for households, businesses, and local government. Less waste means lower collection and disposal costs—and more opportunities for job creation in recycling, repair, and reuse industries.

A Stronger, Smarter Local Economy

Reducing waste supports the transition to a circular economy, where materials are reused and repurposed rather than thrown away. This fosters local innovation, entrepreneurship, and resilience.

Leading by Example

When we take collective action to reduce waste, we set a powerful example for future generations. It encourages responsible habits, environmental awareness, and community pride.

2. Waste Management in Waratah-Wynyard: What Happens After Disposal

Effective waste management within the Waratah-Wynyard municipality relies not only on Council systems and infrastructure but also on the quality of sorting undertaken by the community at the point of disposal. This means that the value of the waste service is co-created between Council and the community. The final destination of waste depends significantly on the way it is separated and managed by residents and businesses:

Recycled Materials

Materials collected through kerbside recycling bins and various drop-off options at our Waste Transfer Stations are sorted and processed for recovery. This processing may occur within Australia or, in some cases, overseas. Certain materials (such as metals) can be sold and reused. Others, like plastics, are broken down into flakes and repurposed into new products such as bottles or furniture. Glass is crushed locally here in Tasmania and used as landfill cover or as a sand in civil construction projects.

While recycling contributes to resource conservation, it is not without environmental and financial limitations. The recycling process consumes energy, produces emissions, and generates secondary waste. In addition, most materials degrade with each recycling cycle, limiting their potential for repeated use. For this reason, **reduction and reuse** are preferred strategies. Choosing products with minimal packaging, avoiding single-use items, and reusing materials where possible are significantly more sustainable and cost-effective than recycling alone.

Contamination and Landfill Disposal

Recyclables that are contaminated—either with food waste, non-recyclable materials, or placed inside plastic bags—cannot be processed and are redirected to landfill. General waste collected via kerbside bins, waste transfer stations and public litter bins are also transported directly to landfill, without further sorting.

Local Waste Transfer Stations

The Wynyard Waste Transfer Station operates as a resource recovery facility. The Waratah Waste Transfer Station operates as a local waste disposal opportunity; however outcomes of this Waste Action Plan will mean that some recycling streams may be considered for future improvements to the site.

The Wynyard Waste Transfer Station receives the majority of waste directly from the public. Where materials are properly sorted:

- **Recyclables** are forwarded to appropriate processing facilities.
- **Reusable goods** are diverted to the informal “Tip Shop” for resale, promoting circular economy principles.
- **Vegetation and green waste** are mulched or chipped and used as daily landfill cover in site rehabilitation activities.
- **Clean fill**, such as soil and concrete/masonry, is used for daily landfill cover or in the case of clean concrete/masonry (that is not contaminated by hazardous waste), it is crushed and re-used in construction projects.

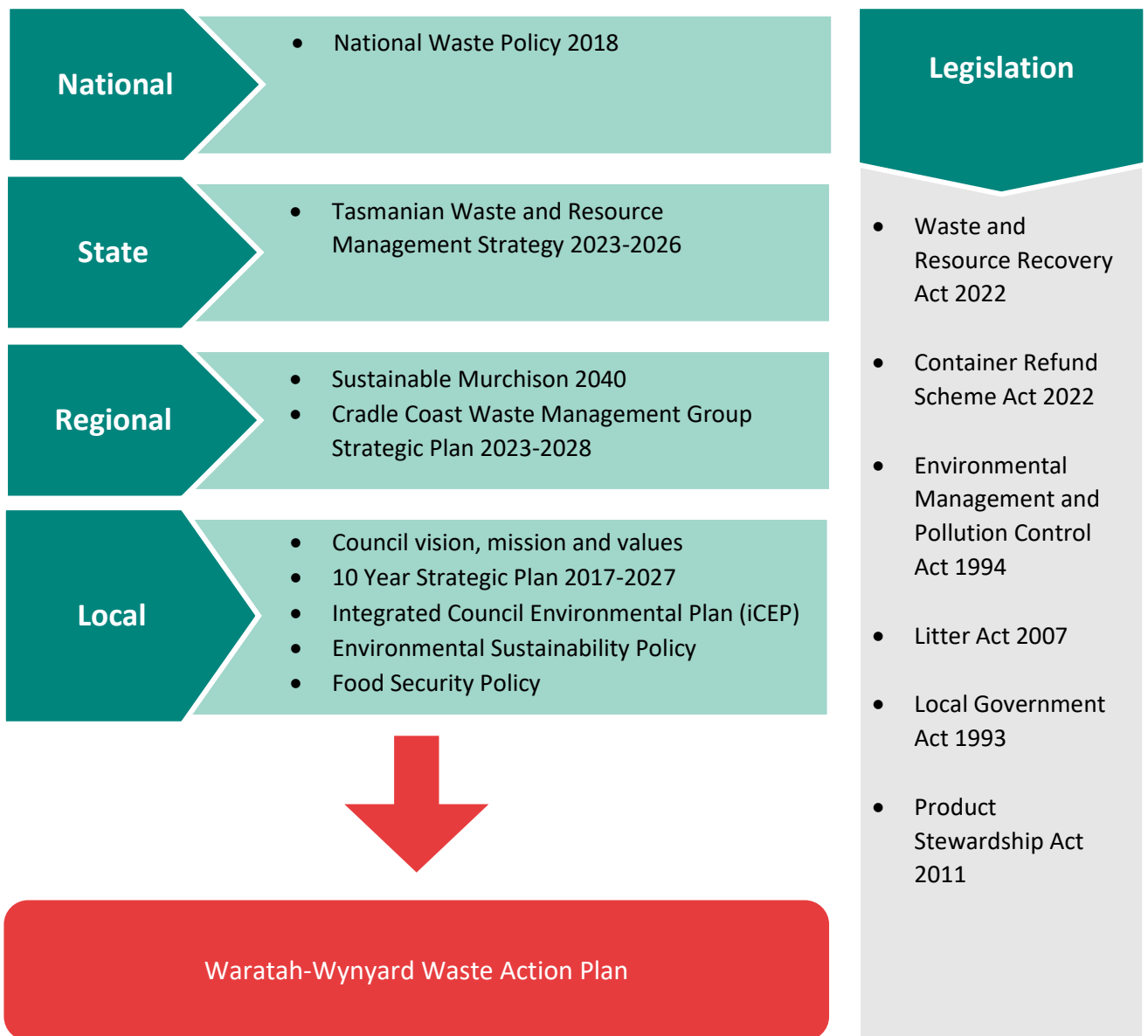
Illegal Dumping and Litter Control

Council also manages the collection and disposal of illegally dumped waste and litter on public land. This material is transported to landfill, increasing waste volumes and associated costs. Waste that is not collected due to insufficient reporting may ultimately enter the natural environment, polluting soil, waterways, and marine ecosystems. Preventing illegal dumping through community education, enforcement, and accessible disposal options remains a priority.

3. Policy Context

The direction of resource recovery and waste management at the local level is shaped by legislation, policies, and strategies across national, state, and local governments. Additionally in Tasmania, all local governments are required to pay a state-mandated landfill levy for every tonne of waste sent to landfill. This levy is intended to reduce waste generation and support the development of more sustainable resource recovery systems.









The following overview outlines the key legislative and policy frameworks that guide and influence this Waste Action Plan.



4. Tracking Our Progress: Waratah-Wynyard Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy 2019-2024

To set a clear and measurable path toward 2028, it’s essential to understand how we've performed so far. This involves reviewing our achievements against the goals and targets outlined in the Waratah-Wynyard 2019–2024 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. A comprehensive evaluation has been conducted to assess progress toward each target.

While the headline target of 50% overall waste diversion has not been met, steady progress is being made in municipal solid waste avoidance with an estimated 46% diversion rate on 30 June 2025 (medium data confidence). A key contributor to this progress is the kerbside organics collection service, introduced in July 2024. Although organics volumes have varied over time, the current **kerbside** diversion rate has exceeded 50%, indicating strong potential for increased diversion across other waste streams in the future. The table below tracks our progress and performance.

2019-2024 Strategy Targets			Progress	
	Materials Recovery	Divert 50% waste from landfill		Progress has been made. Overall diversion rate as of 30 June 2025 was approximately 46%, with medium confidence in the data.
	Education	Achieve 90% recycling audit pass		Target achieved. A total area consisting of 982 households was audited during Sept/Oct 2024. Out of these properties, 787 presented their bins and 709 achieved a pass mark, representing a 90.01% pass rate.
	Environmental Compliance	Achieve 100% legislative compliance		Progress has been made. Whilst no local audits programs have been established, the regional waste management group have provided support to sites to ensure each site aligns with the best practice guidelines.
	Value-for-Money	Provide value-for-money services		Progress has been made. Several service reviews and actions have been undertaken to improve value in the waste stream. A new funding model for the WTS has been implemented that allows residents “free” (prepaid) entry at the gate for most items. However, a full cost recovery model has not yet been achieved meaning some of the waste service is subsidised by the general rate. It is estimated to take up to 3 years to achieve a full cost recovery model (by 2027/28).



Public Place Bins

Council provides over 200 public bins across parks, reserves, townships, and sports facilities to support responsible waste and recycling and keep our shared spaces clean.

These bins are intended for public use only, and while some face challenges like misuse or vandalism, Council maintains them where they're most effective. In areas without bins, we encourage visitors to take their waste home and help protect our natural environment.

ACTION PLAN

1. Principles for Decision Making

This Waste Action Plan focuses on implementing localised actions that align with the priorities of the regional strategy. It aims to ensure that waste services are sustainable, well-planned, and responsive to the needs and expectations of the community.

To support decision-making on proposed regional activities or new local initiatives, the following principles will be applied. Each principle must be satisfied before Council commits to supporting an initiative.

It is recognised that, in some cases, there may be tension or conflict between these principles - for example, where delivering the most cost-effective solution may not fully achieve the best environmental outcome. In such circumstances, Council will weigh the relative merits and impacts of the proposal, with a view to achieving the best overall outcome for the community. Where it is considered that an initiative has strong strategic merit but does not fully meet one or more of the principles, Council may only determine to proceed by absolute majority.

Minimise negative impacts of waste on the natural and built environments

- Prioritise the protection and enhancement of the natural environment by reducing pollution and limiting greenhouse gas emissions from waste activities.

Promote sustainable management of resources

- Support and educate the community in practices that reduce waste generation, improve reuse and recycling and subsequently extend the life of natural resources. This includes adopting circular economy principles and reducing reliance on landfill.

Provide appropriate waste services that represent value-for-money

- Ensure that waste services meet the needs of the community and deliver measurable benefits by being cost-effective, efficient, accessible and financially responsible. Services and investments should be justified by long-term gains and contribute to service improvement or innovation.

Work collaboratively for the benefit of the region

- Foster strong partnerships and shared solutions within the industry and continue active participation through the Cradle Coast Waste Management group. Maximise the benefits of these partnerships to pool resources and deliver improved long-term solutions through shared resources, consistency and economies of scale.

2. Funding Model

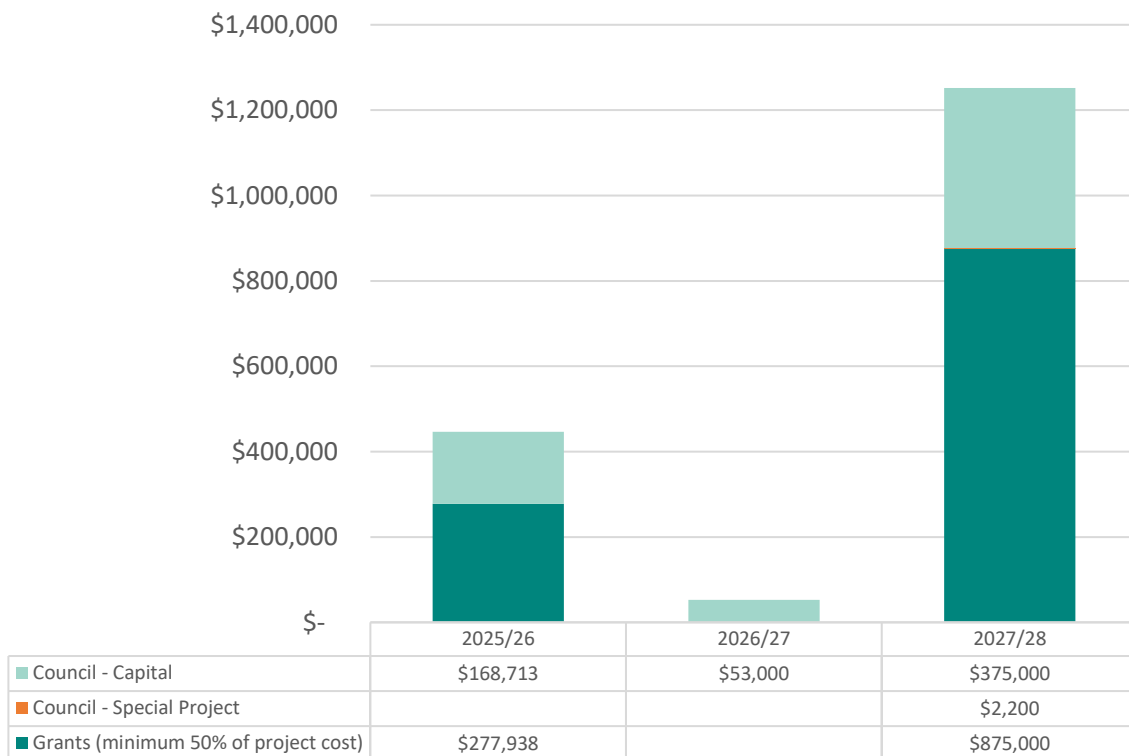
The current user-pays funding model is designed to progressively move toward full cost recovery for waste management services. While this has not yet been fully achieved, the approach supports transparency by clearly communicating the true cost of waste services to the community and reducing the need for cross-subsidisation through general rates. As waste management becomes increasingly complex and costly, forecasting future expenses remains a significant challenge - making it essential that the funding model remains adaptable and financially sustainable over the long term.

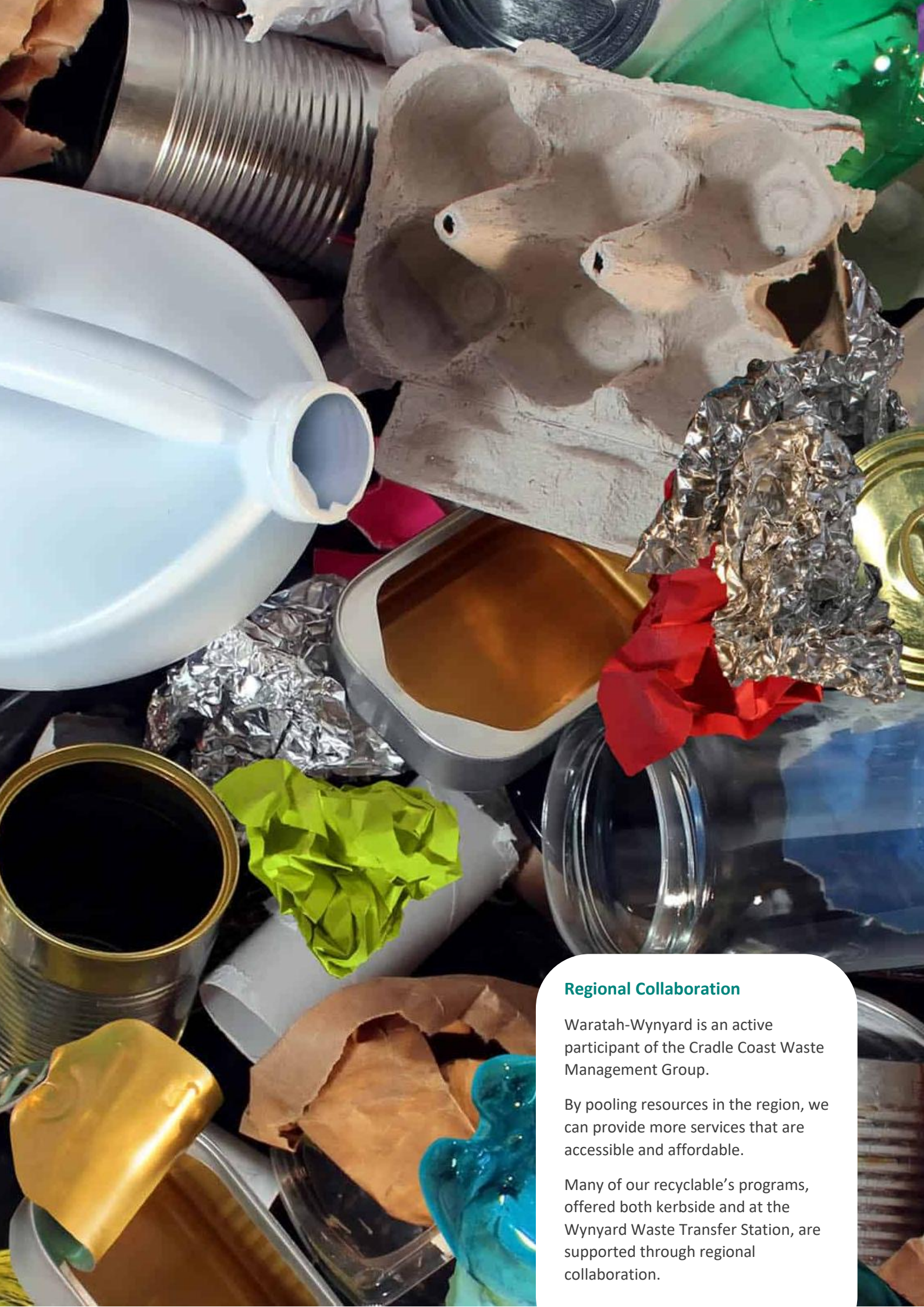
3. Financial Implications of this Plan

The Action Plan proposes the delivery of 17 action items over three years, at a total estimated capital expenditure of approximately \$1.75 million. Once completed, an additional \$38,900 annually is expected to be required to cover depreciation and maintenance (this figure does not yet account for any savings or revenue as a result of undertaking the proposed actions). If there remains a net increase to recurrent costs after the offset has been applied, this must be funded through an increase to the waste utility charge.

Funding sources to deliver the plan will rely on successfully obtaining third-party funding for approximately 65% of the proposed capital expenditure.

The approximate split for capital (construction) funding by type and year are as follows:





Regional Collaboration

Waratah-Wynyard is an active participant of the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group.

By pooling resources in the region, we can provide more services that are accessible and affordable.

Many of our recyclable's programs, offered both kerbside and at the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station, are supported through regional collaboration.

4. Action Plan

This action plan sets out how the Council will implement local actions that are consistent with the objectives of the regional strategy and the principles outlined within this document. The plan will be revised annually to ensure we stay on track towards our goals.

Whilst timing has been provided in the below table, this is indicative only and will be subject to Council's annual budgeting process. This flexibility is maintained to ensure Council remains adaptable to changing circumstances, new partnerships, funding availability and emergency events. It is noted that some projects require externally funding (through grants and the like) and if council is not successful in obtaining these funds these projects may not be delivered.

Action	Relevant Regional Strategy Link	Funding Estimate	Funding Source	Estimated Ongoing Operational Budget Increase	
2025/26					
1.	Complete the Waratah Waste Transfer Station redevelopment project	R2	\$350,850	Grant / Capital budget	18,000 <i>Anticipate some savings in operational costs to offset this increase</i>
2.	Consolidate public place bins (replacing basket bins with larger bins where appropriate) and streamline collection schedule to maximise affordability of service		\$81,000	Capital budget	Anticipate savings in collection costs
3.	Review options to improve bin density at the waste transfer stations to minimise costs associated with transport	R2	Staff time <i>Implementation costs to be considered following review</i>	Operational budget	TBD following review
4.	Review options to introduce sustainable resale of crushed concrete, soil and other stockpiled products from the waste transfer stations	R2	Staff time	Operational budget	Anticipate additional revenue to offset processing costs
5.	Consider options to participate in a regional kerbside waste collection contract	R1	Staff time	Operational budget	N/A
6.	Trial the separation of recyclables and FOGO products at the annual Wynyard Tulip Festival	R2	\$14,800	Grant	N/A

Action	Relevant Regional Strategy Link	Funding Estimate	Funding Source	Estimated Ongoing Operational Budget Increase	
2026/27					
7.	Review local waste data collection methods and where possible align local and regional reporting to ensure consistency and accuracy		Staff time	Operational budget	N/A
8.	Plan for improvements to the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction-set drawings for enhancements that maximise recycling and enhances safe customer flow throughout the site • Construction-set drawings for a Resale Shop and commence approvals under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme • Actions which align with best practice guidelines consistent with the CCWVG 	R1, R2	\$50,000 <i>Construction costs to be estimated upon completion of drawings</i>	Capital budget	TBD following development of drawings
9.	Review bin replacement policy for kerbside bins consistent with community expectations		Staff time	Operational budget	TBD following review
10.	Installation of wheelie bin support rail at the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station (Bay 2)		\$3,000	Capital budget	\$400
2027/28					
11.	Explore feasible actions to limit single-use plastics within the scope of local government, acknowledging regulatory limitations	R4	Staff time	Operational budget	N/A
12.	Pilot the installation of container docking stations on high-use public bins to support the safe and dignified collection of Recycle Rewards containers		\$2,200	Special project budget	\$440
13.	Construct a Resale Shop at the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station and make civil construction adjustments to maximise recycling opportunities (subject to external funding)	R2	\$1,250,000	Grant / Capital budget	\$20,500 + management costs (pending chosen operating model)

Action		Relevant Regional Strategy Link	Funding Estimate	Funding Source	Estimated Ongoing Operational Budget Increase
Ongoing					
14.	Participate in regional activities and service reviews where appropriate	R1	Staff time	Operational budget	N/A
15.	Support regular bin audits and the application of a progressive strike-system to reduce contamination	R3	Staff time	Operational budget	N/A
16.	Encourage and support community-led waste initiatives such as repair cafes, swap meets and resale shops	R2	Staff time	Operational budget	N/A
17.	Achieve a full cost recovery model by no later than 2027/28, whereby the costs of waste services are not subsidised by the general rate		Staff time	Operational budget	N/A



Waging a War on Waste at Council-Led Events

The Wynyard Tulip Festival is a perfect opportunity to lead by example in reducing waste and promoting sustainability. With thousands of visitors drawn to our stunning municipality, it's important to manage waste responsibly to protect the natural beauty of our area.

By cutting down on single-use plastics, providing clear recycling options, and encouraging reusable alternatives, the festival helps create a cleaner, greener event.



WARATAH WYNYARD
COUNCIL

