



REGIONAL RESOURCE RECOVERY STRATEGY 2022 - 2027





Regional Resource Recovery Strategy 2022 - 2027

Published 2023

Acknowledgments

Council acknowledges and extends appreciation to all contributors.

Availability



The Waste Strategy is available on the RAMJO website
www.ramjo.nsw.gov.au/

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) 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.

We also acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees who are an integral part of our diverse workforce within our region, and recognise the knowledge embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and cultures.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

Information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (August 2022) and is subject to change.



VISION

To work collaboratively to enhance the economic, social, and environmental capabilities of our communities to ensure long term sustainability of our region.

To encourage Resource Recovery and work toward a local circular economy.



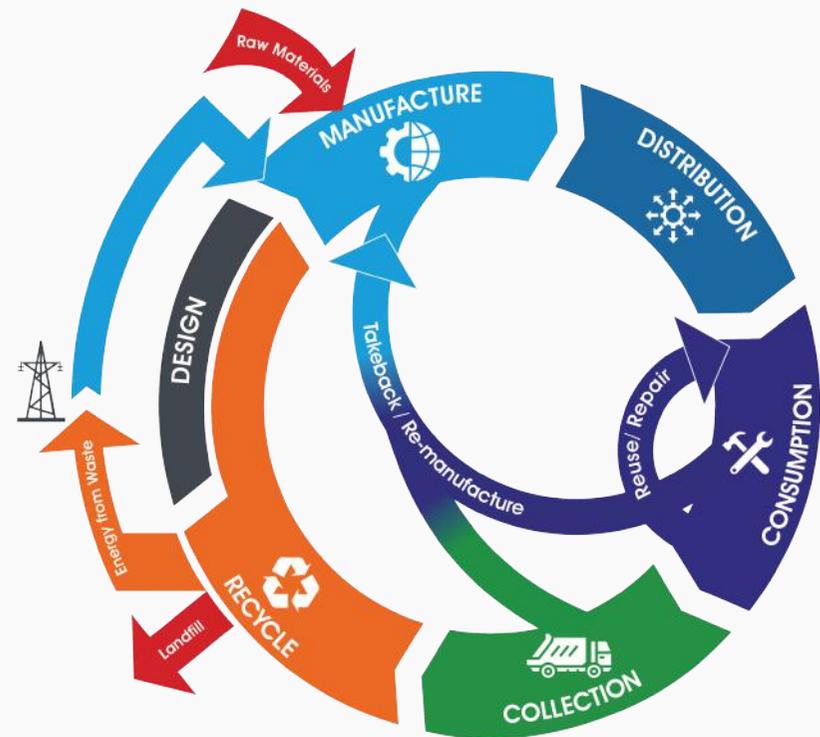
MISSION

To collaborate effectively through strategic planning, priority setting, advocating, engaging with governments and key stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability, wellbeing, and liveability of the region's communities.

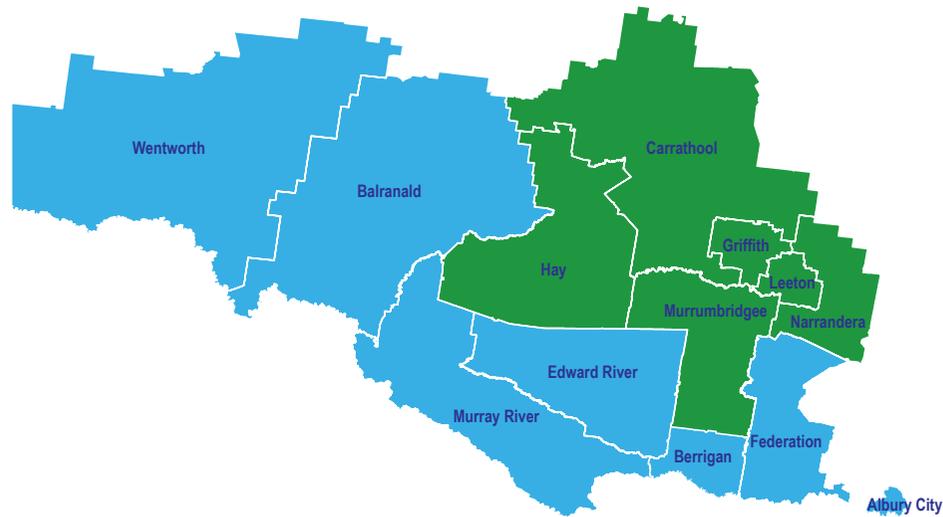
CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A Circular Economy is an alternative to the traditional, linear economy which refers to taking resources, making goods that are then bought and used to then be disposed of as waste. Given there is a finite supply of natural resources which are getting increasingly harder and costlier to extract, these traditional processes result in unnecessary waste.

The RAMJO Strategy aligns with Circular Economy principles which aim to 'close the loop' on waste by reusing and recycling resources and supplies that already exist, rather than creating new products out of extra resources.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



RAMJO brings together 13 regional NSW councils to provide a united and local voice for our communities on key waste issues. RAMJO represents an area of growth and diversity, from its regional cities with thriving retail centres and viticulture, to the vast landscapes and plains in its more remote areas, its community and economic profile proves a productive one.

The RAMJO Regional Resource Recovery Strategy 2022-2027 (The Strategy)



The Strategy will be the overarching document to guide waste management resource recovery and circular economy planning for the RAMJO region.



The Strategy reflects the aspirations, needs and concerns of our communities and will serve as a blueprint for improving the RAMJO region and member councils' environmental future and waste management practises.



Timeline for RAMJO to prioritise how and when it addresses issues associated with a growing community and a changing waste management landscape.



It is supported by an Action Implementation Plan which will see actions rolled out across the RAMJO region. Including cooperation, collaboration, advocacy, the delivery of recycling and FOGO services and waste reduction programs to the community.



Identifies significant opportunities to help improve our environment by reducing waste, encouraging more recycling via various initiatives.



The Strategy has been developed through the guiding principles of the waste hierarchy and state and regional policies to direct our objectives and goals.

Major Priorities

The Strategy has been developed with a major focus on:

- Improvement and development of local resource recovery infrastructure
- Introduction/expansion of kerbside services to households and large businesses
- Increased education and community engagement in line with the RAMJO Regional Resource Recovery Education Roadmap 2023-27
- Landfill consolidation, remediation, and rationalisation
- Utilising funding opportunities to allow councils to meet the regional priorities and federal and state targets

These issues are seen as critical in the short to medium term.

Secondary Priorities

Secondary priorities in this Strategy address the RAMJO region's need for:

- Improved data capture and reporting
- Working towards a circular economy
- Minimising and addressing illegal dumping
- Prevention and the minimalization of litter
- Increasing landfill gas capture
- Correct disposal of hazardous waste

The Strategy has been developed through the guiding principles of the waste hierarchy and state and regional policies to direct our objectives and goals. The objectives convey RAMJO's and member council's commitment to continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of waste management and resource recovery, so it does not become a problem for our environment and our future generations.



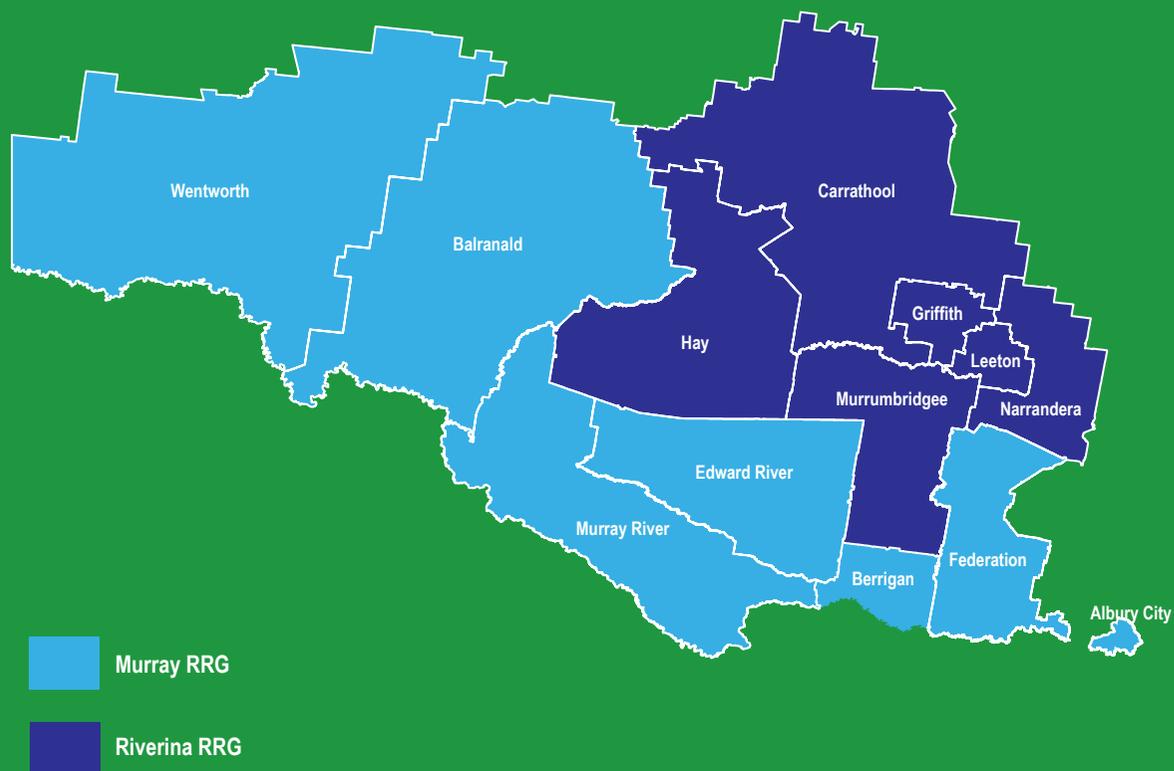
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INTRODUCTION

The Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) has been proclaimed by the NSW State Government as a Body Corporate under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and consists of 11 member councils. In addition to the 11 member councils, Balranald and Wentworth councils are also a part of the RAMJO resource recovery division. Geographically, the inclusion of these councils increases the service delivery and infrastructure needs of the region.

RAMJO consists of two Resource Recovery groups – The Riverina Resource Recovery Group (Riverina RRG) and the Murray Resource Recovery Group (Murray RRG). RAMJO assists the member councils by facilitating collaboration through strategic planning, priority setting, stakeholder engagement, encouraging infrastructure development through grants & funding, and advocating on behalf of the region. This is to ensure the long-term sustainability, wellbeing, and liveability of the region's communities.



MEMBER COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHIC DATA



Murray RRG	Population	Households	Area (km ²)
Albury City Council	56,093	25,357	306
Balranald Shire Council	2,208	922	21,691
Berrigan Shire Council	8,665	3,894	2,066
Edward River Council	8,456	3,856	8,883
Federation Council	12,899	6,123	5,685
Murray River Council	12,850	5,803	11,863
Wentworth Shire Council	7,453	3,026	26,256
TOTAL	108,624	48,981	76,750



Riverina RRG	Population	Households	Area (km ²)
Carrathool Shire Council	2,866	1,109	18,935
Griffith City Council	27,086	10,019	1,639
Hay Shire Council	2,882	1,372	11,326
Leeton Shire Council	11,452	4,296	1,167
Murrumbidgee Council	3,353	1,489	6,881
Narrandera Shire Council	5,698	2,460	4,116
TOTAL	108,624	48,981	76,750

REGION TOTAL	161,961	69,726	120,814
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Source: 2021 Census Data – Australian Bureau of Statistics

PURPOSE OF THIS STRATEGY

The RAMJO Regional Resource Recovery Strategy 2022-2027 (The Strategy) identifies the priorities of the region for waste and resource recovery projects and programs. The Strategy supports and guides current and future services, infrastructure and educational requirements needed to develop a sustainable waste and resource recovery management system. The collaboration between member councils will enhance regional partnerships and the broader economic and employment opportunities that current and new approaches to waste management may present.

In alignment with the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (WaSM Strategy), the development of regional resource recovery initiatives, projects and collaborative procurement services will potentially lead to greater efficiencies and savings for all councils with opportunities made available for Resource Recovery Groups to be a part of education programs, accessing shared resources and grant funding opportunities.

Member councils are active partners in the future success of The Strategy and creating productive outcomes for the communities they represent. Support for The Strategy and regional plans is vital to ensuring member councils are early adopters and catalysts of the circular economy.

The Strategy will assist RAMJO to deliver upon its vision and objectives for waste management, resource recovery and the circular economy and align to all relevant legislation and policies.



LEGISLATION POLICY

The Strategy draws on state based legislative, policy, strategy, educational and economic tools relating to waste management in NSW. The legislation and regulations include:

- **Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act 1997**
- **Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Act 2001**
- **Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2017**

These key regulatory documents describe the requirements for transporting, storing, processing, managing, recovering, and disposing of waste and recyclable material.

NSW WASTE AND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS STRATEGY 2041, STAGE 1:2021-2027

The NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (WaSM Strategy) outlines the strategic direction for sustainable waste management practices in the state. The WaSM Strategy has three focus areas including:

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.

2025 TARGET



By 2025, the NSW Government will phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics



Reduce plastic litter by **30%**

2030 TARGET



Reduce total waste generated by **10% per person by 2030**



Reduce overall litter by **60% by 2030**



Achieve an average **80%** recovery rate of resources from all waste streams by 2030



Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill



Triple the plastics recycling rate



Achieve net zero emissions from organics to landfill

NSW PLASTICS ACTION PLAN 2021

The NSW Plastics Action Plan sets out a list of actions with the aim of achieving long term plastic reduction outcomes, the actions include, introducing new legislation, accelerating the transition of better plastic products, supporting innovation, tackling cigarette butt litter, reducing the risk of microplastics entering the environment and supporting plastic research.

The NSW Plastics Action Plan works in conjunction with the WaSM Strategy which lists a range of targets to be achieved. The actions outlined in the NSW Plastics Action Plan will assist in helping achieve the targets in the WaSM Strategy which include:



Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025



Reduce plastic litter items by **30% by 2025**



Reduce the total waste generated by **10% per person by 2030**



Triple the plastic recycling rate by 2030



Achieve an average **80%** recovery rate of resources from all waste streams by 2030 rate



Reduce the overall litter by **60% by 2030**



Significantly increase the use of recycled content by government and industry



WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

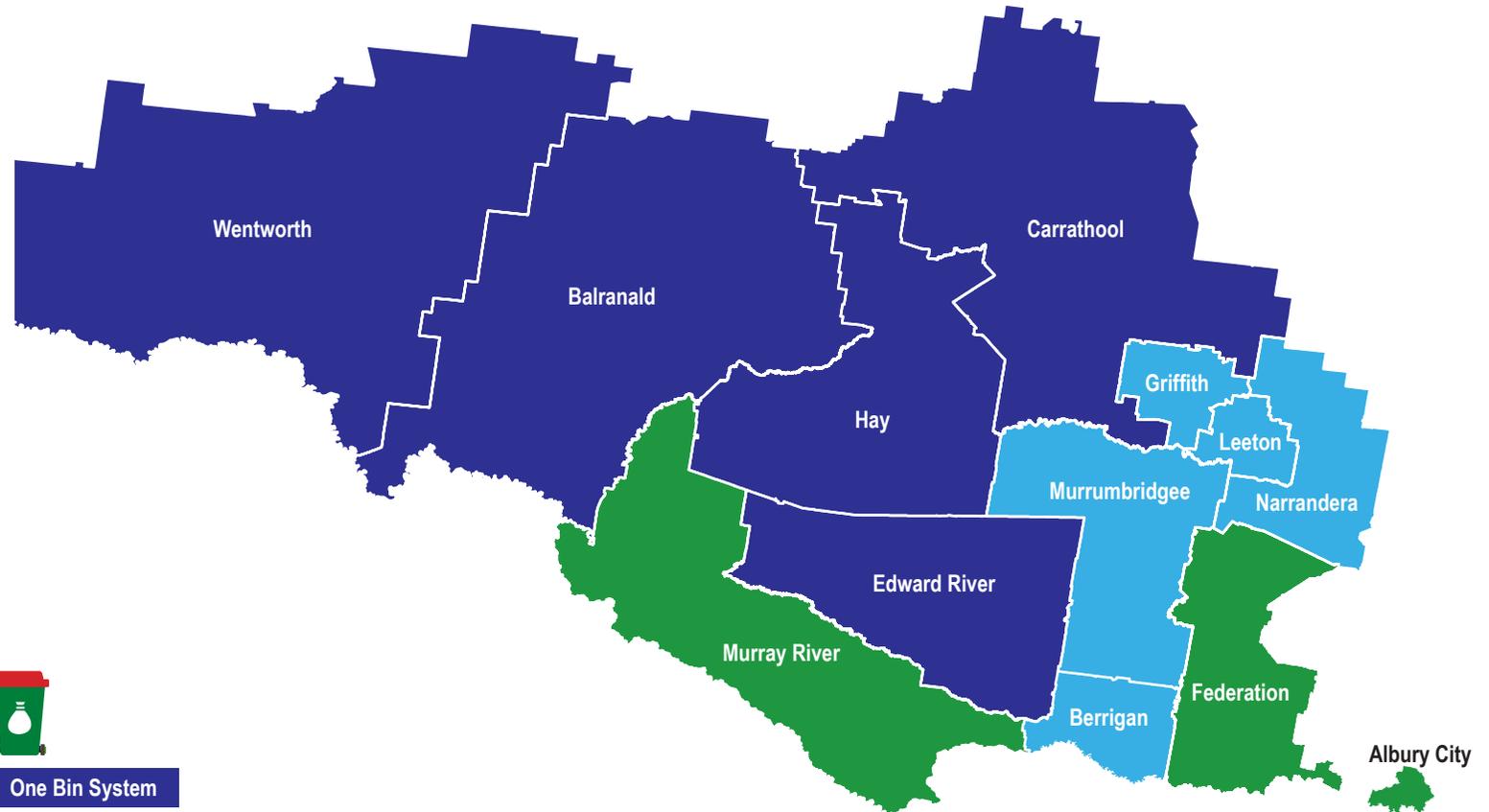
Under the Waste Less Recycle More program, the **RAMJO region received approximately \$6,817,145 million for various council and regional projects**. Alternative funding streams also contributed to the RAMJO region completing approximately 80% of the actions identified in the RAMJO Regional Waste Strategy 2017-2021.

GRANT FUNDING SUMMARY

Grant funding received under the Waste Less Recycle More program 2017 – 2021		
Grant/funding	Amount of funding (exc. GST)	Participating RAMJO member councils
Voluntary Regional Resource Recovery Groups	\$1,728,881	All councils
Circulate Industrial Ecology	\$117,561	Albury City Council, Leeton Shire Council, Wentworth Shire Council, Federation Council and Murray River Council
Bin Trim	\$290,000	Albury City Council
Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements	\$419,200	Carrathool Shire Council, Edward River Council, Leeton Shire Council
Organics Collection Grants	\$563,929	Federation Council, Hay Shire Council, Murray River Council
Organics Infrastructure	\$503,000	Hay Shire Council
Litter-Regional Implementation Program	\$140,950	All councils
Major Resource Recovery Infrastructure	\$2,021,947	Albury City Council
Resource Recovery Facility Expansion and Enhancement Program	\$445,840	Albury City Council
Product Improvement Program	\$55,187	Albury City Council
Community Recycling Centres (CRCs)	\$140,500	All councils (except Balranald Shire Council)
CRC Communication and Education Campaign	\$390,150	All councils (except Balranald Shire Council)

SERVICES

KERBSIDE SERVICES



Three Bin System



Two Bin System



One Bin System

Across the RAMJO region, there are currently three councils that have a three-bin (general waste, co-mingled recycling and FOGO) system, five councils with a two-bin system (general waste and co-mingled recycling) and five councils that have a one-bin system (general waste). All member councils will work toward transitioning to a three-bin service by 2030 (or prior), in-line with the targets set in the WaSM Strategy



Approximately **69,726** households in the RAMJO region - 20/21



Collection services provided to **64,307** premises in the RAMJO region



There are **19,793** residential properties that do not receive a waste service and are properties that fall within agricultural zones and rely on council operated waste management facilities.

COLLABORATIVE PROCUREMENT

Over the last two years, member councils have had the option of entering collaborative procurement arrangements for the following services:

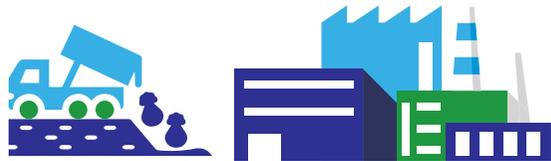
- Scrap Metal Collection and Purchase (2-year)
- Provision of Garden and Timber Waste Processing (Mulching) Services (2-year)
- Community Recycling Centre (CRC) Communication and Education Campaign's (annual)
- Regional Kerbside Collection Services Contract (10-year)

Future collaborative procurement is under consideration, with the RAMJO team working closely with member councils to procure subsequent waste services to achieve greater scales of economy in the region.



WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES, LANDFILLS AND TRANSFER STATIONS

Across the Riverina RRG and the Murray RRG



47 landfills and transfer stations

8 are licenced facilities
(Appendix 1)

1 has gas capture
infrastructure.

LARGER FACILITIES

Larger facilities have an area for the collection of:

- general waste
- scrap metal
- garden and timber waste
- co-mingled recycling
- mattresses, tyres
- bricks and concrete
- asbestos,
- drumMUSTER and
- e-waste

SMALLER FACILITIES

have less recovery of materials due to the cost, distance and council resources associated with recovering the low volume of materials located at the regions smaller scale council facilities.

CRCs AND SMALL STATION CRCs

The introduction of CRCs over the last several years has allowed residents to correctly dispose of hazardous household waste such as batteries, fire extinguishers, fluoro globes and tubes, gas bottles, oil, paints and smoke detectors.

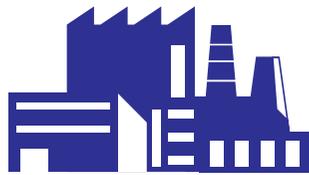
In the 2021/22 and 2022/23 FYs, member councils entered into collaborative procurement arrangements with RAMJO for the creation and delivery of the annual CRC Communication and Education Campaign. This collaboration ensures consistent messaging and has a larger reach, resulting in an increased recovery of these materials across the region.

There are a number of small station CRCs at council facilities across the region. Small station CRCs are small, timber cabinets located in convenient locations (library, council buildings etc), where residents can dispose of household batteries, mobile phones, light globes and smoke detectors.

The region has 14 operational CRCs, namely:



- Berrigan Landfill
- Blighty Landfill
- Buronga Landfill
- Deniliquin Landfill Depot
- Leeton Landfill & Recycling Centre
- Urana Landfill



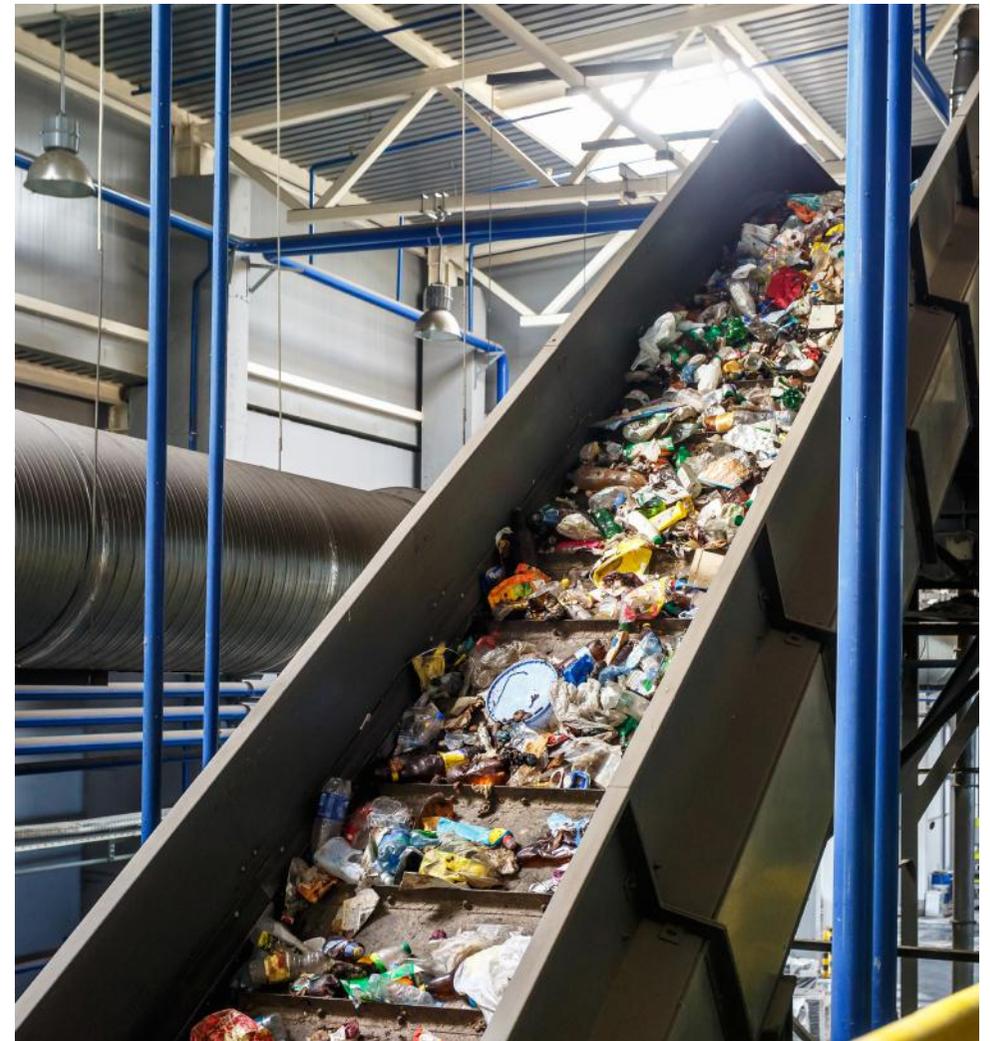
- Albury Waste Management Centre
- Corowa Waste Management Centre
- Moama Waste Management Facility
- Tharbogang Waste Management Centre



- Hay Waste Transfer Station



- Coleambally Waste Depot
- Jerilderie Waste Depot
- Narrandera Waste Depot



CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME (CDS)

Return and Earn was introduced in NSW in 2017 and is the biggest litter reduction scheme in NSW. The scheme has presented a wonderful opportunity for the community to recycle items such as glass, plastic and aluminium drinking containers, particularly in the councils that only have a one-bin service.

In the Murray RRG, there are 15 Return and Earn facilities, with a total of 287,353,720 million containers that have been recycled through the scheme between December 2017 to March 2022. There are six facilities located within the Riverina RRG, with a total of 71,138,296 million containers being recycled within the same period.

DRUMMUSTER

drumMUSTER provides an easy, environmentally friendly way of disposing of empty farming chemical containers across rural Australia. There are 34 collection points across the RAMJO region, with residents from every member council having access to this scheme.

WASTE AND RECYCLING EDUCATION

Education has played a vital role in the diversion of waste materials from landfill and will continue to be of value to the region. There are a number of waste and recycling education initiatives that have been present in the RAMJO region including:

EnviroMentors

The EnviroMentors program is managed by Keep Australia Beautiful and has previously delivered a variety of waste education sessions across both the Murray RRG and the Riverina RRG.

Halve Waste

Halve Waste is a behavioural change program that seeks to engage with the community and business sectors to change the way waste is managed. Halve Waste is a multifaceted initiative of Albury City Council, Federation Council and five other councils outside of the RAMJO region.

In-house Waste Education

Some councils in the region such as Murray River Council and Leeton Shire Council deliver waste education to their local communities through existing council resources.

The RAMJO Resource Recovery Education Road Map 2023-2027 is currently being developed. This document plans to roll out the Halve Waste education program across the RAMJO region, which will support member councils transition to a three-bin system. With the rollout of new co-mingled recycling and FOGO services within the region, the amount of waste education provided to the community is expected to increase substantially.



REGIONAL WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN THE RAMJO REGION

Member councils also rely heavily on infrastructure located outside the region such as Molycop 360 (Cootamundra), Kurrajong Recycling (Wagga), Carbon Mate (Wagga), Biomix (Stanhope) and the Veolia MRF (Echuca).

Cleanaway Co-mingled Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

The region hosts one MRF, which processes co-mingled recycling. The MRF is managed by Cleanaway and is located in Albury.



Commercial Food Organics Facility

GOTERRA initially undertook a trial processing commercial food waste using insects at the Albury Waste Management Centre, the trial has been a success and there are now discussions around making this initiative and infrastructure a permanent resource at the Albury Waste Management Centre. The biological services process food waste using black soldier fly larvae to convert food waste into high value, low-impact protein, and fertiliser in a turnaround time of 12 days. This initiative is targeted at commercial supermarket chains and food waste transport operators.

Worm Tech

Worm Tech is an organics processor that uses thermophilic composting and vermiculture techniques to process FOGO and other organic streams. Worm Tech has facilities located in Carrathool and Yenda and is the only organic facility located in the entire RAMJO region.

Hay MRF & Organics Processing Facility

Hay Shire Council have received funding for the development of the regional Hay MRF (located at the Hay Waste Transfer Station), which will see the processing of 6,400t of recyclable material from the region. The council are planning to undertake the processing (sorting, crushing, shredding and baling) of glass, tyres, paper, cardboard and hard plastics at the site.

In addition, Hay have also received funding for an organics processing facility at the same location. This facility will be key to ensuring the financial viability of the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) kerbside service in Hay and neighbouring shires. It will deliver diversion from landfill, compost production, council cost saving, landscaping improvements, as well as education, training and jobs opportunities for residents.

REGIONAL WASTE DIVERSION INITIATIVES

There are a number of regional initiatives and projects that are occurring throughout the region. The main projects that are currently occurring include:



Polystyrene Processing

A polystyrene processing plant diverts polystyrene material from landfill. The processing plant processes polystyrene material through a machine that melts the polystyrene down into small dense blocks that are used to make useful products, for example, building insulation and photo frames or reprocessed back into polystyrene foam.



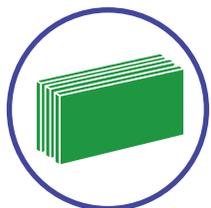
Business Soft Plastics Recycling Trial

The RAMJO Resource Recovery Team have been running a soft plastics recycling trial that has the scope to become a more permanent service across the region pending the results. If a favourable outcome is identified there is the potential this problematic waste material can be collected and diverted from landfill, recycled and continually reused within the region.



Sunset on Solar Trial

Working in collaboration with a local solar company this project aims to establish baseline data for existing solar panels entering the waste stream and prepare for large scale systems that will be entering in the coming years. This project will serve as proof of concept for collecting and processing expired solar panels in the region.



Circulate Plasterboard

Plasterboard processing is currently taking place in the region at the Albury Waste Management Centre. This process is leading to diversion, recycling and reuse of Construction and Demolition (C&D) and Commercial and Industrial (C&I) plasterboard waste using developed plasterboard recycling markets. Project partner Federation Council will trial collecting plasterboard waste, supporting more regional collection points to increase transport efficiencies and build a more robust rural circular economy.



CHALLENGES

Transport – costs and distance



Rural and remote councils have small rate bases and large geographical areas. The challenge for councils is transporting waste materials to facilities over long distances for repurposing and recycling. Transport costs are high and with limited infrastructure regionally, materials are often sent to landfill as this is the only viable economic option available.

As changes occur with legislation, opportunities for collaboration, product and transport milk runs and consolidation activities may present themselves to better address this challenge.

Lack of Infrastructure



Regional councils rely heavily on funding for infrastructure projects and associated resources to implement resource recovery practices in their Local Government Area (LGA). Councils are often challenged financially when applying for funding, in many cases the scope to contribute to co-funding requirements is not a viable option for councils.

Councils in the region see future infrastructure development as the highest priority to deliver programs of resource recovery and circular economy.

Data Collection



To support planning and funding opportunities, councils require quality data. A barrier faced by some member councils is the lack of quality information for strategic planning and the grant funding submission process.

Individual council's data capture varies through the region, some councils capture waste data using software platforms, others use manual processes and, in some instances, estimates of tonnages are provided based on population. This becomes problematic for councils particularly when there is a need to compare waste generated versus the waste diverted and supporting information for grant submissions. The aim will be to seek a base standard of data collection for all councils that supports a more accurate reflection of tonnages to landfill.

Resources



Some rural and remote councils have less resources than others, this often results in the primary waste contact having many responsibilities other than waste management. Limited council resources do not permit best practice waste management functions to be undertaken, these include items such as data collection, legislative reporting, grant funding applications, facility and site assessments, engaging in waste education and career development opportunities.

A lack of resourcing for waste services is common within smaller rural councils, which makes the development and introduction of new waste initiatives difficult. Under The Strategy, the aim is to better support all councils through collaborative procurement, knowledge sharing amongst stakeholders, regional funding opportunities and regional education programs.

WASTE, RECYCLING & RESOURCE RECOVERY DATA

TOTAL MATERIAL BURIED AND RECOVERED


379,175 t
Waste Material




188,638 t Recovered
50% Recovery Rate

379,175 tonnes of waste material has entered regional facilities, with 188,638 tonnes being recovered or recycled – approximately 50% recovery rate

Seeing as there was no data for 14 of the facilities (mostly small sites with minimal/no recovery), an estimation was made of the total volume of material coming into the region's landfills and transfer stations, of approximately 390,000t, and is likely to put the actual recovery rate to 48%.

This information is supported using **35** of the **49** facilities within the region as not all sites provided annual report information.

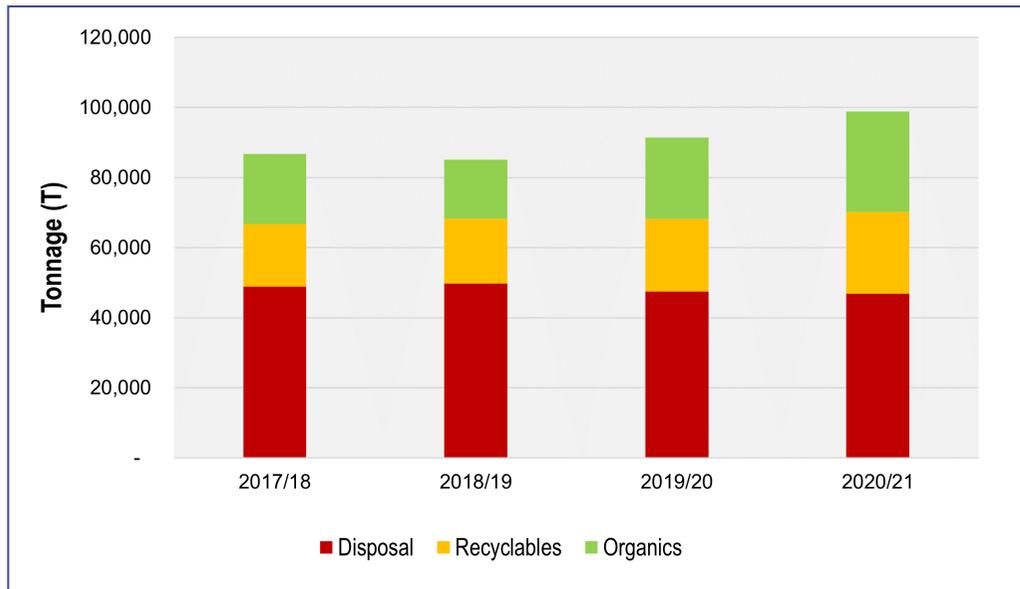
ASSUMPTIONS: For the purpose of assessing this data, an assumption was made that mixed waste, asbestos, biosolids or manures, residues or rejects, contaminated soil and veterinary waste were all buried, and all other materials were transported offsite for lawful recovery or used onsite (e.g., crushed concrete for landfill roads, soil for landfill capping etc).



KERBSIDE COLLECTION DATA

This section looks specifically at kerbside collection data. The data on the previous page is based on the Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report (LG WARR) between 2017/18 and 2020/21.

ANNUAL KERBSIDE COLLECTION MATERIAL GENERATION

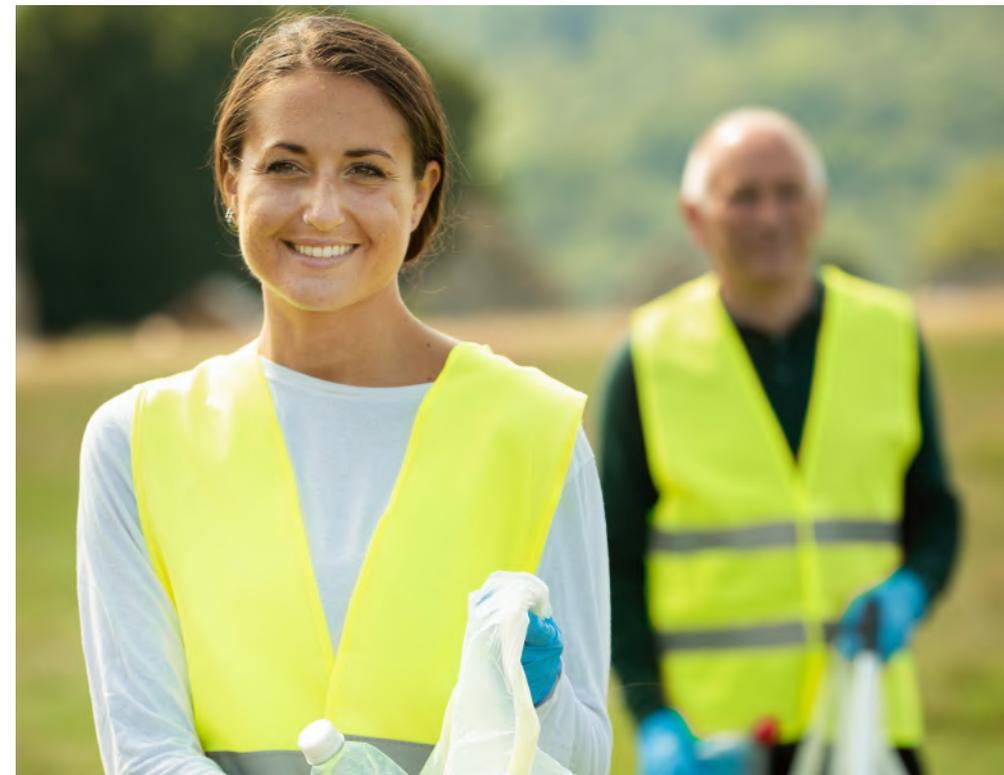
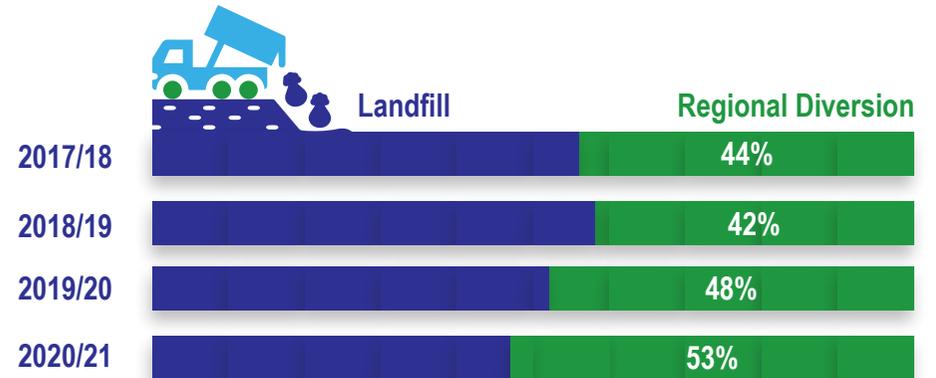


The kerbside collection material generation has increased from approximately 85,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) in 2017-18, to almost 100,000 tpa at the end of 2020/21. The figure above shows waste to landfill has generally remained the same. Therefore, the increase is a result of improved recovery of co-mingled recycling material and a greater collection of organics material. Increase in organic material in 2020/21 is likely due to the increased wet weather events experienced across the region this financial year in addition to improved recovery.

DIVERSION RESULTS

Based on the data, the region has consistently diverted more than 40% from landfill since 2017/18 as shown below. This diversion is trending upwards and aligns with the growth in recycling of recoverable materials of both co-mingled recycling and organics.

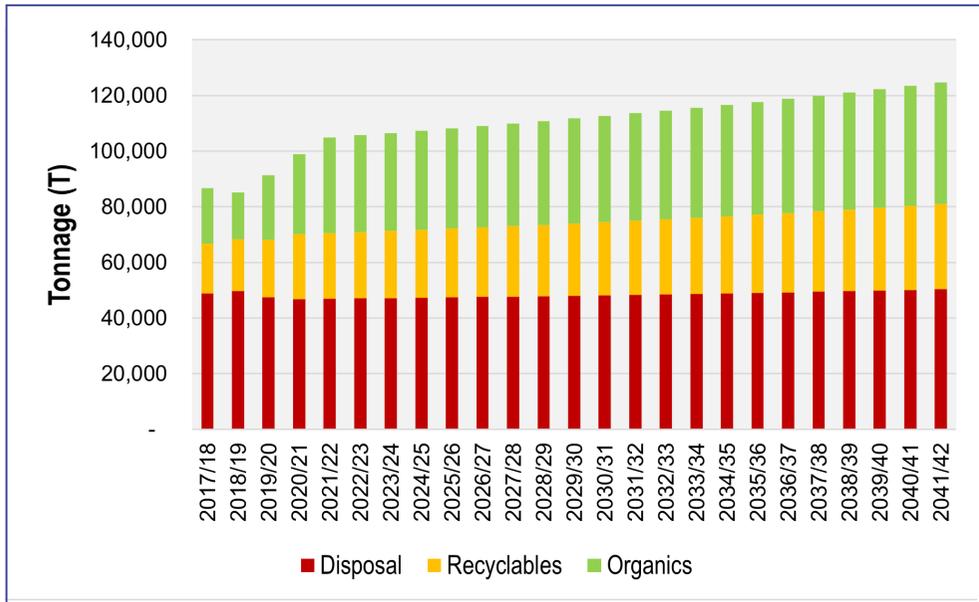
LOCAL AND RESIDENTIAL RAMJO DIVERSION RATES



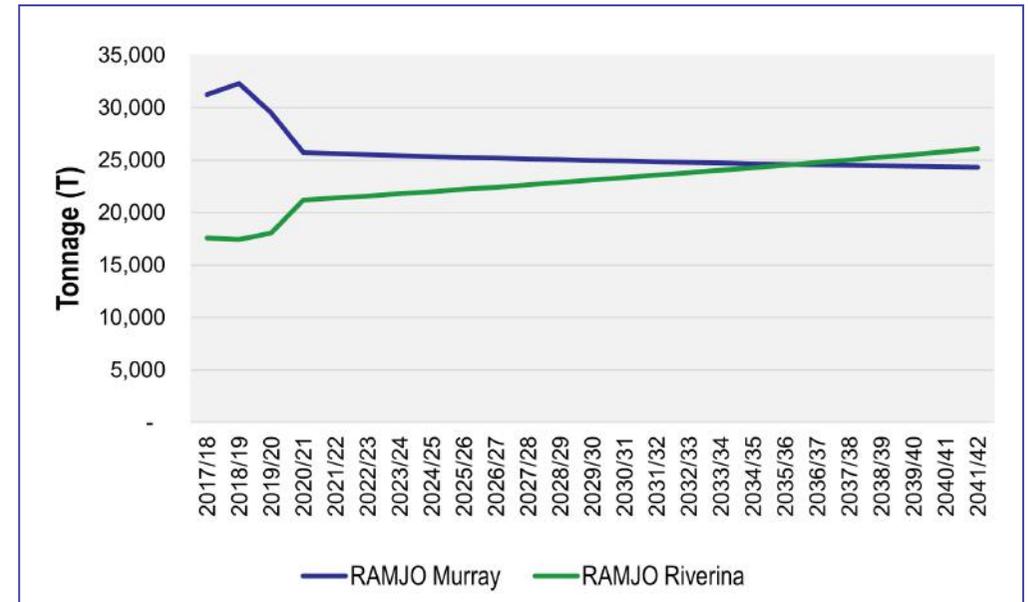
PROJECTIONS

Based on the four most recent years of LG WARR reports, waste growth and/or declining trends were investigated to understand and forecast material data for the next 20 years. Rates of change between each of the four years of LG WARR data were averaged and applied to the 2020/21 data set and projected to 2041/42 as show in the following figure.

ANNUAL WASTE PROJECTIONS OVERVIEW



ANNUAL RESIDUAL WASTE PROJECTION FOR THE TWO RAMJO SUB-REGIONS



The projection overview sees an increase in total material generation within the region however, this appears to be a result of increasing recoverable materials rather than those that are landfilled. Residual quantities remain largely steady.

The above demonstrates that within the Murray RRG, the generation of residual waste is declining slightly, the Riverina RRG is increasing over time. These results support the opportunity to continue to educate, develop programs to recover materials and consider the impacts these increases or decreases have on existing services and infrastructure.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO

A series of stakeholder engagement workshops were undertaken within the region to develop this Strategy. Feedback from the stakeholder workshops identified seven regional priorities which are explored below.

REGIONAL PRIORITY 1



Increase and Improve Waste Infrastructure in the Region

A thorough review will be undertaken to seek the feasibility of new infrastructure and the validity of improvements/expansion of existing sites. The review will consider types of infrastructure, locations, material quantities, transport and collection mechanisms to create greater scales of economy. With many member councils bordering on the Murray River, Victorian facilities will form part of the review.

RAMJO will work closely with member councils to facilitate and support the development of new processing and manufacturing infrastructure and, where possible, geographically locate infrastructure to maximise usage for member councils.

REGIONAL PRIORITY 2



Introduction and/or Expansion of Kerbside Services for Households and Businesses

As highlighted earlier in The Strategy, organics separation and collection has been mandated under the WaSM Strategy for large food generation businesses by 2025 and all households by 2030. Currently there are three councils that have introduced a FOGO service, with many councils also looking at introducing co-mingled recycling concurrently by 2030

Current kerbside collection services per council, with estimated year of introduction of additional kerbside services



Region	General Waste	Co-mingled recycling	FOGO
Murray RRG			
Albury City Council			
Balranald Shire Council		2030	2030
Berrigan Shire Council			2024
Edward River Council		2024	2024
Federation Council			
Murray River Council			
Wentworth Shire Council		2030	2030
Riverina RRG			
Carrathool Shire Council		2030	2030
Griffith City Council			2030
Hay Shire Council		2023/24	2023/24
Leeton Shire Council			2024
Murrumbidgee Council			2023/2024
Narrandera Shire Council			2030

REGIONAL PRIORITY 3



Increased Education and Community Engagement (schools, community events, social media etc)

Community education and engagement is critical to ensure that new waste initiatives such as the introduction of new services, projects or infrastructure are successful.

RAMJO will prioritise the development of an Education Roadmap to account for the region's growing waste requirements. Under The Strategy, RAMJO will develop a RAMJO Regional Resource Recovery Education Roadmap 2023-27. The vision of the roadmap is to work with Councils, Halve Waste and the other education providers to provide a multifaceted, consistent waste education campaign across the RAMJO region.

REGIONAL PRIORITY 4



Landfill Consolidation, Remediation and Rationalisation

Through amalgamations and historically, most member councils manage and operate several waste management facilities, which represents significant responsibility and cost. A Landfill Rationalisation Report will be developed to identify potential efficiencies for consolidation, remediation and rationalisation throughout the region.

REGIONAL PRIORITY 5



Utilising Funding Opportunities

Recycling and resource recovery costs are significant in regional NSW, due to the lack of infrastructure and the distance that materials need to travel in order to be re-processed. Regional councils have large geographical areas with small rates bases, which means that funding and financial support are critical for councils to meet federal, state and council waste diversion targets. In order to address the regional priorities that are listed above and meet state targets, it is important that all councils and RAMJO utilise funding opportunities.



REGIONAL PRIORITY 6



Collaboration

Regional collaboration is valuable and is the main purpose of the regional resource recovery groups. Collaboration supports councils by:

- Having a larger voice on industry and government platforms
- Greater economies of scale for procurement activities and projects
- Better information and idea sharing
- Identifying and implementing solutions to regional problems

REGIONAL PRIORITY 7



Working Towards the WaSM Strategy

The previous priorities have been identified by member councils in the development of this Strategy. However, there are still actions that need to be taken by the region in order to work toward state waste targets. These include preventing and minimising illegal dumping and litter, gas capture and correct hazardous waste disposal.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Regional waste coordinators around the state have developed the following strategic objectives that meet the priorities and themes identified in the WaSM Strategy

Regional objectives in response to the WaSM Strategy		NSW EPA Priorities and Strategy Themes			
Murray RRG	WaSM Priorities	Avoid Reduce	Recover Resources	Protect the Environment	Strategic Collaboration
Contribute to the reduction of total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030	C, P	X	X		
Contribute to average recovery rate of 80% for all streams by 2030	I, C, P		X		
Continue to reduce organic waste sent to landfill by 50%	C, I	X	X		
Support the NSW Govt to meet their target of net Zero emissions by 2050 through better waste and materials management	C, P			X	
Investigate and support innovative circular solutions to regional waste management	I, C	X	X		
Engage the community to correctly dispose of problem and hazardous waste	P			X	
Support the implementation of the NSW Plastics Plan	C, P		X	X	
Reduce the impact of litter and/or Illegal dumping on the environment	P			X	
Actively encourage equity in waste and resource recovery programs within vulnerable communities					
Encourage Councils to achieve sustainable procurement outcomes	C	X	X		
Support future waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs	I		X		X
Facilitate regional collaboration to improve disaster resilience and waste management planning	P, I			X	X
Continue to foster effective communication and collaboration with all stakeholders	I				X
Continue to advocate and contribute to policy decisions on behalf of member councils	I				X

C - Reduce carbon emissions I - Infrastructure and service needs P - protect human health and the environment



HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET THERE

The Strategy will be delivered over the next five years through an Action Implementation Plan (AIP).

The AIP is an adaptive plan and will be updated annually at the end of each financial year to align with the NSW EPA's end of financial year reporting. The AIP has been designed and developed to be adaptive around The Strategy's objectives to account for any changes in the industry as well as any regulatory changes. Actions, details of the responsible parties, timeframes for delivery and reportable KPIs are outlined in the AIP.

Action Implementation Plan					
Regional Priorities	No.	How we will achieve these outcomes	Responsibilities to deliver actions	Time frame	KPI's
Regional Priority 1 - Increase and Improve Waste Infrastructure in the Region	1.1	Ensuring all member councils have a council specific waste & resource recovery strategy	RAMJO/member councils	2027	Provide a template for member councils to use for the development of their own waste and resource recovery strategy or equivalent
	1.2	Work with the Scheme Coordinator and the Network Operator of the NSW Return and Earn program to increase CDS infrastructure throughout the region	RAMJO/Scheme Coordinator/ Network Operator	2025	Advocate on behalf of member councils to expand the Return and Earn container deposit scheme by incorporating more locations throughout the RAMJO region (currently have 14 sites).
	1.3	Conduct a feasibility study to determine locations across the region for key waste and resource recovery infrastructure	RAMJO/consultant	2023	Deliver a regional resource recovery infrastructure feasibility study
	1.4	Support councils to improve their waste management facilities and recover more materials	RAMJO/member councils	Ongoing	RAMJO to support member councils to implement more sustainable management practices at their sites
Regional Priority 2 - Introduction and/or Expansion of Kerbside Services for Households and Businesses	2.1	Support councils, households and businesses in the transition to additional services (co-mingled recycling & FOGO)	RAMJO	2024	Apply for grant funding where possible. Work with member councils to find localised solutions for the acceptance of materials. Explore opportunities to source and use base line data from kerbside auditing to determine projects.
	2.2	Initiate opportunities for community-based waste reduction programs where services may not be available	RAMJO	2024	Explore alternative waste disposal options
Regional Priority 3 - Increased Education and Community Engagement (schools, community events, social media etc)	3.1	Design, develop and implement the RAMJO Regional Resource Recovery Education Roadmap 2023-27 and annual education plan	RAMJO	2023	To deliver the RAMJO Regional Resource Recovery Education Roadmap 2023-27
	3.2	The RAMJO region will adopt the Halve Waste education program and collaborate with external stakeholders to deliver this throughout the region	RAMJO/ Halve Waste/ Petaurus/ member councils	Ongoing	Member councils to participate in the Halve Waste Education Campaign, with RAMJO facilitating the delivery of the program

Action Implementation Plan

Regional Priorities	No.	How we will achieve these outcomes	Responsibilities to deliver actions	Time frame	KPI's
Regional Priority 4 - Landfill Consolidation, Remediation and Rationalisation	4.1	Update the Regional Landfill Rationalisation Report	RAMJO	2023	Update the RAMJO Regional Landfill Rationalisation Report. Engage with member councils to deliver on the recommendations of the report
Regional Priority 5 - Utilising Funding Opportunities	5.1	Source and submit regional grant funding opportunities to support resource recovery programs/infrastructure	RAMJO	Ongoing	Annually submit a minimum of two grant funding applications for regional projects, programs, services or infrastructure
Regional Priority 6 - Collaboration	6.1	Advocate and represent member councils at regional, state and federal levels	RAMJO	Ongoing	Coordinate regional submissions on waste decisions that will impact RAMJO member councils. Attend workshops, events, consultations, briefings, and similar events hosted by government and industry
	6.2	Maintain and renew existing regional collaborative procurement arrangements, looking for new opportunities for collaboration	RAMJO/member councils	Ongoing	"Maintain and renew the scrap metal, garden & timber and CRC education and communication contracts Add an additional two regional collaborative arrangements by 2027"
	6.3	Facilitate information sharing and engagement opportunities with member councils, RENEW and other stakeholders	RAMJO/member councils/RENEW	Ongoing	Attend four RENEW meetings annually. Organise regular face-to-face and online waste group meetings as per the Terms of Reference. Share information via a variety of platforms (email, phone, monthly newsletters, social media)
	6.4	Support circular economy principles over the term of this Strategy by seeking opportunities to collaborate with the community, businesses, recyclers and/or manufacturers	RAMJO	2024	Research and identify opportunities and funding to deliver a regional circular economy project
	6.5	Develop and implement a data collection methodology for consistent reporting requirements	RAMJO	2026	Implement a methodology for all councils to utilise for annual reporting purposes
	6.6	Using data collection (kerbside and landfill facilities) to support programs to reduce waste to landfill	RAMJO	Annually	Use data to support future funding applications and assist in making informed decisions
Regional Priority 7 - Working Toward WaSM Strategy	7.1	Develop a RAMJO Regional Illegal Dumping Roadmap 2023-27 which will provide guidance on prevention, enforcement, management, collection, and disposal of illegally dumped waste	RAMJO/member councils	2023	Development of the RAMJO Regional Illegal Dumping Roadmap 2023-27
	7.2	Develop a RAMJO Regional Litter Prevention Roadmap which will provide guidance on prevention, enforcement and management of litter	RAMJO/member councils	2023	Development of the RAMJO Regional Litter Prevention Roadmap 2023-27
	7.3	Identify regional landfills that meet legislative requirements for gas capture, and assist those councils looking for suitable options	RAMJO/member councils	2027	Explore and identify opportunities for councils that meet the criteria for gas capture
	7.4	Deliver community education on hazardous waste and correct disposal	RAMJO	Ongoing	Deliver an annual regional CRC Education and Communication Campaign

OVERVIEW OF RIVERINA AND MURRAY WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

LANDFILLS AND TRANSFER STATIONS						OTHER FACILITIES IN LGA		
Council	Location	Licensed?	CRC?	Weighbridge?	drumMUSTER?	Return and Earn	Organics Processing	MRF
RIVERINA RRG								
Carrathool Shire Council	MRF	No	No	No	Yes	IGA Hillston	Wormtech	No
	Hillston Landfill	No	No	No	Yes			
	Goolgowi Transfer Station	No	No	No	Yes			
	Merriwagga Landfill	No	No	No	No			
	Rankin Springs Landfill	No	No	No	Yes			
Griffith City Council	Tharbogang Waste Management Facility	Yes - EPL 5875	Yes	Yes	Yes	Griffith Foodworks	No	No
	Yenda Waste Management Centre	Yes - EPL 6263	No	No	No	Woolworths Griffith North		
Hay Shire Council	Hay Waste Transfer Station	No	Yes	No	Yes	Hay Services Club and Fitness Centre		
	Booligal Landfill	No	No	No	No			
	Maude Landfill	No	No	No	No			
Leeton Shire Council	Leeton Landfill and Recycling Centre	Yes - EPL 11863	Yes	Yes	Yes	Woolworths Leeton	No	No
	Whitton Transfer Station	No	No	No	No			
Murrumbidgee Council	Coleambally Waste Depot	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
	Jerilderie Landfill	No	Yes	No	No			
	Jerilderie Common Tip	No	No	No	No			
	Darlington Point Waste Depot	No	No	No	No			
Narrandera Shire Council	Barellan Waste Depot	No	No	No	Yes	Narrandera Waste Depot	No	No
	Narranderra Waste Depot	No	Yes	No	Yes			
MURRAY RRG								
Albury City Council	Albury Waste Management Centre	Yes - EPL 6017	Yes	Yes	Yes	PCYC Albury Albury Return and Earn Lavington Square Coles Lavington	GoTerra	Cleanaway MRF & the C&D MRF coming soon
Balranald Shire Council	Balranald Landfill	No	No	No	Yes	Balranald Takeaway	No	No
	Euston Landfill	No	No	No	Yes			

OVERVIEW OF RIVERINA AND MURRAY WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Council	Location	LANDFILLS AND TRANSFER STATIONS				OTHER FACILITIES IN LGA		
		Licensed?	CRC?	Weighbridge?	drumMUSTER?	Return and Earn	Organics Processing	MRF
Berrigan Shire Council	Berrigan Landfill	No	Yes	No	Yes	Barooga Return and Earn Simmons Recycling Tocumwal IGA Finley	No	No
	Finley Recycling Centre	No	No	No	No			
	Tocumwal Landfill	No	No	No	No			
Edward River Council	Deniliquin Landfill	Yes - EPL 6188	Yes	No	Yes	Service NSW Deniliquin	No	No
	Booroorban Landfill	No	No	No	No			
	Blightly Landfill	No	Yes	No	No			
	Conargo Landfill	No	No	No	No			
	Pretty Pine Landfill	No	No	No	No			
	Wanganella Landfill	No	No	No	No			
Federation Council	Corowa Landfill	Yes - EPL 5901	Yes	No	Yes	Mulwala Laundry Corowa Return and Earn Corowa RSL Club	No	No
	Mulwala Transfer Station	No	No	No	No			
	Urana Landfill	No	Yes	No	Yes			
	Oaklands Landfill	No	No	No	Yes			
	Howlong Landfill	No	No	No	No			
Murray River Council	Moama Landfill	Yes - EPL 7395	Yes	Yes	No	Woolworths Moama Barham Newsagency	No	No
	Cummeragunja Transfer Station	No	No	No	No			
	Koraleigh Landfill	No	No	No	Yes			
	Moulamein Landfill	No	No	No	Yes			
	Mathoura Waste Transfer Station	No	No	No	Yes			
	Barham Waste Transfer Station	No	No	No	Yes			
	Goodnight Landfill	No	No	No	Yes			
	Wakool Landfill	No	No	No	Yes			
Wentworth Shire Council	Buronga Landfill	Yes - EPL 20209	Yes	Yes	Yes	Channings Dareton	No	No
	Ellerslie Tip	No	No	No	No			
	Pomona Tip	No	No	No	Yes			
	Dareton Transfer Station	No	No	No	Yes			
	Wentworth Transfer Station	No	No	No	No			
	Pooncarie Landfill	No	No	No	No			





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