SWRRIP Vision, purpose and long term strategic directions

**Purpose**

A sustainable waste and resource recovery system that provides an essential community service to:

- protect the community, environment and public health
- recover valuable resources from our waste
- minimise long term costs to households, industry and governments.

**Goals**

**GOAL 1**

Landfills will only be for receiving and treating waste streams from which all materials that can be viably recovered have been extracted.

**GOAL 2**

Materials are made available to the resource recovery market through aggregation and consolidation of volumes to create viability in recovering valuable resources from waste.

**GOAL 3**

Waste and resource recovery facilities including landfills are established and managed over their lifetime to provide best economic, community, environment and public health outcomes for local communities and the state and ensure their impacts are not disproportionately felt across communities.

**GOAL 4**

Targeted information provides the evidence base to inform integrated statewide waste and resource recovery infrastructure planning and investment at the state, regional and local levels by industry, local government, waste and resource recovery groups, government agencies and the broader community.

**GOAL 5**

Suitably located and zoned land will be available for the expected mix of infrastructure required to manage waste and materials streams.

**GOAL 6**

Decisions to determine waste and resource recovery options will be based on evidence to:
- maximise economic outcomes
- provide cost-effective service delivery
- reduce the community, environmental and public health impacts.

To provide strategic direction for the management of waste and resource recovery infrastructure to achieve an integrated system that effectively manages the expected mix and volumes of waste, reflects the principles of environmental justice to ensure that impacts on the community, environment and public health are not disproportionately felt, supports a viable resource recovery industry and reduces the amount of valuable materials going to landfill.

**SNAPSHOT**

STATEWIDE WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN VICTORIA 2017–2046

More information

Contact Sustainability Victoria on 1300 363 744 or at swrrip@sustainability.vic.gov.au or go to sustainability.vic.gov.au/swrrip
WHAT IS THE STATEWIDE WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND ITS GOALS?

The Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP) provides Victoria with the long term vision and roadmap to guide future planning for waste and resource recovery infrastructure to achieve an integrated system that:

- effectively manages the expected mix and volumes of waste;
- reflects the principles of environmental justice to ensure that impacts on the community, environment and public health are not disproportionately felt across communities;
- supports a viable resource recovery industry;
- reduces the amount of valuable materials going to landfill.

The four key goals of the SWRRIP are:

- **Goal 1** Landfills will only be used for receiving and treating waste streams from which all materials that can be viably recovered have been extracted.
- **Goal 2** Materials are made available to the resource recovery market through aggregation and consolidation of volumes to create viability in recovering valuable resources from waste.
- **Goal 3** Waste and resource recovery facilities including landfills are established and managed over their lifetime to provide best economic, community, environment and public health outcomes for local communities and the state and ensure their impacts are not disproportionately felt across communities.
- **Goal 4** Targeted information provides the evidence base to inform integrated statewide waste and resource recovery infrastructure planning and investment at the state, regional and local levels by industry, local government, waste and resource recovery groups, government agencies and the broader community.

WHY A STATEWIDE WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN?

Victoria’s population is growing fast. Since 2000 the population has grown from 4.8 to 5.8 million. By 2046 we anticipate a population of 8.9 million. As a consequence, the amount of waste being generated and requiring management is also increasing. At the current rate of increase, by 2046 total waste generation will rise from 12.2 to 20.6 million tonnes per year.

In 2015-16 over 8.6 million tonnes of valuable material was recovered from waste streams in Victoria, representing a 67% recovery rate, however 4.2 million tonnes were still sent to landfill. If not managed properly, the materials going to landfill can have a significant impact on communities and environment now and in the long term. They also contain valuable resources which, if recovered, would create jobs, add value to the Victorian economy and minimise potential adverse impacts to community, environment and public health.

Victoria’s waste and resource recovery system provides services essential to the community to manage waste and material streams. Maximising resource recovery supports this essential service by diverting as many materials from landfill that can be viably recovered, capturing their resource value and creating jobs that contribute to supporting the economy.

The infrastructure that delivers these services is integral to ensuring Victorian cities and communities are healthy, productive and vibrant. They are as important as other essential infrastructure such as roads and those that supply water and electricity to maintain the functionality of Victoria. It is critical to plan for future waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs to ensure essential services are accessible to all members of the community and maintained with care for the environment.

WHY REGIONAL WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PLANS?

Victoria is divided into seven waste and resource recovery regions. The Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans (Regional Implementation Plans), released in July 2017, identify the waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs for each of the regions over the next 10 years. They provide a strategic approach to how these needs will be met that maximises resource recovery and protects our communities, the environment and public health.

Each Regional Implementation Plan includes a description of the current waste and resource recovery system in that region. They describe priorities and set objectives for the region, identifying where there are potential opportunities to increase recovery and potential gaps in the infrastructure required to successfully manage resource recovery and waste. They include a schedule of all the existing waste and resource infrastructure in the region, and the sequencing of how the landfill airspace in the region will be utilised over the next ten years.

The Regional Implementation Plans were developed by the seven Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Groups in consultation with their local governments, communities and industry. Importantly, the Regional Implementation Plans were developed in collaboration with neighbouring regions to align with the objectives of the SWRRIP to ensure it accurately reflects the Regional Implementation Plans.

This ensures that the SWRRIP and seven Regional Implementation Plans are integrated to develop a statewide waste and resource recovery system that effectively manages the state, regional and local needs.

The seven regions are: Barwon South West, Gippsland, Goulburn Valley, Grampians Central West, Loddon Mallee, Metropolitan (Melbourne) and North East.

WHAT IS THE STATEWIDE WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND ITS GOALS?

**Goal 1** Landfills will only be used for receiving and treating waste streams from which all materials that can be viably recovered have been extracted.

**Goal 2** Materials are made available to the resource recovery market through aggregation and consolidation of volumes to create viability in recovering valuable resources from waste.

**Goal 3** Waste and resource recovery facilities including landfills are established and managed over their lifetime to provide best economic, community, environment and public health outcomes for local communities and the state and ensure their impacts are not disproportionately felt across communities.

**Goal 4** Targeted information provides the evidence base to inform integrated statewide waste and resource recovery infrastructure planning and investment at the state, regional and local levels by industry, local government, waste and resource recovery groups, government agencies and the broader community.

HOW WILL THE SWRRIP BE IMPLEMENTED?

Complementary work is underway to help achieve a fully integrated waste and resource recovery system that has the best possible facilities in the best locations and to ensure investment and infrastructure needs are met to achieve the SWRRIP’s vision. These suite of initiatives will realise the SWRRIP by:

- leading targeted waste education to facilitate reduced waste generation, increased resource recovery and increase the community’s participation and understanding of waste management and resource recovery infrastructure and services;
- stimulating and supporting markets for products made from recovered resources;
- improving the recovery of organic material to reduce the community, environment and public health impacts of organic wastes;
- facilitating collaborative procurement of waste and resource recovery services and infrastructure for local governments;
- facilitating industry and local government investment in new waste and resource recovery infrastructure;
- improving the quality, timeliness and accessibility of waste and resource recovery data.

These initiatives are represented in the diagram.

WHAT ARE HUBS AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Victoria’s waste management and resource recovery activities are located across the state in a network of ‘hubs and spokes’. Hubs are a facility or group of facilities that manage waste and material streams. They can undertake a range of activities including sorting, consolidation, reprocessing or landfill.

A hub can consist of one facility or multiple facilities with different activities and functions. Activities within these hubs often support each other. Spokes are the sequence of activities that move materials from waste generators to and from hubs e.g. for collection, transport and sorting.

Hubs are not static. Activities change over time and in the next 30 years some hubs will transition away from waste and resource recovery activities while others, if appropriate, may expand or be created. It is important to understand where the current hubs are, and plan for where future hubs should be located.

The SWRRIP identifies current hubs across Victoria that undertake activities significant to the state’s waste and resource recovery system. The Regional Implementation Plans identify those that are important at the local and regional level.

Strategic planning for both current and future hubs of state importance will be undertaken to ensure the community has access to all relevant information about the potential waste and resource recovery impacts of a hub and an opportunity to participate in decisions on priorities and the future activities of that hub that may affect their environment or health.