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Abbreviations / Glossary

Abbreviation	Description
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
C&D	Construction and Demolition
C&I	Commercial and Industrial
CDS	Container Deposit Scheme
CRC	Community Recycling Centre
CRJO	Canberra Region Joint Organisation
DWM	Domestic Waste Management
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
FOGO	Food Organics and Garden Organics
GO	Green/Garden Organics
GWM	General Waste Management
LGA	Local Government Area
MGB	Mobile Garbage Bin
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
MUDs	Multi-Unit Dwellings
NSW	New South Wales
ОСМ	O'Connor Marsden & Associates Pty Ltd
OFI	Opportunity For Improvement
POEO	Protection of the Environment Operations
QCC	Former Queanbeyan City Council
QPRC or Council	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
RRC	Resource Recovery Centre
RRS	Rural Recycling Stations
SUDs	Single-Unit Dwellings
TOMRA	The network operator, responsible for setting up and operating the network of return points and ensuring collected containers under the NSW Return and Earn Scheme are recycled
WAMI	Waste Minimisation Centre
WARR	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy
WTS	Waste Transfer Station

Strategy at a glance

Based on a review of current waste services in the LGA, current policy and best practices the following issues, opportunities and actions have been identified to support QPRC's management of waste while increasing resource recovery and developing the circular economy locally.

Kerbside services



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Issue 1: Expand FOGO services to comply with the Protection of the Enuironment Legislation Amendment (FOGO Recycling) Act 2025 regulatory deadline by 2030.	Conduct a review of FOGO roll-out service provisions for urban SUDs, MUDs and Rural 2-bin services in preparation for the mandates by 2030.	 Collection cost increase. FOGO processing cost increase. Landfill disposal cost decrease. Improved circular economy outcomes.
Recognition that rural residents have specific challenges for consideration.	Review waste services offered to rural residents to provide waste services which support improved equity/access to services, positive environmental outcomes and are financially viable for Council and residents.	Service cost increase.Improved service level.



Bulky waste



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Issue 2: The kerbside bulky waste collection service faces challenges related to demand exceeding availability and funding limitations. Issue 3: Bulky waste – provide an efficient and equitable service to residents and financially viable for council and residents.	Review options for the bulky waste service for the LGA to look at service needs, cost effectiveness and access for rural and remote residents, including: BAU; Kerbside bulky waste service as per BAU (with increased service availability), plus voucher system for households not currently eligible to use kerbside service to drop off at predetermined QPRC waste facilities. Opportunity 1: Provide a voucher system to residents (all households) to drop off at predetermined QPRC waste facilities.	 Service cost increase as service capacity increases. Improved service level. Reduced service cost if self-haul vouchers are preferred. Greater resource recovery with self-haul vouchers. Greater uptake of waste app improves waste communications and education. Increased diversion of reusable items currently disposed to landfill.
Increase reuse of bulky waste items	Opportunity 2: Enhance buy-back centres to increase the recovery of reusable materials.	 Potentially cost neutral if operates on a cost recovery model. Greater resource recovery. Improved customer satisfaction.

Reduce / reuse recycle



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Reduce waste generation, and increase reuse, repair and recycling.	 Explore home composting workshop and promotional programs. Review placement of CDS collection point (TOMRA) at a Council site. Explore appropriate clothing bins in town centres. Explore options to increase access to existing or future product stewardship schemes. Explore the feasibility of establishing a partnership-based initiative, potentially with a charity or non-for-profit, to restore and refurbish quality furniture recovered from bulky waste collections or drop-offs. Conduct a material flow analysis of Council generated wastes to identify how Council can lead in procurement policies and procedures that support the circular economy locally. 	 Improve education and awareness. Reduce costly and ineffective public place recycling. Improve community engagement in resource recovery. Divert waste/recover resources. Utilise recycled materials locally.

Operational facilities



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Issue 11: Transport to Shellharbour for FOGO processing is inefficient, reflects lack of local processing infrastructure.	Opportunity 3: Review options for cost effective local solutions for FOGO processing, including Council own and operate model.	 Reduced service cost. Higher operational risk. Reduced transport distances. Local employment opportunity. Circular economy opportunity to use more recycled organics locally.
Improve residential access to waste services.	Opportunity 4: Expand operating hours and staffing at Braidwood and Bungendore WTS to enhance efficiency and service accessibility. Including hiring one additional full time equivalent (FTE) to assist operations at Braidwood WTS. Reinstate Team Leader Central Waste role and ensure reporting lines are arranged to ensure Bungendore WTS is effectively managed.	 Increased operating cost at Braidwood WTS. Cost neutral at Bungendore WTS. Improved level of service to rural community.
Issue 4: On-going misuse of rural recycling stations.	Implement a phased approach to replace rural recycling stations with alternatives such as bin compounds under a user-pays principle, considering contamination and service viability.	 Reduced service cost. Some cost recovery via user charges. Better ability to manage contamination. Improved resource recovery.
Issue 5: Self-hauled garden waste received at the Queanbeyan WAMI, Bungendore RRC and Braidwood WTS is shredded on-site and is sent to Soilco for processing.	Review options for cost effective local solutions for GO processing, including Council own and operate model.	 Divert waste/recover resources. Utilise recycled materials locally. Reduced transport distances. Local employment opportunity. Circular economy opportunity to use more recycled organics locally.
Issue 6: Limitations of the WAMI site due to size and location, limiting its ability to accept broader range of materials, including general waste, and increased throughput.	Review the options for waste transfer within Queanbeyan urban area, and whether the existing Queanbeyan WAMI remains fit-for-purpose, including exploring opportunities to repurpose the site for circular economy initiatives such as a tip shop or reuse centre.	 Improved service level. Improved circular economy outcomes.
Issue 7: Staffing levels at many waste facilities does not provide sufficient supervision, and coverage of staff sickness and leave which results in additional exposure to public safety and environmental risks.	Improve supervision, accountability, and leave coverage, better understand usage patterns, streamline procurement, contract, and customer service admin through development and implementation of a workplace change proposal.	 Improved service level. Better utilisation of staff and resources.

Operational facilities (continued)



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Issue 8: Poor recording of loads and internal Council access outside of hours without proper cost recovery.	Review recording process and procedures. Upgrade software at waste facilities.	Improved data recording.
Urban encroachment and landfill capacity in the region.	Review the "future proofing" of the Bungendore RRC with regard to increasing population and urban encroachment.	Future proofing / planning for local infrastructure.
	Review risks associated with dwindling landfill capacity in the region and consider risk mitigation strategies in the development of new waste disposal contracts.	

Staffing and resourcing



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Improve staff and resourcing of waste management in the LGA.	Opportunity 5: Support the development and resourcing of waste management within Council to increase efficiency and outcomes including:	Improved service level.Professional development of staff.
	Invest in staff upskilling and review pay rates.	
	Review staffing structure duties to meet changing operational requirements.	
	Introduce competency training such as a Cert III/IV in waste management as a necessary qualification to be obtained by waste operations staff.	
	Develop a detailed operational policies/procedure as a resource for staff.	

Transfer systems, green waste and source separated waste at small transfer stations



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Issue 9: Green waste, mattress, tyre, battery, hazardous waste items, construction waste currently being disposed of at small bin compounds and transfer stations. This is not feasible and increases risks associated with fire and environmental compliance. Mode of transfer at small transfer station is not consistent or efficient and includes a mix of MGBs, open bays, stockpiles, hook lift bins etc. which should be standardised where possible to improve operational efficiency, work, health and safety and environmental compliance.	Consider alternatives to stockpiling of green waste at small facilities. Standardise the model of operation for larger transfer stations, small transfer stations and bin compounds. This will be achieved through the development of a Transition and Communications Plan to engage stakeholders prior to changes being implemented. Upgrade small transfer stations to accommodate efficient transfer systems (e.g. hook lift bins).	 Positive environmental outcomes. Reduce environmental and WHS risks.Increased distance for rural/ remote residents to dispose of some wastes. Greater efficiency and economy of transfer station operations.

Public place bins



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Issue 10: High contamination rates and low resource recovery from public place bins.	Review options for management of general waste and recycling in public areas e.g. wire CDS baskets.	 Reduce costly and ineffective public place recycling. Opportunity for community recovery of CDS refund.

Business waste



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Issue 12: Business waste diversion programs are not well utilised.	Continue to support and promote the NSW Government BinTrim business waste education programs to cover the entire LGA.	Divert waste/recover resources.Increase education and awareness.
FOGO Mandate on commercial premises.	Review provision of a FOGO collection for businesses within existing domestic waste collection zones to support the upcoming commercial FOGO mandate.	Improved service level.Service cost increase.Divert food organics from landfill.

Food rescue



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Increase C&I recycling in the region.	Continue to participate in the CRJO Food Rescue program. Opportunity 6: Investigate opportunities to support local business through their purchasing practices, waste management contracts, provision of appropriately zoned land, education activities and/ or direct investment.	 Improved circular economy outcomes. Divert waste/recover resources. Increase education and awareness. Support social outcomes within community.

Construction and demolition waste



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Better management and diversion of C&D waste.	Opportunity 7: Review C&D waste management practices for potential improvements, including expanding operations at Braidwood WTS to include C&D processing.	 Divert waste/recover resources. Utilise recycled materials locally. Potentially revenue generating operation. Creation of local jobs.

Education



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Utilise existing education materials and services, and develop new material to increase community awareness/ education	Opportunity 8: Consider better utilisation of waste app for the following potential purposes; as a communications tool; a platform for delivery of education; waste/bulky waste disposal vouchers; an on-line booking and payment portal for waste related activities (e.g. tours, kerbside clean-ups, missed collections).	 Improved service level. Greater uptake of waste app improves waste communications and education.
	Review opportunities for implementation of first nations/CALD/accessible education programs/materials.	

Natural disaster management



Issue / Opportunity	Action	Potential Impact
Proactive planning for waste and resource recovery following a natural disaster.	Opportunity 9: Prepare a plan for the management of waste generated by natural disasters.	 Proactive management to reduce environmental and community impact of waste from a natural disaster. Quick response to disposal and recycling of waste.



Introduction

Background

The Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC / Council) is located in the Southern Tablelands region of New South Wales (NSW) and covers an area of about 5,300 km².

The Council serves a population of approximately 65,369 people. Major townships include Queanbeyan, Bungendore, Braidwood and Googong. There are also several rural villages and a number of large residential populations living in rural-residential to the west near the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) border.

The Council Local government area (LGA) and main waste facilities are shown in Figure 1 (page 13).

This Strategy fosters meaningful community engagement around sustainable waste management, ensuring that local needs and priorities are reflected while maintaining financial responsibility.

This Strategy forms an update to the 2021 Waste Strategy to reflect the successful ongoing implementation and/or completion of 53 of the 85 actions, including:

- Expansion of the FOGO collection service to urban areas, including Queanbeyan, Googong, and Jerrabomberra;
- Appointment of a dedicated Waste Education Officer to lead community education and engagement programs and to develop and implement a routine bin inspection program aimed at reducing contamination in kerbside collections;
- Expansion of the bulky waste collection to all urban properties and discontinued the bulky waste collection service to all other properties;
- Completion of the rehabilitation of Bungendore Landfill, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations;
- Completion of a comprehensive review of kerbside waste services, with the tender process completed and awarded to J.J. Richards (Commenced April 2025); and
- Completion of a waste audit across the QPRC LGA in 2023 to inform waste management strategies and service improvements.

To review the status of all actions under the 2021 Strategy, refer to Appendix A of the '2025 Waste Strategy – Extended Version'.

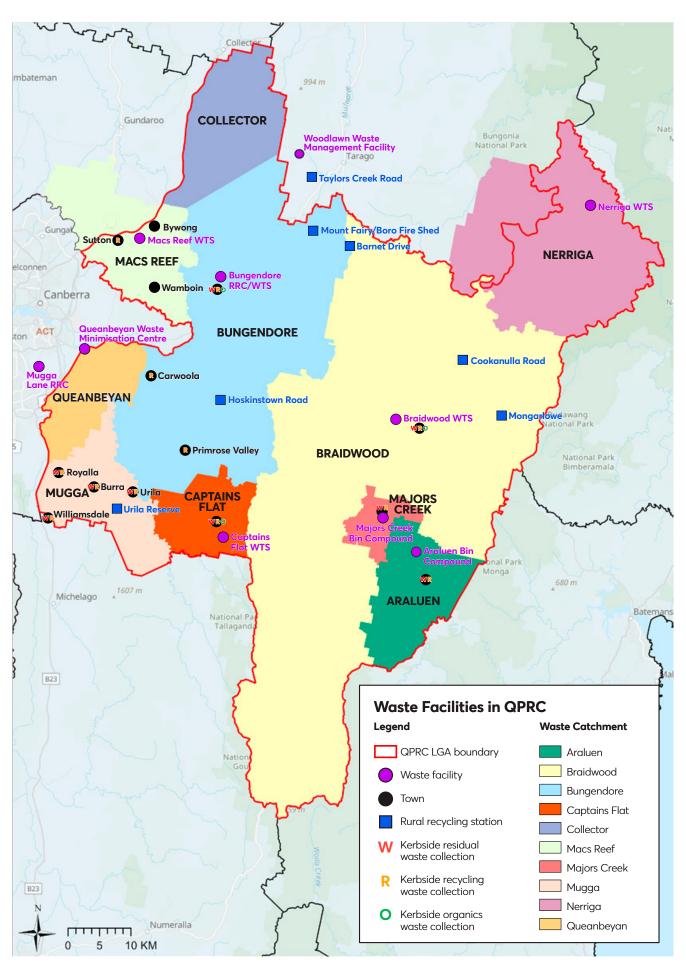


Figure 1: QPRC local government area and waste facilities/management

Objectives of the Waste Strategy

This Strategy has been prepared to provide an approach for waste and resource management in the LGA over the next 20 years in a manner which maximises landfill diversion and resource recovery.

The key objectives of the Waste Strategy are to:

- provide an overview of the existing waste management practices and services offered;
- engage and gauge community views on current and potential waste management options;
- identify options for waste management and resource recovery across the whole LGA, in consideration of population growth, adequacy and longevity of existing waste infrastructure, urban encroachment and recognition of rural/ remote service considerations;
- develop key actions to assist Council in implementing the Waste Strategy over a 20-year timeframe;

- provide consistency with and the ability to meet the objective and ambitions of the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 and the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) Regional Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy and Action Plan 2022-27 (CRJO Strategy), and Roadmap; and
- Meeting the objective of a sustainable, "clean green" community outlined in the QPRC 2017 Strategic Directions paper.

Mural artwork by Emilia • Painting for Positivity https://www.instagram.com/emmype.e/



Development of the Strategy

Council is currently at the stage of exhibiting the Draft Waste Strategy to gain feedback from the community on the proposed waste management and resource recovery plan for the next 20 years.

Once adopted the Strategy will provide the endorsed plan for determining budgets and developing implementation plans to provide services in line with the action plan provided in this Strategy.



Figure 2: Development of the Waste Strategy Process

Key Legislation and Guidelines

The following are current legislative and regulatory environment at a State and National Level impacting on waste management in QPRC.

- · National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019;
- Commonwealth Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020;
- NSW Local Government Act 1993:
- NSW Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act 1997;
- NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Waste Regulation 2014;
- NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (Stage 1: 2021-2027);
- NSW Plastics Action Plan;

- NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement: Too Good to Waste 2019;
- CRJO Regional Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2022-2027;
- CRJO Canberra Region Waste and Circular Economy Roadmap 2025-2035;
- NSW Product Lifecycle Responsibility Act 2025; and
- ACT Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016 (the Waste Act).



Population and Waste Generation

Population and Households

QPRC covers an area of approximately 5,319 km2. According to the ABS 2023 Census, QPRC LGA population currently stands at 65,369. Council's population is forecast to increase by 27.99% to a total of 85,084 by 2041.

Most of this population growth is expected to occur in greater Queanbeyan and the new estates of Tralee and Googong and the township of Bungendore. These trends are evident in the projected increase in the number of households in the QPRC LGA over the next 20 years.

Not all areas of QPRC receive domestic waste management services, largely due to the geographic area, low population density, and remoteness of some communities. These factors make it logistically and economically unfeasible to provide standard kerbside services across the whole LGA.

Municipal Solid Waste Generation and Diversion

QPRC generates MSW from kerbside collection, waste dropped off at waste transfer stations and landfills (self-hauled) and bulky waste collection. Average resource recovery rates for the whole of Australia and NSW are presented in Table 1.

Based on the QPRC 2023-2024 WaRR Return, QPRC achieves around 45% diversion from landfill for kerbside services, and 52% diversion for the LGA including all drop-off facilities and bulky waste². This is in line with the rates achieved in NSW and exceeds the average for NSW non-levy areas.

- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council | population forecast, idcommunity – demographic resources. Viewed 31 May 2018, https://forecast.id.com.au/queanbeyan-palerang
- 2 Excludes public waste and illegal dumping

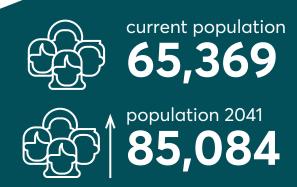


Table 1: Estimates of average resource recovery in Australia and NSW

Waste Category	aste Category Australia 2022-23 ³		NSW non-levy area
MSW	52%	48%4	43%4
C&I	58%	47% ⁵	64% ⁵
C&D	81%	81%⁵	34%5

Based on the waste bin audits undertaken in 2023 (EC Sustainable, 2023) the current kerbside diversion rates and potential diversion rates based on improved additional resource recovery is given in Table 6, with maximum resource recovery there is potential to increase the kerbside diversion rate to up to 72%, where a FOGO service is implemented.

Table 2: Diversion rate (% by weight) - current and potential

Diversion rate type	Recyclables	Garden organics	Food	Compostable liners	Overall
Current	13.83	35.15	2.25	0.07	51.31
Potential	19.66	36.19	15.91	0.08	71.85

³ National Waste Report 2022-23, Blue Environment, December 2024

⁴ NSW EPA 2022-2023 WARR Progress Data Report

⁵ NSW EPA WaRR Strategy Progress Report 2017-18

Current Waste Management

QPRC manages a network of waste facilities across the LGA to provide disposal and recycling services to both urban and rural communities.

These facilities include RRCs, WTSs, rural recycling stations (RRSs), and bin compounds. The facilities vary in size, infrastructure, and level of service, depending on the location and population density.

A number of these sites are unmanned, unfenced, and have minimal surveillance, making them vulnerable to illegal dumping and contamination. Rural recycling stations and bin compounds have been identified as high-risk sites requiring targeted upgrades or service model reviews. Meanwhile, larger facilities like Bungendore and Braidwood serve as regional hubs and have benefited from more substantial investment.

While they are not yet at capacity, operational constraints such as limited opening hours and transfer frequency affect service delivery. These limitations are being addressed, particularly at Bungendore

RRC, where a shift to transferring Queanbeyan/Googong/Jerrabomberra waste to Woodlawn will enable extended staffing and daily operations, improving access and efficiency.

QPRC has also made significant progress in the staged closure and rehabilitation of former landfills, which reduces long-term environmental risk but places financial pressure on Council due to high remediation costs. Future strategic investment is needed to ensure that remaining operational sites are fit-for-purpose and can adapt to the region's growing waste management needs.

Based on a comprehensive review of QPRC's current waste services, operational challenges, and opportunities for improvement, the Strategy action plan has been developed to guide future service delivery across three key areas: Domestic Waste Management, General Waste Management, and Business Waste Management.

This plan responds to identified community needs, aligns with regulatory obligations and strategic goals, and aims to enhance service equity, increase resource recovery, and ensure the long-term sustainability of QPRC's waste management system.

Residential Waste Services

The waste services provided by QPRC for each waste catchment are summarised in Table 3 and Table 4, while Figure 1 provides an overview of the waste facilities located within the QPRC area.

Table 3: QPRC Waste Collection Services

Catchment	Residual	Recycling	FOGO
Braidwood, Bungendore, Captains Flat, Queanbeyan – Urban	140L W	240L F	240L F
Burra/Royalla/Urila/Williamsdale/ Googong (rural), Carwoola (former Queanbeyan) (rural), Majors Creek/Araluen	240L F	240L F	N/A
Carwoola (former Palerang) (rural), Primrose Valley (rural)	N/A	240L F	N/A
Queanbeyan – Urban	240L W	240L F	240L F
Queanbeyan – Multi-unit shared^	240L W	240L F	N/A
Sutton Acres	N/A	240L F	N/A
Vacant (no service)	N/A	N/A	N/A

W Weekly collection, F Fortnightly collection, N/A Collection service not offered

[^] Some shared multi-unit bins are collected twice weekly



Table 4: Summary of waste services for the main townships in the QPRC

Waste Catchment	Township/ Locality	Residual	Recycling	FOGO	Bin Compound	RRS*	WTS	RRC	Bulky Waste
Araluen	Araluen								
Bungendore	Bungendore								
	Primrose Valley								
	Carwoola (former Queanbeyan & Palerang)								
	Hoskinstown								
	Mount Fairy					two sites			
	Tarago								
Braidwood	Braidwood								
	Durran Durra								
	Mongarlowe								
Captains Flat	Captains Flat								
Macs Reef	Bywong/ Wamboin								
	Sutton East								
Majors Creek	Majors Creek								
Nerriga	Nerriga								
Burra District	Royalla								
	Burra								
	Urila	selected areas	selected areas						
	Williamsdale	selected areas							
Queanbeyan	Urban								
	Rural								

Table 5 below provides an overview of the purpose and function of each type of Council-operated waste facility.

Table 5: QPRC Waste Facilities Description

Facility Type	Facilities	Purpose
Central waste management facility	WAMI (Waste Minimisation Centre)	 Provide transfer of organic waste and limited recycling. Provide drop-off of select CRC materials.
Resource Recovery Centre WTS	Bungendore Braidwood	 Provide residential drop off of waste, recycling and garden organics. Provide commercial drop off of waste and recycling. Bulk and transfer of kerbside collection waste to Woodlawn. Provide drop-off of select CRC materials. Provide a Buy back shop.
Regional WTS	Captains Flat Nerriga Macs Reef	Provide residential drop-off of waste and commingled recycling (normally serviced by kerbside collection).
Bin Compound	Majors Creek Araluen	Provide residential drop-off of residual and recyclable waste (replacement for kerbside collection in the area).
Rural Recycling Stations	Hoskinstown Mount Fairy Durran Durra Mongarlowe Urila Tarago Barnet Drive Taylors Creek	Provide residential drop-off of recyclables (normally serviced by kerbside collection).



Operational Facilities

The council faces challenges, particularly in managing self-haul organic waste, C&D waste, as well as dealing with problematic materials. The issues or opportunities for improvement related to each facility are provided in Table 6.

Table 6: Existing Council Waste Infrastructure

Facilities	Description	Operational comments
WAMI (Waste Minimisation Centre)	Central waste management facility for transfer of organic waste and limited recycling. The WAMI does not accept general solid waste. Includes a CRC for drop-off of problem wastes and supporting recycling initiatives.	 Limitations of the WAMI site due to size, location and ageing infrastructure, limiting its ability to accept broader range of materials increase throughput. The facility is currently unable to accept general waste, reducing its effectiveness as a centralised waste management hub for a growing population. Requires a review regarding capacity and future role.
Bungendore RRC and WTS	Recycling and WTS with upgraded recycling storage and transfer areas. Includes a CRC for drop-off of problem wastes and supporting recycling initiatives. Includes a Buy Back Shop for resale of unwanted items	 Site is used for bulking and transfer of kerbside collected general waste to Veolia's Woodlawn Eco Precinct. Recycling is transported to the Canberra Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for processing. Self-hauled garden waste is shredded on site but lacks infrastructure for further processing locally. Contracted to SoilCo until October 2029. Ongoing review of measures to mitigate amenity impact due to population growth and urban encroachment. Constraints include limited operating days/hours. Recording of loads delivered and access by outside of operational hours is poor and impacts cost recovery. Increased development of surrounding land with residential developments raising concerns about urban encroachment.
Braidwood RRC and WTS (Bombay Road)	Recycling and WTS providing waste separation to support recycling, reuse, and landfill diversion. Includes a Buy Back Shop for resale of unwanted items.	 Self-hauled garden waste is shredded on site but lacks infrastructure for further processing locally. Contracted to SoilCo until October 2029. Constraints include limited operating days/hours. Ideally should include a CRC. Recording of loads delivered and access by outside of operational hours is poor and impacts cost recovery.
Captains Flat WTS	WTS accepting general household waste, kerbside yellow bin recyclables, white goods, scrap metal, and motor oil.	 Services residents with no kerbside collection. Limited infrastructure restricts capacity for green waste handling, fire control and recovery activities.

Facilities	Description	Operational comments
Macs Reef / Bywong WTS	WTS accepting general household waste, kerbside yellow bin recyclables, and motor oil.	 Services residents without kerbside collection. Limited infrastructure restricts capacity for green waste handling, fire control and recovery activities.
Nerriga WTS (Interim Transfer Station)	Nerriga has a small interim transfer station arrangement in place. Bulky wastes are placed in 15 cubic metre hook lift bins. MGBs for general waste and household recyclables. A permanent, small waste transfer facility is proposed.	 Small site requiring investment. Unsuitable for expanded materials handling due to lack of infrastructure and environmental controls. Interim use of MGBs has successfully reduced environmental risks associated with open trench disposal, particularly during periods of high rainfall. Final WTS design is on hold pending regional service reviews (Majors Creek and Araluen).
Rural Recycling Stations at Hoskinstown, Mount Fairy, Durran Durra, Mongarlowe, Urila, Tarago, Barnet Drive and Taylors Creek	Rural Recycling Station accepting limited recyclables. Provides a replacement for kerbside collection in the area. But at no cost to the resident.	 Regular contamination issues and illegal dumping. Limited service scope and oversight. Unable to link accountability for contamination to user, and therefore cannot manage in accordance with Council's contamination policy. Full-service offerings are not feasible at these remote locations due to low demand, infrastructure constraints, and risks such as fire and weeds.
Majors Creek Bin Compound	Bin compound accepting residual and recyclable waste. Provides a replacement for kerbside collection in the area due to inaccessibility for trucks to service at the kerbside.	 Lacks environmental controls and security. High contamination risk. Identified as a priority site for fencing and upgrades.
Araluen Bin Compound	Bin compound accepting residual and recyclable waste. Provides a replacement for kerbside collection in the area due to inaccessibility for trucks to service at the kerbside.	 Include risks identified by an external audit: Green waste piles can spontaneously combust after shredding, potentially causing large fires. Additionally, loose green waste increases the fuel load, with both facilities located near existing dwellings. Since these sites are unstaffed, there is no way to monitor what is placed in the green waste, heightening the risk of illegal dumping. The green waste areas lack proper environmental controls, which could lead to harmful runoff entering local waterways and spread of weed seeds. These areas are unlikely to comply with relevant regulatory standards, exposing QPRC to pollution-related costs and environmental penalties.

Commercial Waste Services

QPRC businesses can access kerbside waste and recycling:

- Weekly collection, removal and disposal of bin size up to 240L of light commercial/ office waste;
- Fortnightly collection and removal of bin size up to 240L of light commercial/office recyclables;
- Fortnightly collection and removal of up to bin size 240L of light commercial office waste in areas that only have a fortnightly service;
- Fortnightly collection and removal of up to bin size 240L of green waste only where the contractor agrees to service those premises;
- Access to the business and office recycling program; and
- Access to School Waste Education Program schools only).

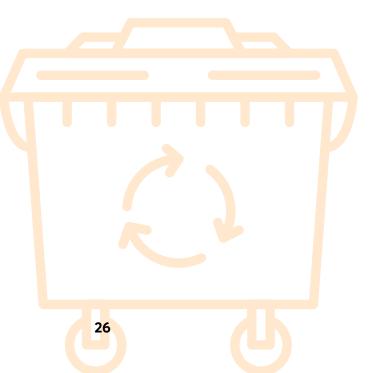
If they require larger bins, on property collection or more frequent servicing then they are required to organise their own waste services.

QPRC provides approximately 1,460 residual, 1,035 recycling and 121 GO services to the commercial and non-residential sector¹.

QPRC promotes business recycling programs to reduce waste and increase resource recovery. One of the key initiatives is the NSW EPA Bin Trim program, which helps businesses identify opportunities to reduce waste, recycle more, and improve sustainability.

Food rescue programs, while diverting only a small amount of waste, offer social and educational benefits to the community and economic advantages for participating businesses. The CRJO has appointed a Food Donation Officer to support the ongoing Organics Program in the LGA.

1 QPRC Statement of Revenue Policy 2024-25



Construction and Demolition Waste

C&D waste from QPRC LGA is currently received at the Bungendore RRC and Braidwood WTS. While some C&D waste was previously taken to the ACT C&D MRF at Mugga Lane or the Capital Concrete Recycling Facility at Pialligo, the local transfer stations now play a more significant role in handling this waste. Soil from C&D activities is directed to the Mugga 2 Quarry that handles the safe disposal of certified soil removed from construction and demolition projects.

C&D businesses are encouraged to separate materials through pricing mechanisms. Concrete and metals are sent to appropriate facilities for recycling. Council does not currently accurately and comprehensively track overall C&D waste volumes and recycling/diversion rates.

As per 2023-24 QPRC has experienced 47 reported incidents of illegal dumping of C&D waste, amounting to 1,778 tonnes, while in 2024-25 to date, 34 incidents amounting to 1,606 tonnes have been reported through the RIDonline portal. Illegally dumped

C&D waste poses environmental risks and adds operational costs for the council, as resources must be allocated for clean-up and proper disposal.

In response to the growing issue, QPRC compliance section is ramping up efforts to tackle illegal dumping through better enforcement, regular inspections, and increased education for businesses in the construction sector about proper disposal and recycling options. By engaging local stakeholders and improving awareness, the council aims to reduce the occurrence of illegal dumping, encourage responsible disposal practices, and support a more sustainable approach to C&D waste management within the region.



Recommended Action Plan

The following action plan has been developed to guide future service delivery across three key areas:

Domestic Waste Management - Table 7

General Waste Management - Table 8

Business Waste Management - Table 9

Actions that are new or have been amended from the previous strategy are highlighted.



Domestic Waste Management

Table 7: Recommended Scenario – Domestic Waste Management Actions and Timeframe

Funding

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
DWM1	Maintain a minimum \$500,000 in the Domestic Waste Management Fund reserve to act as a buffer for future price shocks.	Volatility in markets.	High	On-going
DWM2	Transfer remaining cash into the General Waste Management Fund to fund future works.	Separate funds resulting from Council amalgamations.	High	Deferred
DWM3	Levy a Domestic Waste Management charge in accordance with the adopted model.	On-going funding of operations.	High	On-going

Collection Contract

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
DWM4	Maintain a contract with a waste service provider for the collection of kerbside waste.	Determines the best- value solution for future contracts.	High	On-going

Collection

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
DWM5	Maintain the current gazetted DWM zone extents.	Confirms DWM collection zones.	N/A	On-going
DWM6	Maintain the current waste collection types in each zone.	Confirms DWM waste collection types.	N/A	On-going
DWM7	Continue implementation of the bin contamination policy that permits removal of services for on-going/serious contamination.	Recycling and FOGO contamination rates.	Medium	On-going

MUD and Mixed-Use Developments

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
DWM8	Liaise with Council's Planning sections about on-going review of the Development Control Plans related to multi-unit developments and mixed-use developments, and use of standard consent conditions	Safe provision of collection services.	Medium	In progress 2025-2026
DWM9	At mixed use properties where it is not possible to keep commercial and residential waste separate, require the property to arrange their own waste collection and charge a "Mixed Use" rate, which will be the same as a residential vacant land charge (per rateable property).	Effective provision of collection services.	Medium	On-going

Waste Disposal

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
DWM10	Use Hume Materials Recovery Facility for commingled recyclables.	Appropriate disposal of collected waste.	High	Contract - until 2029
DWM11	Continue to operate the Community Recycling Centres at Queanbeyan WAMI and Bungendore RRC and investigate the opportunity to formalise and establish a CRC at the existing informal site in Braidwood.	Appropriate disposal of collected waste.	High	On-going
DWM12	Use the WAMI for FOGO waste transfer from areas serviced by Council-operated collection vehicles, for transport to Dunmore FOGO processor.	Appropriate disposal of collected waste.	High	On-going

Education/ Resources

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
DWM13	Continue undertaking the routine bin inspection program to reduce contamination rates in kerbside collection.	Recycling / FOGO contamination rates, adhoc education activities and closing data gaps.	High	On-going
DWM14	Undertake regular bin audits to ascertain current generation rates, contamination rates and problem areas. Results to be incorporated into education programs.	Recycling and FOGO contamination rates and closing data gaps.	High	Every 5 years
DWM15	Prepare and implement a Community Waste Education Strategy covering schools, general public, business/industry, and initiatives identified in the strategy.	Ad-hoc education activities.	High	Not actioned
DWM16	Opportunity 8: Consider better utilisation of waste app for the following potential purposes; as a communications tool; a platform for delivery of education; waste/bulky waste disposal vouchers; an on-line booking and payment portal for waste related activities (e.g. tours, kerbside clean-ups, missed collections).	Utilise existing service to increase community awareness/ education etc.	Medium	Ongoing

Bulky Waste

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
DWM17	Review options for the bulky waste service for the LGA to look at service needs, cost effectiveness and access for rural and remote residents, including: • BAU; • Kerbside bulky waste service as per BAU (with increased service availability), plus voucher system for households not currently eligible to use kerbside service to drop off at predetermined QPRC waste facilities. Opportunity 1: Review option to provide a voucher system to residents (all households) to drop off at predetermined QPRC waste facilities.	Issue 2: The kerbside bulky waste collection service faces challenges related to demand exceeding availability and funding limitations. Issue 3: Bulky waste – provide an efficient and equable service to residents and financially viable for council and residents. Increase diversion of reusable items.	Medium	On-going

Bulky Waste (cont.)

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
	Opportunity 2: Enhance buy-back centres to increase the recovery of reusable materials.	_	Low	2026/2027

Core

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
DWM19	Conduct a review of FOGO roll-out service provisions for urban SUDs, MUDs and Rural 2-bin services in preparation for the mandates by 2030, to comply with Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment (FOGO Recycling) Act.	Issue 1: Expand FOGO services to comply with 2030 regulatory deadline.	High	On-going
DWM20	Review feasibility to expand kerbside waste collection services to unserviced areas.	Recognition that rural residents have specific challenges for	Medium	On-going
DWM21	Review waste services offered to rural residents to provide waste services which support improved equity/access to services, positive environmental outcomes and are financially viable for Council and residents.	consideration. Review waste services offered to rural residents to provide waste services which support improved equity/access to services, positive environmental outcomes and are financially viable for Council and residents.	Medium	On-going
DWM22	Review waste services offered to rural residents to provide waste services which support improved equity/access to services, positive environmental outcomes and are financially viable for Council and residents.	Recognition that rural residents have specific challenges for consideration. Review waste services offered to rural residents to provide waste services which support improved equity/access to services, positive environmental outcomes and are financially viable for Council and residents.	Medium	On-going
DWM23	Develop policy/procedures that identify waste service levels for QPRC (e.g. charging methodology, service availability).		Low	On-going
DWM24	Improve supervision, accountability, and leave coverage, better understand usage patterns, streamline procurement, contract, and customer service admin through development and implementation of a workplace change proposal.	Issue 7: Staffing levels at many waste facilities does not provide sufficient supervision, and coverage of staff sickness and leave which results in additional exposure to public safety and environmental risks.	Medium	2025-2026
DWM25	Review recording process and procedures.	Issue 8: Poor recording of loads and internal Council access outside of hours without proper cost recovery.	Medium	2025-2026

General Waste Management

Table 8: Recommended Scenario – General Waste Management Actions and Timeframe

Funding

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM1	Maintain an internally restricted General Waste fund.	Creates a transparent fund to provide certainty to ratepayers that income is being used for the agreed purpose.	High	On-going
GWM2	Levy a General Waste Management charge to all residential and non-commercial properties within the LGA.	Confirms extent of GWM zone and provides ongoing funding.	High	On-going
GWM3	Maintain a minimum \$1,000,000 in the General Waste Management Fund reserve to act as a buffer for future price shocks and changes in regulatory requirements.	Volatility of markets and regulatory changes.	High	On-going

Infrastructure

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM4	Maintain and operate existing waste facilities including the current opening hours and accepted wastes unless specifically noted elsewhere in this strategy.	Provides certainty for residents of the operations of waste facilities.	High	On-going
GWM5	Consolidate the Bungendore RRC as the primary waste management facility in the LGA.	Efficiency of operations at facilities and safety of facility users.	High	On-going
GWM6	Continue to operate the Community Recycling Centres at Queanbeyan WAMI and Bungendore RRC.	Provides certainty for residents of the operations of waste facilities.	High	On-going
GWM7	Reduce the public operating hours of the Queanbeyan WAMI to 4 days per week.	Efficiency of operations at facilities and safety of facility users.	Medium	Partially actioned
GWM8	Modify the Bungendore RRC to improve management of the site.	Efficiency of operations at facilities and safety of facility users.	High	2025-2026
GWM9	Continue consultation with the Nerriga community regarding their preferred replacement waste facility – either a staffed small waste transfer station (currently in place) or an unstaffed bin compound with access control.	Improved regulatory and environmental outcomes.	High	2024-2025
GWM10	Design and construct a replacement facility for Nerriga and surrounding localities based on the outcome of GWM9.	Improved regulatory and environmental outcomes.	High	2025-2026

Infrastructure (cont.)

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM11	Standardise the model of operation for larger transfer stations, small transfer stations and bin compounds. This will be achieved through the development of a Transition and Communications Plan to engage stakeholders prior to changes being implemented. Upgrade small transfer stations to accommodate efficient transfer systems (e.g. hook lift bins).	Mode of transfer at small transfer station is not consistent or efficient and includes a mix of MGBs, open bays, stockpiles, hook lift bins etc. which should be standardised where possible to improve operational efficiency, work, health and safety and environmental compliance.	High	2025-2027
GWM12	Implement a phased approach to replace rural recycling stations with bin compounds under a user-pays principle, considering contamination and service viability.	Issue 4: On-going misuse of rural recycling stations.	Medium	On-going
GWM13	Opportunity 4: Expand operating hours and staffing at Braidwood and Bungendore WTS to enhance efficiency and service accessibility. Including hiring one additional full time equivalent (FTE) to assist operations at Braidwood WTS. Reinstate Team Leader Central Waste role and ensure reporting lines are arranged to ensure Bungendore WTS is effectively managed.	Improved residential access to waste services.	Medium	On-going
GWM14	Review and implement options to improve security and access control at Majors Creek and Araluen bin compounds, with the aim of stopping illegal dumping of green waste and other materials.	Provide waste services to rural residents which support improved equity/ access to services, positive environmental outcomes and are financially viable for Council and residents. Issue 9: Green waste, mattress, tyre, battery, hazardous waste items, construction waste currently being disposed of at small bin compounds and transfer stations is not feasible and increases risks associated with fire and environmental compliance.	Medium	On-going
GWM15	Review options for cost effective local solutions for FOGO processing, including Council own and operate model. Opportunity 3: Identify a new site to process self-haul garden waste (GO) post closure of Oaks Estate site, including Council own and operate model.	Issue 5: Self-hauled garden waste received at Bungendore RRC and Braidwood WTS is shredded on site but does not currently have a facility for further processing/ pasteurisation following closure of the Oaks Estate facility. Issue 11: Transport to Shellharbour for FOGO and GO processing is inefficient, reflects lack of local processing infrastructure and does not support reduction in carbon emissions targets	High	On-going On-going

Infrastructure (cont.)

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM17	Install cardboard compaction bins at transfer station to prevent overflow.	Increase operational efficiency of facilities and increase resource recovery.	Medium	On-going
GWM18	Review risks associated with dwindling landfill capacity in the region and consider risk mitigation strategies in the development of new waste disposal contracts.	Plan for potential fate of landfill in the region and within QPRC.	Medium	On-going
GWM19	Review the "future proofing" of the Bungendore RRC with regard to increasing population and urban encroachment.		Medium	On-going
GWM20	Review the options for waste transfer within Queanbeyan urban area, and whether the existing Queanbeyan WAMI remains fit-for-purpose, including exploring opportunities to repurpose the site for circular economy initiatives such as a tip shop or reuse centre.	Issue 6: Limitations of the WAMI site due to size and location, limiting it's ability to accept broader range of materials increase throughput.	Medium	On-going
GWM21	Routinely monitor usage/patronage at facilities to review their on-going viability and that they are delivering value for money for ratepayers.	Efficiency of operations at facilities and safety of facility users.	Medium	On-going

Waste Facility Rehabilitation

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM22	Rehabilitate Braidwood Landfill.	Environmental management and	High	In-progress
GWM23	Rehabilitate Majors Creek Landfill.	regulatory compliance.	Medium	2026-2027
GWM24	Rehabilitate Araluen Landfill.		Medium	2026-2027
GWM25	Rehabilitate Nerriga Landfill.		Medium	2026-2028
GWM26	Monitor and maintain closed landfills.		Medium	On-going

Public Bins

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM27	Continue to place and service litter bins in public areas.	Appropriate provision of services.	High	On-going
GWM28	Review options for management of general waste and recycling in public areas e.g. wire CDS baskets.	Issue 10: High contamination rates and low resource recovery from public place bins.	Medium	2025-2026
GWM29	Undertake regular bin audits of public bins to ascertain current generation rates and materials composition.	Recycling contamination rates.	Low	Every 5 years

Education

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM30	Have a dedicated Waste Officer to implement education and engagement program.	Insufficient resources to undertake tasks identified in the Strategy.	High	On-going
GWM31	Undertake an education and routine inspection program to reduce contamination rates at waste facilities.	Recycling and FOGO contamination rates, ad-hoc education activities and closing data gaps.	Medium	On-going
GWM32	Prepare and implement a Community Waste Education Strategy covering schools, general public, business/industry, and initiatives identified in the strategy.	Ad-hoc education activities.	Medium	2025-2026
GWM33	Review opportunities for implementation of first nations/CALD/accessible education programs/materials.	To provide waste services which support improved equity/access to services, positive environmental outcomes and are financially viable for Council and residents.	Low	On-going

Regional collaboration

Nun	nber	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWI		Work with CRJO member Councils on joint procurement opportunities.	Regional collaboration and exploration of opportunities at larger scales.	Medium	On-going

Core

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM35	Undertake waste audits at QPRC waste facilities to identify waste generation and composition of self-haul materials.	Improves data and knowledge of waste streams.	Medium	2025-2027
GWM36	Prohibit green waste, mattress, tyre, battery, hazardous waste items, construction waste disposal at small bin compounds and transfer stations due to feasibility and risk factors.	Issue 9: Green waste, mattress, tyre, battery, hazardous waste items, construction waste currently being disposed of at small bin compounds and transfer stations is not feasible and increases risks associated with fire and environmental compliance.	High	On-going
GWM37	Explore home composting programs.	To ensure Council is looking at options for cost effective local solutions for GO/ FOGO management and processing.	Medium	On-going
GWM38	Review C&D waste management practices for potential improvements, including expand operations at Braidwood WTS to include C&D processing.	Opportunity 7: Better management and diversion of C&D waste.	Medium	On-going

OFI (Opportunity for improvement)

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM39	Continue to participate in the CRJO Food Rescue program.	Support social outcomes of food rescue within the community, contributing towards reduced waste generation.	Medium	On-going
GWM40	Conduct a material flow analysis of Council generated wastes to identify how Council can lead in procurement policies and procedures that support the circular economy locally.	Enable internal implementation of circular economy/ resource recovery opportunities.	Medium	On-going
GWM41	Invest in staff upskilling and review pay rates.	Opportunity 5: Improve	Low	On-going
GWM42	Review staffing structure duties to meet changing operational requirements.	staff and resourcing of waste management in the LGA. Increase efficiency and outcomes.	Low	On-going
GWM43	Introduce competency training such as a Cert III/IV in waste management as a necessary qualification to be obtained by waste operations staff.		Low	On-going
GWM44	Develop a detailed operational policies/ procedure as a resource for staff.		Medium	On-going
GWM45	Opportunity 9: Prepare a plan for the management of waste generated by natural disasters.	Proactive planning for waste and resource recovery following a natural disaster.	Medium	On-going
GWM46	Review placement of CDS collection point (TOMRA) at a Council site, considering opportunities for the CDS bins to support charities or community organisations.	Increase efficiency of CDS in the region.	Medium	On-going

Problem Waste

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM47	Explore and identify appropriate sites in Bungendore and Braidwood and invite Charitable Reuse Australia accredited charities and associated members to provide appropriate clothing bins in town centres.	Support Circular recovery organisations and supper social outcomes.	Low	On-going
GWM48	Review the frequency of problem waste events e.g. chemical clean-up days and ChemCollect and acceptance of materials at the WAMI and transfer stations.	Management of hazardous waste.	Low	On-going

Avoidance

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM49	Maintain the program of free disposal of Clean up Australia Day waste for registered volunteers who contact Council in advance. Collection service from registered collection sites used to aggregate material.	Reduce litter and support community events.	Low	On-going

Reuse/Recovery

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
GWM50	Gaining better access to existing product stewardship schemes as well as earlier access to new schemes as they are established. Options include establishing Council run drop off centres for items covered under product stewardship schemes and then transporting this waste to free drop off centres.	Increase resource recovery for items included in the product stewardship schemes.	Low	On-going
GWM51	Explore the feasibility of establishing a partnership-based initiative—potentially with a charity, or non-for-profit—to restore and refurbish quality furniture recovered from bulky waste collections or drop-offs.	Increase reuse, repair, re-furbish outcomes in the LGA.	Low	On-going



Business Waste Management

Table 9: Recommended Scenario – Business Waste Management Actions and Timeframee

Funding

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
BWM1	Levy a Business Waste Availability Charge on all business properties in the LGA.	On-going funding of operations.	High	On-going
BWM2	Levy collection charges (on a per bin basis) in accordance with the adopted model for businesses that opt-in to collection services.	Businesses only pay for the services they require.	High	On-going

Collections

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
BWM3	Provide weekly residual waste collection (via 240L MGB within existing domestic waste collection zones) to businesses on an optional basis.	Businesses only pay for the services they require.	High	On-going
BWM4	Provide fortnightly commingled recyclables collection (via 240L MGB within existing domestic waste collection zones) to businesses on an optional basis.	Businesses only pay for the services they require.	Medium	On-going
BWM5	Review provision of a FOGO collection for businesses within existing domestic waste collection zones to support the upcoming commercial FOGO mandate.	Increase food organics diversion. Offering a service to meet the FOGO Mandate.	Medium	2026 onwards
BWM6	Encourage businesses with larger waste generation rates or requiring more frequent collections to explore private collection contracts.	Council does not incur large expenditure to service a small number of businesses.	Medium	On-going

Education

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
BWM7	Continue to support and promote the NSW Government BinTrim business waste education programs to cover the entire LGA.	Issue 12: Business waste diversion programs are not well utilised.	Medium	On-going

OFI (Opportunity for improvement)

Number	Action	Problem this solves	Priority	Timing
BWM8	Opportunity 6: Investigate opportunities to support local business through their purchasing practices, waste management contracts, provision of appropriately zoned land, education activities and/or direct investment.	Increase C&I recycling in the region.	Medium	On-going



