



Waste Strategy 2025-2030



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Executive Summary

The Break O’Day Waste Strategy 2025–2030 provides a strategic framework to guide the planning, delivery, and improvement of Council’s waste and resource recovery services over the next five years. It responds to rising waste volumes, increasing costs, evolving regulatory expectations, and growing community interest in sustainable waste management, while recognising the practical constraints of operating in a small, regional, and geographically dispersed municipality.

The Strategy sets a clear direction to reduce reliance on landfill, improve system performance and resilience, and progressively enable participation in a circular economy, while maintaining fit-for-purpose, affordable, and compliant waste services for the community. All actions are guided by the waste hierarchy, prioritising waste avoidance, reuse, recycling, and recovery ahead of disposal.

Break O’Day Council’s waste system currently manages approximately 6,600 tonnes of material annually, with nearly half still destined for landfill. Municipal Solid Waste is the dominant stream and presents the greatest opportunity for improvement, particularly through reducing recoverable material in the kerbside general waste stream, improving source separation, and addressing high-volume organics. The Strategy uses the 2024–25 financial year as a base year, providing credible evidence base for targets, projections, and future performance monitoring.

The Strategy is structured around four interconnected goals:

Working Towards a Circular Economy - Focused on reducing landfill disposal, improving recovery of priority materials (organics, plastics, timber, textiles, and C&D waste), strengthening infrastructure and operational practices, and extending landfill life. Actions are framed as staged, evidence-based interventions that balance ambition with affordability and feasibility.

Improving Data and Reporting for Waste Operations - Aimed at strengthening the quality, transparency, and usefulness of waste data to support regulatory compliance, informed decision-making, and community reporting. This includes regional data alignment, development of a waste data dashboard, proportionate carbon modelling, and improved understanding of Commercial and Industrial waste through coordinated regional audits.

Leveraging Collaboration to Improve Local Waste Outcomes - Recognising the value of targeted regional collaboration, particularly through Circular North, where Break O’Day Council acts as both a contributor and beneficiary. Participation in governance, technical collaboration, shared data initiatives, and community education programs enables access to expertise, improves consistency, reduces duplication, and delivers locally relevant outcomes.

Strategic Alignment and Regulatory Readiness - Ensuring waste services and infrastructure planning remain aligned with state and national policy directions, emerging regulatory requirements, and market changes. Key priorities include replacing ageing infrastructure at the Scamander Waste Transfer Station, securing long-term inert landfill capacity, and adopting regional standards and procurement approaches where they clearly support local delivery.

Implementation of the Strategy will be integrated through Council’s Annual Planning Cycle and aligned with the Long-Term Financial Plan, allowing actions to be prioritised, staged, and adjusted

over time. Major initiatives will be progressed only where each is supported by robust analysis and Council approval, ensuring financial sustainability and risk is carefully managed.

Overall, the Waste Strategy 2025–2030 provides a practical, evidence-based roadmap for improving waste and resource recovery outcomes in Break O’Day. It balances local capacity with regional collaboration, short-term operational needs with long-term resilience, and environmental responsibility with affordability, positioning Council to respond effectively to change while delivering reliable services and measurable improvement for the community.

Vision

“Deliver fit-for-purpose, affordable waste services and resilient infrastructure that support community wellbeing, reduce reliance on landfill, and enable the municipality to progressively participate in a circular economy.”

This Vision aligns with Council’s Strategic Plan 2022–2027 by supporting responsive, reliable, and affordable waste services that enhance community wellbeing, environmental responsibility, and long-term financial sustainability.

This Strategy adopts a balanced focus across service delivery, system performance, infrastructure, education and behaviour change, data and reporting, and financial management. Service improvements will be guided by the waste hierarchy, prioritising avoidance, reuse, recycling, and recovery before disposal, and supported by validated data and transparent reporting.

Council’s waste services will be progressively improved to reduce landfill disposal, increase material separation, lower contamination, and enhance recovery where feasible and cost-effective. These improvements will be delivered within the framework of Council’s 10-year Long Term Financial Plan.

Education and engagement initiatives will play a central role in reducing waste by promoting reuse and correct recycling. Planning and timely investment in infrastructure underpin effective service design, regulatory compliance, operational improvement, and data-informed decision-making.

All strategic decisions will be guided by safety, compliance, efficiency, affordability, and the waste system’s capacity to adapt over time.

Influence of the Circular North Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Councils Strategy is influenced by the Circular North Strategic Plan 2025–2030 and has been used to guide its development. The Circular North Strategic Plan provides a regional framework for collaboration with NRM North and councils across northern Tasmania. Participation in Circular North benefits Break O’Day Council through access to shared data and modelling, technical expertise, collective learning, and coordinated advocacy on waste and resource recovery issues.

Alignment with the Circular North Strategic Plan does not require the automatic implementation of regional actions. Instead, regional initiatives and strategic directions are considered and applied selectively where relevant to the local context, based on local relevance, cost effectiveness, prioritization, and investment decisions, while actively engaging in regional collaboration where it delivers clear benefits to the municipality.

The Break O’Day Waste Strategy 2025-2030

Approach

This Strategy provides a framework for managing waste and resource recovery in Break O’Day, guided by the waste hierarchy that prioritises avoidance, reuse, recycling, and recovery over disposal.

The waste hierarchy underpins the Council’s decision-making approach and directs planning for waste services, infrastructure investment, and community initiatives. It highlights and supports the idea that landfilling is the least favoured option, and that long-term environmental and financial sustainability are best secured by minimising waste generation and maximising resource recovery whenever feasible and affordable.

Figure 1: Waste Hierarchy



Source: Draft Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2022 – 2025

This approach enables Council to reduce reliance on landfill, improve diversion and recycling performance, manage long-term waste costs, and ensure infrastructure and services remain responsive to community needs and regulatory requirements.

The Strategy adopts a balanced approach that considers environmental, social, and economic factors, while also reflecting the scale, geographic characteristics, and service delivery conditions of Break O’Day Council.

Deployment

The Strategy is structured around four interconnected goals, supported by a set of implementation focus areas. Together, these elements ensure that strategy actions and investments are coordinated, targeted, and clearly aligned with the outcomes Council is seeking to achieve.

Table 1: Strategy Goals

<p style="text-align: center;">Goal 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Working Towards a Circular Economy</p> <p>This goal focuses on reducing reliance on landfill by improving understanding of local material flows and prioritising waste avoidance, reuse, recycling, and recovery where practical and affordable. It includes reducing waste generated per capita, improving material separation and recovery, and enhancing landfill and waste transfer station operations, infrastructure, and management practices to support improved resource recovery outcomes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Goal 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improving Data and Reporting for Waste Operations.</p> <p>This goal aims to strengthen data collection, analysis, and reporting to support informed decision-making, regulatory compliance, and transparency. Improved tracking of performance against targets enables accountability and community engagement, while understanding the carbon footprint of waste activities supports sustainability objectives and the evaluation of future waste management options.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Goal 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leveraging Collaboration to Improve Local Waste Outcomes.</p> <p>This goal recognises the value of targeted regional collaboration to improve efficiency, consistency, and access to expertise and services. Participation in regional initiatives is undertaken selectively where it delivers clear benefits for Break O’Day and supports Council’s waste management priorities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Goal 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strategic Alignment and Regulatory Readiness.</p> <p>This goal ensures Council’s waste services, infrastructure planning, and operational practices remain aligned with relevant state and national policy directions. It focuses on maintaining compliance, monitoring regulatory and market changes, and ensuring the waste management system remains resilient, adaptable, and fit for purpose over time.</p>

Implementation to be facilitated through Councils Annual Planning Cycle

The implementation of this Strategy will be facilitated through the Council's annual planning cycle. The Annual Plan, reviewed and approved by the Council each year, outlines the planning, resource allocation, and monitoring of operational tasks. As a publicly available document, it includes quarterly reports to the Council, promoting transparency and accountability. Actions stemming from the Waste Strategy will be included in future Annual Plans, allowing for phased implementation, ongoing progress monitoring, and alignment with the Council's wider corporate and financial planning frameworks.

Funding and Financial Integration

Strategy deployment will also be funded through the Council's annual operational and capital projects budget, providing the necessary financial resources for priority actions each year. Operational funds will support service enhancements, educational programs, and gradual system modifications, while capital investments will finance infrastructure upgrades, equipment renewals, and the creation of new recovery pathways.

Initiatives outlined in the Strategy will require a cost benefits analysis and decision of the Council to be integrated into the Council's Long Term Financial Plan, ensuring that projected expenses, savings, and asset requirements are considered in future financial planning. This strategy allows the Council to oversee investments responsibly, control long-term operational costs, and facilitate a transition to a more efficient, circular waste system that is both financially viable and strategically aligned.

Results

Goal 1 – Working Towards a Circular Economy

Results: Improved landfill diversion and resource recovery, shown by better performance against diversion and recovery targets (including the 2030 goals), lower recycling contamination, and more efficient, compliant landfill and transfer station operations that help extend landfill lifespan and reduce long-term costs.

Goal 2 – Improve Data and Reporting on Waste Management

Results: Reliable, audit-ready waste data and reporting that complies with regulatory standards, supports transparent community-facing reporting (including dashboards), and enables carbon impacts to be measured and regularly integrated into business cases and service planning.

Goal 3 – Leveraging Collaboration to Improve Local Waste Outcomes

Results: Evident improvements through regional collaboration, such as reduced duplication, greater consistency in procedures and customer information, improved access to tools and expertise, shared services, and measurable cost and performance benefits from joint initiatives (not just participation).

Goal 4 – Strategic Alignment and Regulatory Readiness

Results: Minimise compliance and delivery risks by ensuring local plans and practices align timely with relevant state and national directives, actively monitor regulatory, market, and technology developments, and implement beneficial adjustments that maintain fit-for-purpose local service delivery.

Improvement

The Council recognises that waste management evolves alongside regulations, market changes, technological progress, costs, and community needs. This Strategy highlights ongoing improvement, performance tracking, adjusting priorities, and refining actions to ensure they remain practical, cost-effective, and impactful. Major initiatives require comprehensive cost-benefit analysis and Council approval to keep the Strategy relevant, flexible, and effective

Councils Waste Services

The Council offers an integrated waste management system that includes kerbside waste services, town litter collection, the operation of seven waste transfer stations, and the St Helens Inert landfill.

Kerbside Waste Services

The Council has intentionally chosen an in-house model for delivering kerbside collection services, including general waste, comingled recycling, and town litter collection. This approach is based on consistent analysis showing that self-management offers a more cost-effective and flexible service than contracted options within the municipality's unique context.

Break O'Day's low population density and dispersed townships mean that external contractors generally charge higher premiums to operate in the area. By managing services internally, the Council has avoided these extra costs while maintaining direct control over service quality, staffing, scheduling, and customer responsiveness. This operational flexibility is especially important during peak visitor seasons, emergency situations, and times of rapid change in waste behaviours or policy requirements.

The in-house model also enables the Council to more effectively oversee daily operations and make minor adjustments based on community needs, infrastructure capacity, and emerging waste trends. It promotes local employment, reduces administrative costs linked to contract management, and ensures service delivery meets the expectations and capacity of Break O'Day residents to pay for waste services.

Kerbside General Waste Service

The kerbside general waste service provides a reliable and accessible pathway for the collection of residual household waste that cannot be avoided, reused, recycled, or recovered through other services. It is a core enabling service within Council's waste system, ensuring public health, amenity, and service continuity across a geographically dispersed municipality.

The service operates 30 times annually, comprising 26 regular fortnightly collections and four additional peak-period collections to manage seasonal increases in waste generation. Collected waste is transported to the Scamander Waste Transfer Station for compaction before transfer to the Copping landfill in Southern Tasmania, linking household behaviour directly to landfill demand and long-term disposal costs.

From an operational perspective, kerbside general waste represents a large driver of landfill reliance and therefore the greatest opportunity for system improvement. The average household general waste bin contains 12.6 kg of material per collection, with approximately 1,400 tonnes of kerbside general waste landfilled annually.

Waste composition analysis indicates that this stream comprises approximately 30% recyclable materials, 24% organics, and 46% other residual waste. This profile demonstrates that more than half of the material currently sent to landfill through the kerbside general waste service is potentially recoverable through improved source separation, service design, or behaviour change.

It is interpreted that landfill demand is not primarily driven by unavoidable residual waste, but by recoverable materials entering the general waste stream. This creates a clear, data-driven basis for prioritising strategic interventions focused on household education, contamination reduction, and service optimisation as cost-effective levers to reduce landfill disposal. Rather than expanding disposal capacity, the Strategy therefore positions improvements to kerbside general waste outcomes as central to achieving landfill diversion, extending landfill lifespan, and managing long-term financial exposure.

Under this Strategy, the kerbside general waste service is treated not only as an essential disposal service, but as a key indicator of system performance. Reducing the quantity and recoverable content of general waste is fundamental to transitioning toward a more efficient, fit-for-purpose, and circular waste system for Break O'Day.

Kerbside Recycling Service

Kerbside recycling collection services provide a convenient, accessible, and cost-effective mechanism for recovering recyclable materials from households. From an operational perspective, the service plays an important role in supporting landfill diversion and enabling community participation in the waste hierarchy by reducing barriers to recycling across the municipality.

Kerbside recycling forms a core component of Council's integrated waste management system. When supported by education, contamination reduction initiatives, and access to suitable processing capacity, the service contributes to improved diversion outcomes and overall system sustainability. However, its effectiveness is highly dependent on material quality and household behaviour rather than collection frequency alone.

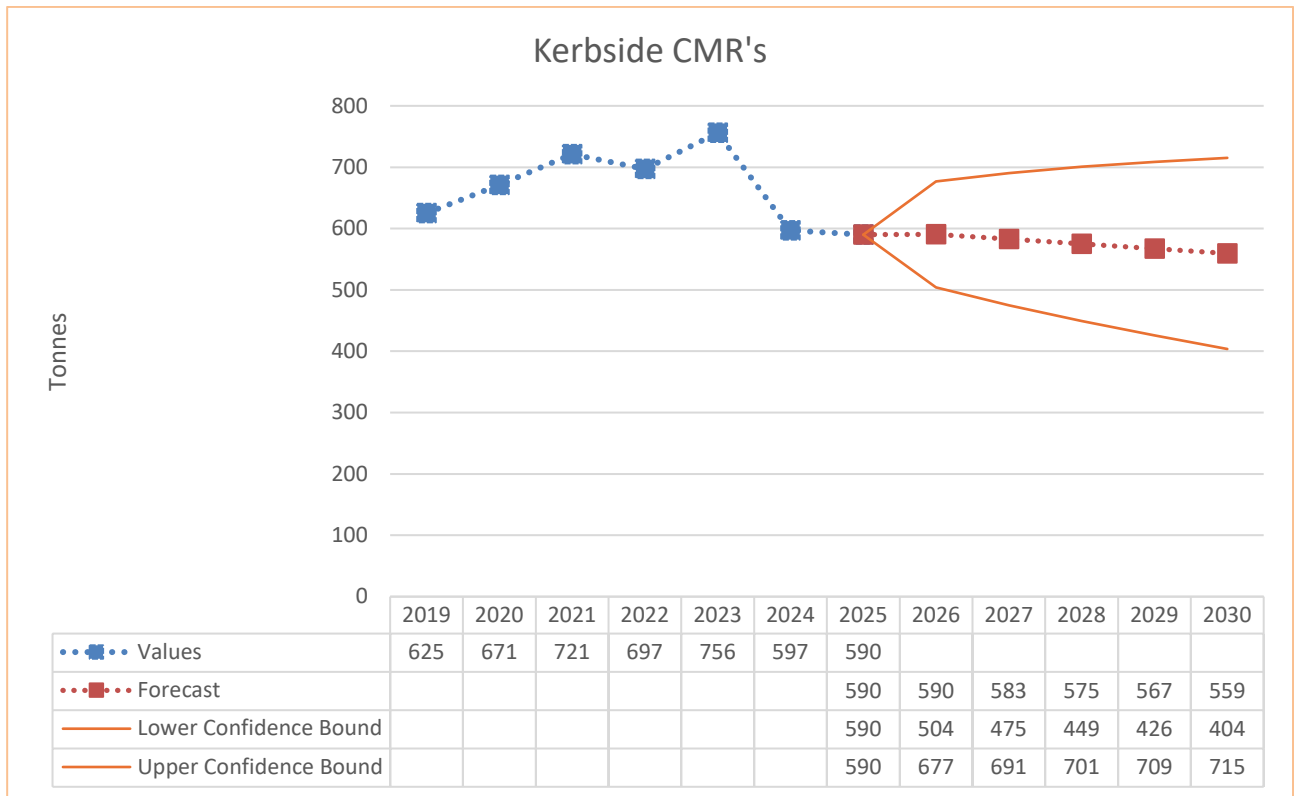
Council's kerbside recyclables collection service operates on a fortnightly schedule, providing 26 collections per household each year. Collected materials are transported to Veolia's Invermay (Launceston) depot for consolidation before processing at Veolia's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Spreyton on the north-west coast. This regional processing arrangement highlights the system's exposure to transport costs, market conditions, and contamination thresholds.

The average household recyclables bin contains 9.9 kg of material per collection, with approximately 78% of recyclables correctly presented. In the base year 2024-2025, contamination was 22% (131 tonnes of 597 tonnes of material collected). Contamination reduces material quality, increases processing costs, and can result in recyclable material being diverted to landfill. The range of materials accepted through the kerbside system is constrained by available processing infrastructure, which can contribute to household confusion and constrained recovery outcomes. Contamination therefore remains a significant and costly issue, driven primarily by incorrect bin use rather than service availability.

From a strategic standpoint, kerbside recycling performance is highly sensitive to household behaviour, contamination rates, transport distances, and fluctuating commodity markets—particularly in a regional context such as Break O'Day. Importantly, kerbside recycling focuses on managing waste after it has been generated and does not directly address waste avoidance or reuse. As such, it must be complemented by education, reuse initiatives, and targeted recovery pathways to support broader circular economy outcomes.

Forecast modelling indicates that kerbside co-mingled recyclables are expected to decline over the Strategy period. Annual tonnages are projected to decrease from approximately 590 tonnes in 2024/25 to around 559 tonnes by 2029/30. This reduction is largely attributable to the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme in St Helens in May 2025, which is expected to remove a proportion of beverage containers from the kerbside stream.

Figure 2: Kerbside recycling forecast material quantities.



This forecast decline reinforces the strategic need to focus on service quality, contamination reduction, cost control, and appropriate volume growth to reduce pressure on the general waste stream. Under this Strategy, kerbside recycling is therefore positioned as a necessary, stabilising service that must be actively managed to remain fit for purpose, while higher-impact system improvements are pursued through waste avoidance, organics recovery, and targeted material-specific initiatives.

Municipal Town Litter Bin Collection Service

Town litter collection is an essential public service that supports amenity, tourism, and community pride across Break O’Day’s townships and high-visitation areas. The service operates year-round, with collection frequencies adjusted in response to seasonal population increases, peak tourism periods, and major events, ensuring public spaces remain safe, accessible, and presentable.

From a strategic perspective, town litter services represent a significant and largely unmanaged material stream within Council’s waste system. Approximately 450 tonnes of material are collected annually and currently directed to landfill, with limited understanding of waste composition, capture potential, or diversion opportunities. The absence of detailed data means this stream has historically been managed primarily as an amenity service rather than as a contributor to landfill demand and long-term waste costs.

This Strategy identifies improved understanding of town litter waste as a priority system performance issue. Strengthening data collection and analysis—particularly around waste composition, tonnages by location, and seasonal variation—will enable Council to transition from reactive service delivery to informed, evidence-based planning. Improved data will support more targeted decision-making around bin placement, service levels, infrastructure design, and education initiatives in high-use locations. Over time, this evidence base will allow Council to assess whether parts of the town litter stream can be reduced, avoided, or partially diverted through better source separation, improved bin infrastructure, or behavioural interventions. This approach aligns town litter management with the waste hierarchy and Council’s broader objectives to reduce landfill reliance, improve resource recovery, and ensure waste services are fit for purpose, proportionate, and financially sustainable.

Waste Transfer Stations

Break O’Day Council’s network of seven Waste Transfer Stations forms a key component of the municipality’s waste and resource recovery system, providing distributed access to disposal and recycling services across a geographically dispersed community. Transfer stations are located at Ansons Bay, Fingal, Pyengana, Scamander St Helens, St Marys and Weldborough and each separately configured to balance accessibility, service efficiency, and cost effectiveness while responding to local settlement patterns and travel distances.

Waste Transfer Stations are not simply disposal sites, but critical interfaces between the community and Council’s broader waste system. Their location, operating hours, and service offerings directly influence community participation, material separation quality, illegal dumping behaviour, and Council’s ability to divert recoverable materials from landfill.

Transfer Station opening hours and service configurations are therefore subject to periodic review to ensure they remain proportionate to demand, responsive to changing waste behaviours, and aligned with Council’s diversion, efficiency, and financial sustainability objectives. Future adjustments will be guided by usage data, demonstrated community needs, operational performance, and the overarching requirement that infrastructure remain fit for purpose over time.

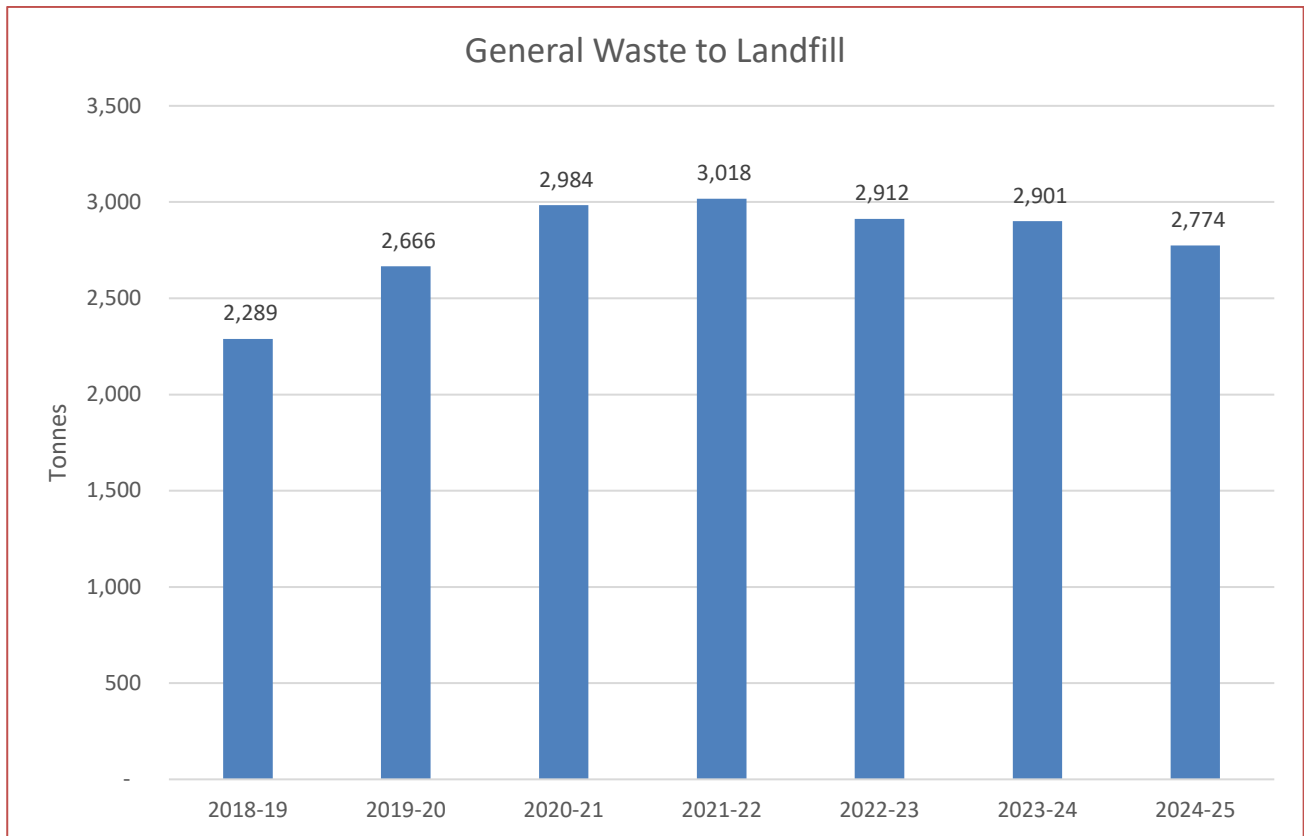
Table 2: Material streams received at Break O’Day Waste Transfer Stations

Material Stream	St Helens	Scamander	St Marys	Fingal	Pyengana	Ansons Bay	Weldborough
General household waste	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clean green waste	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘
Glass, cardboard, cans)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘
Scrap steel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘
Car bodies	✓	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Waste oil	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘	⊘
Batteries	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘	✓	⊘
Gas cylinders (LPG degassed)	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘	✓	⊘
E-waste	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘
Furniture	✓	⊘	✓	⊘	⊘	✓	⊘
Mattresses	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘
Tyres	✓	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	✓	⊘
Fridges & freezers	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘	✓	⊘
Fluoro tubes	✓	⊘	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Inert waste	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Treated timber	✓	⊘	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘
Untreated timber	✓	⊘	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘
Builder’s waste	✓	⊘	✓	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘
Asbestos – by prior approval	⊘	⚠	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Paint & containers	✓	✓	✓	✓	⊘	✓	⊘
Fuel	✓	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘
Silage wrap	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘	⊘

Scamander Waste Transfer Station – the General Waste Receiving Hub

The Scamander Waste Transfer Station functions as the primary consolidation point for kerbside general waste, town litter collections, and bulk waste transferred from municipal waste transfer stations. The site also receives waste directly from the community and local business and plays a central role in compacting and transporting general waste to the Copping landfill.

Figure 3: General Waste to Landfill via the Scamander WTS Compactor.



The existing waste compaction equipment at Scamander is owned by Southern Waste Solutions (SWS) and is at the end of its operational life, with planned removal by the corporation in 2026/27. This presents a strategic infrastructure decision point for Council, requiring timely action to ensure continuity of service and operational reliability in handling bulk waste, and regulatory compliance.

Council has undertaken an assessment of replacement options to support long-term system resilience. Two options were considered: replacement of the existing compactor on a like-for-like basis, and the development of a simplified waste loading and transfer facility utilising side-tipping trailers. From a strategic perspective, the latter option is preferred, as it offers greater flexibility, reduces reliance on single-asset infrastructure, and enables staged facility improvements to proceed independently of compaction operations. Importantly, this approach also creates opportunities to support improved material separation and limited on-site recovery, contributing to reduced landfill disposal where practical.

The Scamander facility upgrade is identified as a high-priority infrastructure investment within the Strategy, given its system-wide importance and the operational risks associated with the potential for compactor failure. Delivering site works in the first half of the 2026/27 financial year is essential to maintaining reliable waste services, managing peak seasonal demand, and supporting Council’s

broader objectives for landfill diversion, fit-for-purpose infrastructure, and long-term financial sustainability.

“Tip Shops”

Tip shops play a supporting role in Break O’Day Council’s waste and resource recovery system by facilitating the reuse of materials and goods, reducing landfill disposal of bulky and reusable items, and reinforcing community understanding of the waste hierarchy. Where fit for purpose and cost-effective, tip shops provide a practical, low-cost mechanism to deliver landfill diversion; social and community benefits; and circular economy outcomes.

From a strategic perspective, tip shops operate at the top end of the waste hierarchy, prioritising waste avoidance and reuse ahead of recycling and disposal. By intercepting reusable items before they enter the residual waste stream, tip shops extend product life, preserve embedded resource value, and deliver greater environmental benefit than downstream recovery options. Items commonly captured through tip shops include household goods, furniture, tools, building materials, and other durable items suitable for reuse.

Tip shop facilities currently operate at three Council waste transfer stations:

- St Helens Waste Transfer Station
- Scamander Waste Transfer Station
- St Marys Waste Transfer Station

The St Helens and St Marys tip shops are operated by volunteer-led community organisations, being the St Helens Hospital Auxiliary and the St Marys Hospital Auxiliary respectively. These volunteer-run models deliver strong local social value by supporting hospital fundraising and community participation, while contributing to waste avoidance and reuse outcomes. The Scamander tip shop is currently operated directly by Council and is integrated within Council’s waste transfer station operations.

In addition to diversion benefits, tip shops deliver important community and social outcomes, including access to affordable goods, support for local volunteer organisations, and reinforcement of reuse behaviours within the community. These outcomes align with Council’s broader objectives to support community wellbeing while improving environmental performance.

Operationally, tip shops are most effective when integrated with waste transfer station operations and scaled appropriately to local demand, staffing or volunteer capacity, safety considerations, and site constraints. Not all transfer stations are suitable for tip shop operations, and Council does not assume a uniform model across the municipality. The continuation, expansion, or modification of tip shop operations will therefore be guided by site-specific assessment of operational efficiency, material turnover, safety, and cost-effectiveness.

Under this Strategy, tip shops are not treated as a standalone solution to waste reduction, but as a complementary measure supporting broader initiatives focused on waste avoidance, education, improved source separation, and fit-for-purpose infrastructure. Where implemented, tip shops will be monitored to ensure they deliver genuine diversion and community benefit without creating disproportionate operational or financial burden.

Council will continue to consider tip shops as part of an integrated, evidence-based waste system, using them selectively where they demonstrably contribute to reduced landfill reliance, improved reuse outcomes, and long-term system sustainability.

Inert Landfill Capacity

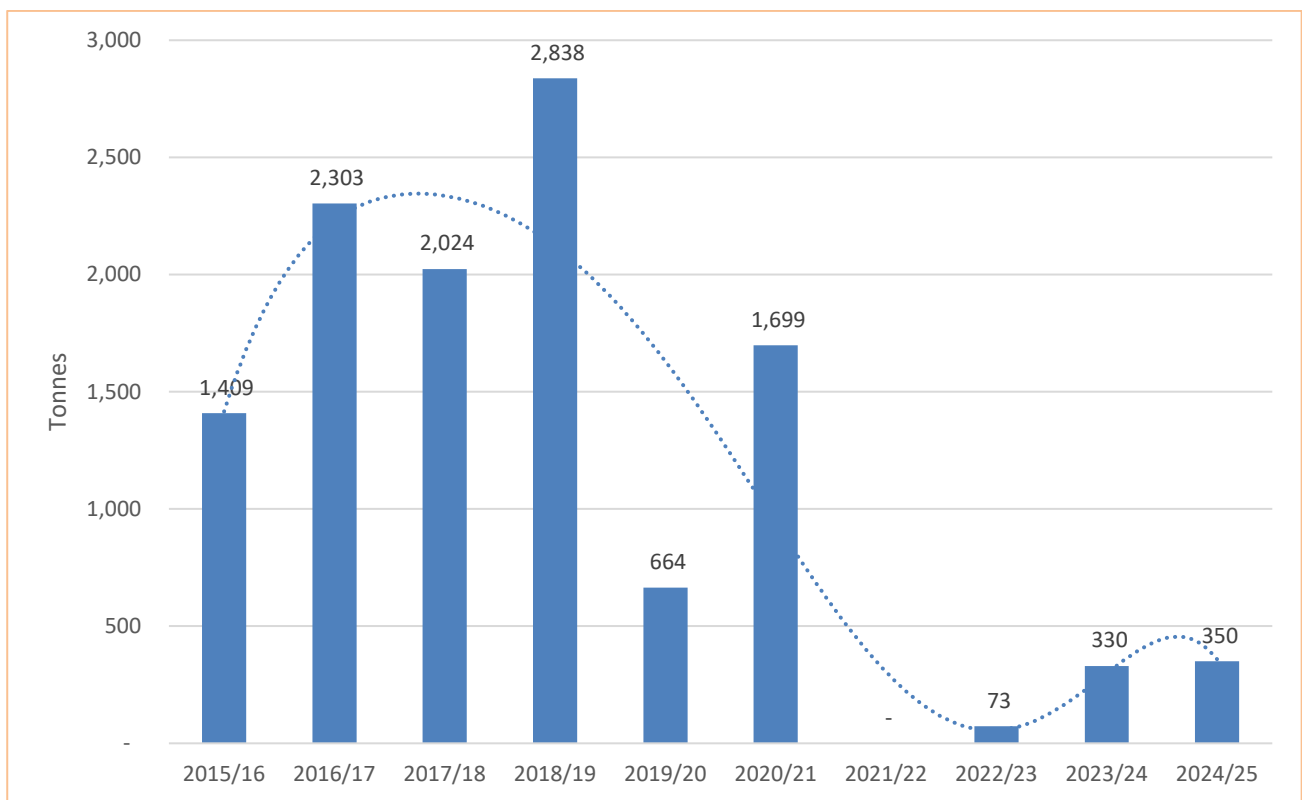
St Helens Inert Landfill

The St Helens Inert Landfill plays an important role in Council’s waste management system by providing a compliant local disposal pathway for inert and low-risk materials. The landfill primarily receives construction and demolition materials and other non-putrescible wastes and supports the wider waste transfer station network by acting as an approved endpoint for inert materials generated within the municipality.

The landfill’s value extends beyond disposal capacity. The site enables the separation, stockpiling, and eventual recovery of clean fill materials—such as concrete, soil, and gravel—supporting waste hierarchy principles and reducing unnecessary consumption of landfill airspace. The landfill operates under an Environmental Protection Notice issued by the Tasmanian Environmental Protection Agency and is subject to ongoing regulatory reporting and audit requirements, reinforcing its role as a regulated and managed component of Council’s critical infrastructure network.

Historically, inert landfill data shows significant year-to-year variability, driven largely by changes in material composition rather than overall system performance.

Figure 4: St Helens Inert Landfill – Waste Quantities 2015/16 to 2024/25



In 2021/22, Council implemented a strategic operational shift to extend the landfill's effective life by separating recoverable clean fill materials from the inert waste stream and stockpiling them for recovery and reuse through planned campaign processing. Since this change, materials directed to landfill have predominantly comprised non-recoverable or difficult-to-process streams, including treated timber, composite timber laminate products, and cement sheeting. Clean Gyprock materials (containing calcium sulphate dihydrate (gypsum) – a valuable soil enhancer) have also been progressively diverted from landfill since 2021/22 and instead mulched with green waste.

These measures have reduced demand on landfill airspace, improved control over disposed material quality, and delivered greater operational stability. Importantly, these practices are now embedded as standard operating procedures, reflecting a strategic shift from disposal-centric management toward proactive asset life extension and recovery-led system optimisation.

While these initiatives have improved performance, the St Helens Inert Landfill remains a finite asset. Based on current inflows and the continuation of clean fill recovery campaigns, the remaining operational life is estimated to be 10 years. This forecast, however, is contingent on maintaining strict material controls and avoiding reliance on landfill expansion as a primary system response.

Strategic Need for Additional Inert Materials Disposal Capacity

To maintain long-term system resilience and avoid future capacity constraints, Council has progressed the development of an additional inert landfill at the Scamander Waste Transfer Station, that is to be located over the closed putrescible landfill. This development represents a strategic investment in future disposal capacity, providing an additional inert waste option with an anticipated lifespan more than 30 years.

The proposed inert landfill development was evaluated and approved by EPA Tasmania and Break O'Day Council in late 2022, with permit approval granted to proceed to detailed design. The design has been finalised and includes additional capping of the closed putrescible landfill, construction of new inert landfill cells, and installation of supporting site-wide water and leachate management infrastructure.

From a strategic planning perspective, the Scamander development enables Council to stage future investment, manage long-term disposal risk, and maintain system redundancy without prematurely committing capacity or capital. Regulatory design approval will allow Council to sequence development in line with actual demand, diversion performance, and financial planning, ensuring inert landfill infrastructure remains fit for purpose, proportionate, and aligned with the Strategy's objectives to minimise landfill reliance while safeguarding service continuity.

Baseline Waste & Resource Recovery Performance

The 2024–25 financial year has been adopted as the Base Year for this Strategy, providing a stable and credible reference point against which future performance, investment decisions, and system changes can be assessed over the Strategy period.

In the Base Year, Council’s waste management system handled a total of 6,609 tonnes of material across Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Commercial and Industrial (C&I), and Construction and Demolition (C&D) streams. MSW dominates the system, accounting for 69.2% (4,576 tonnes) of all material managed, reflecting the central influence of household behaviour and kerbside services on overall system performance. C&D materials comprise a further 17.9%, while C&I waste represents 12.9% of total throughput.

Table 3: Waste Stream disposition

2024-25 Base Year	Unit	MSW	C&D	C&I	Total	Proportion
Landfilled	t	2,602	105	539	3,246	49.1%
Recovered	t	1,521	4	219	1,744	26.4%
Stockpiled for Recovery	t	30	1,073	-	1,103	16.7%
Landfill Cover	t	423	-	93	516	7.8%
Total	t	4,576	1,182	851	6,609	100%
Proportion		69.2%	17.9%	12.9%	100%	

This baseline profile highlights where the greatest leverage for system improvement exists. The predominance of MSW underscores the importance of interventions targeting household waste generation, source separation, and service design, while the scale of C&D and C&I streams reinforces the need for fit-for-purpose infrastructure, recovery pathways, and periodical campaign-based processing to manage peaks and variability. Together, these baseline metrics frame the strategic priorities of the Waste Strategy and inform where effort and investment are most likely to deliver meaningful reductions in landfill reliance and long-term cost exposure.

Overall performance indicates significant potential for improvement. Nearly half of the total material—3,246 tonnes or 49.1% was landfilled, while resource recovery efforts are limited to 26.4% (1,744 tonnes). An additional 516 tonnes (7.8%) are used as landfill cover, and 1,103 tonnes (16.7%) are stored for future recovery. The combined diversion rate, including recovery and cover, is 34.2%, which falls short of the targets set by both state and national circular economy commitments.

Performance varies significantly across waste streams. MSW accounts for approximately 80% of all landfilled material (2,602 t), with a recovery rate of 33.2%, highlighting general waste streams as the most influential area for intervention.

C&I waste relies heavily on landfilling at 63.3% and has a low recovery rate of 25.7%, highlighting the need for improved commercial services and greater business involvement.

C&D waste shows the lowest recovery rate at just 0.3%, but it also offers the greatest opportunity since 1,073 tonnes—97.3% of the total stockpiled material—are from the C&D stream. Processing the full 1,103 tonnes could technically boost the strict diversion rate from 26.4% to 43.1% and the broad diversion from 34.2% to 50.9%, marking a significant improvement in system performance. Although processing the accumulated C&D stockpiles can provide an immediate increase in diversion results, the costs involved must be carefully considered. The Council plans to process stockpiled material in campaigns once the stockpile reaches 5,000–7,000 tonnes, as crushing and screening become economically feasible due to the high setup costs for each campaign.

Similarly, even modest gains in MSW recovery could lead to significant benefits: recovering 20% of MSW’s landfilled material (~520 t), when combined with stockpile processing, could push strict diversion beyond 50%, achieving key strategic thresholds.

What’s Driving the Tonnage

Figure 4: Summary of Material Flows and Key Insights (Base Year 2024-25)

Material Category	Landfilled	Recovered	Stockpiled for Recovery	Landfill Cover	Total
	(t)	(t)	(t)	(t)	(t)
Tyres	0	10			10
Hazardous Waste	1	51			52
Textiles, leather & rubber	228				228
Plastics	333	32			365
Metals	111	254			365
Timber	361	10			371
Glass	139	202	30		371
Paper & cardboard	277	251			528
Food Organics	1,095				1,095
Building & demolition materials	229		1,073		1,302
Garden organics & green waste	472	934		516	1,922
TOTALS	3,246	1,744	1,103	516	6,609

The big three waste streams

Three material streams account for most of the total tonnage—garden organics and green waste (29.1%), building and demolition residue (19.7%), and food organics (16.6%)—collectively making up nearly two-thirds of all waste.

Recovery outcomes differ widely. Metals (69.6%), glass (54.4%), and paper/cardboard (47.5%) perform well due to established processing markets. Conversely, major streams like food organics (1,095 t landfilled), timber (361 t landfilled), and plastics (333 t landfilled out of 365 t total) show very low recovery.

C&D Waste.

A key operational issue in the base year was the accumulation of 1,103 t of stockpiled material, with 97% being C&D waste. Although intended for recovery, these amounts do not count towards diversion until they are processed, presenting both an opportunity for future improvement and a risk if processing capacity stays limited.

Garden organics and green waste.

Organics management remains a key strategic challenge. Garden organics and green waste total approximately 1,922 tonnes annually, with around 472 tonnes currently disposed of as general waste to the Copping landfill, representing a significant missed diversion opportunity.

Green Waste alone.

Green waste is shredded in large quantity at the St Helens, Scamander and St Marys Waste Transfer Stations. At St Helens, green waste received on site, together with material transported from the Ansons Bay Waste Transfer Station, is mulched to produce two grades of saleable mulch (coarse and fine), at cost price to the public. In the base year 2024-25, 934 tonnes of green waste was recovered as mulch.

At St Marys, green waste received on site and material transported from the Fingal Waste Transfer Station is coarse-mulched. At both St Marys and Scamander, higher contamination levels limit mulch quality, and the processed material is therefore used primarily as landfill cover.

Reducing green waste contamination at the Scamander and St Marys sites in the base year would have enable Council to produce and additional 516 tonnes as saleable mulch, improving the overall resource recovery outcome. Improving material quality, reducing contamination at source, and expanding mulching capacity where feasible would support improved circular economy outcomes while lowering long-term landfill reliance.

The total base year diversion from landfill —when measured solely as recovered material plus landfill cover, excluding stockpiles—is 34.2%, $[(1744 \text{ tonnes} + 516 \text{ tonne green waste}) / 6,609 \text{ tonnes}]$ highlights the reliance on landfill and the limitations of unprocessed green waste stockpiles.

Other High-volume waste streams.

High-volume landfilled streams such as food organics, timber, and C&D waste pose a risk to the municipality by increasing landfill costs and making it difficult to meet policy and community expectations.

Material streams with negligible or zero recovery

Material streams with negligible or zero recovery—particularly textiles, leather, and rubber (228 t with 0% recovery)—reveal substantial gaps in available recycling pathways.

Opportunities identified

The following opportunities have been identified for the Councils waste operations because they build on existing services, infrastructure, data, and operational practices, rather than assuming wholesale system change or significant new capital investment. Where system improvements are proposed, they are framed as investigations, staged interventions, or targeted enhancements, allowing Council to assess feasibility, affordability, and risk before committing resources. This approach reflects the scale and capacity of Council's waste operations, acknowledges regional market and processing constraints, and ensures actions can be delivered within existing governance, staffing, and financial frameworks while maintaining flexibility to adapt over time. On this basis, these opportunities are more broadly detailed below and have been aligned with various targets Actions section of this Strategy for consideration and phased implementation.

- **Construction & Demolition and Recoverable Materials Stockpiles:** Implement a structured, campaign-based approach to managing and processing (C&D) and other recoverable material stockpiles at the St Helens Waste Transfer Station, supported by strengthened long-term planning and governance arrangements. Stockpiles will be processed once economically viable thresholds are reached to recover materials for reuse, reduce reliance on landfill, and minimise long-term environmental, operational, and financial risks, while preserving flexibility to respond to changes in recovery pathways and market conditions.
- **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Recovery:** Prioritise initiatives that improve household waste outcomes by reducing recoverable material entering the general waste stream, through targeted education, service optimisation, and improved source separation where practical and affordable.
- **Organics Management:** Undertake feasibility and cost-benefit analysis of options to increase food and garden organics diversion, including assessment of kerbside and non-kerbside service models, processing pathways, and affordability impacts.
- **Low-Performing Material Streams:** Develop and trial targeted interventions to improve recovery of low-performing material streams—such as plastics, timber, and textiles—by strengthening separation practices, supporting reuse and collection pathways, and engaging with regional or market-led solutions where available.
- **High-Performing Material Streams:** Maintain and incrementally improve recovery of high-performing materials, including metals, glass, and paper/cardboard, by reinforcing correct separation behaviours, minimising contamination, and ensuring waste transfer station infrastructure remains fit for purpose.

Population and Landfill Waste Projections

Landfill-bound waste is the main challenge in Break O’Day’s waste system and offers the greatest opportunity for improvement, prompting long-term financial, environmental, and operational pressures.

Without intervention, current trends indicate that:

- Landfill demand will outpace population growth, increasing pressure on infrastructure.
- Overall waste generation will keep adding to landfill volumes.
- The increase in per-capita waste emphasises behavioural and systemic challenges.
- Small reductions in recycling contamination offer opportunities but are not enough to substantially reduce reliance on landfills.

Table 5: Population and Landfill Waste Projections

	Base Year (2024–2025)	Forecast (2029–2030)
Municipal population	7,127	7,307
Total waste to landfill (tonnes)	3,246	3,562
Per-capita landfill waste generation (t/capita)	0.455	0.488
Waste to landfill:		
• General waste	2,774	3,105
• Kerbside Recyclables contamination	122	117
• Inert waste	350	340

Addressing dependence on landfills by boosting recovery, enhancing separation, and cutting waste production is key to this Waste Strategy. With targeted actions and a more streamlined system, the Council can significantly reduce landfill volumes, improve resource recovery, and reduce future operational expenses.

Risk implications of maintaining the status quo

Maintaining current waste management arrangements presents increasing strategic risk for Council.

Continued reliance on existing approaches risks misalignment with evolving national and state waste policies, particularly expectations for reduced landfill reliance, increased recovery, and progress toward a circular economy.

Community expectations are also rising. Residents increasingly expect modern, transparent, and environmentally responsible waste services. Failure to improve current systems risks declining community confidence, lower satisfaction with services, and missed opportunities to improve diversion outcomes.

Ongoing dependence on landfill exposes Council to escalating financial pressures, including rising gate fees, transport and levy costs, increasing compliance and reporting requirements, and reduced

competitiveness for state and federal grant funding. Collectively, this creates a dual financial risk of higher operating costs alongside diminished access to external funding.

The waste sector is also undergoing structural change, with growing investment in advanced sorting technologies, organics processing, waste-to-energy solutions, and stronger recovery markets. Delayed engagement increases the risk of Council falling behind technological and infrastructure advancements, limiting future options and increasing long-term costs.

Without improvements to collection systems, source separation, and recovery pathways, landfill volumes will continue to rise. This undermines long-term environmental performance, increases emissions, accelerates landfill airspace consumption, and heightens reputational risk as expectations for responsible waste management continue to grow. Demonstrating consistent progress in recovery and landfill reduction is therefore critical to maintaining community trust, environmental credibility, and financial resilience.

Quantitative Targets

Quantitative targets represent Break O’Day Council’s strategic goals, but not all actions or results can be fully achieved within the strategy timeframe. Certain targets—like significantly decreasing food and garden organics sent to landfill—may face limitations due to high implementation costs, processing capacity restrictions, regulatory demands, and other external influences. Consequently, these targets should be seen as aspirational benchmarks aimed at fostering ongoing improvement, exploring new opportunities, guiding investments and behaviour changes, and staying aligned with regional expectations, even if full achievement isn’t always possible.

Table 6: Strategy Goals and Targets

Goal	Targets
<p>Goal 1</p> <p>Working Towards a Circular Economy</p> <p>This goal focuses on reducing reliance on landfill by improving understanding of local material flows and prioritising waste avoidance, reuse, recycling, and recovery where practical and affordable. It includes reducing waste generated per capita, improving material separation and recovery, and enhancing landfill and waste transfer station operations, infrastructure, and management practices to support improved resource recovery outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase landfill diversion by 23% by 2030. • Improve landfill operations management. • Increase material recovery rate by 23% by 2030. • Ensure MSW, C&I and C&D Recovery Capacity Pipeline is Sufficient to 2050.
<p>Goal 2</p> <p>Improving Data and Reporting for Waste Operations.</p> <p>This goal aims to strengthen data collection, analysis, and reporting to support informed decision-making, regulatory compliance, and transparency. Improved tracking of performance against targets enables accountability and community engagement, while understanding the carbon footprint of waste activities supports sustainability objectives and the evaluation of future waste management options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver Transparent, Consistent and Regulatory-Compliant Waste Data Reporting. • Ensure the carbon impacts of Councils waste management operations are understood and inform waste initiative business cases. • Improve understanding of Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste generation and material flows through participation in a coordinated regional C&I audit program.

<p>Goal 3</p> <p>Leveraging Collaboration to Improve Local Waste Outcomes.</p> <p>This goal recognises the value of targeted regional collaboration to improve efficiency, consistency, and access to expertise and services. Participation in regional initiatives is undertaken selectively where it delivers clear benefits for Break O’Day and supports Council’s waste management priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Circular Materials Market Access • Leverage Circular North membership to Deliver shared and Local Value. • Provide Ongoing Education and Engagement
<p>Goal 4</p> <p>Strategic Alignment and Regulatory Readiness.</p> <p>This goal ensures Council’s waste services, infrastructure planning, and operational practices remain aligned with Councils Strategic Plan, state and national policy directions. It focuses on maintaining compliance, monitoring regulatory and market changes, and ensuring the waste management system remains resilient, adaptable, and fit for purpose over time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Strategic Alignment and Long-Term Readiness of Waste Infrastructure • Support and Strengthen Regional Consistency through standards and Procurement. • Adopt regionally consistent standards or procurement approaches only where they support fit-for-purpose local delivery.

Financial Considerations

The Council's current 10-year Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) reflects the continuation of existing waste operations and service levels. Under this business-as-usual approach, waste volumes are expected to increase broadly in line with population growth and consumption patterns, leading to higher landfill disposal costs, increased levy exposure, and periodic capital investment needs. While the LTFP indicates short-term financial stability, this trajectory continues to put upward pressure on waste service charges and heightens the Council's exposure to external cost drivers.

This Waste Strategy outlines a managed shift towards greater waste avoidance and enhanced resource recovery. Achieving these aims will require targeted investment in service optimisation, community education, contamination reduction, and potential infrastructure improvements. Consequently, the LTFP will need periodic updates to reflect the operational and capital costs of implementing the Strategy's actions.

Although these initiatives might increase expenditure over time, better diversion performance is expected to offset costs to different degrees through:

- Reduced landfill disposal volumes
- Less exposure to rising levy costs
- Extending the operational lifespan of landfill airspace
- Delaying significant future capital investment for new landfill cell development

The Strategy does not assume immediate net savings; instead, it aims to slow longer-term cost increases and strengthen financial resilience. Major initiatives will be supported by detailed business cases and endorsed by the Council before being included in future LTFP revisions. Financial performance and diversion outcomes will be reviewed each year to ensure they align with the Council's sustainability and affordability goals.

Waste & Resource Recovery in 2030

A series of targets and actions has been created based on the Council's priority materials and waste projection modelling to boost capture rates, enhance resource recovery, and lower waste generated per person.

Goal 1: Working Towards a Circular Economy

Target: Increase Landfill Diversion by 23% by 2030		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
1.1 Reduce waste generation per capita in Break O’Day by 9% by 2030 by prioritising waste avoidance and improved separation of high-volume material streams, supported by targeted education, service optimisation, and behaviour-change initiatives.	Achieving a 9% per-capita reduction would avoid approximately 320 tonnes of waste being generated and sent to landfill by 2030, reducing landfill demand, extending landfill life, and lowering long-term disposal and transport costs.	The 2024–25 base year analysis identifies food organics (35%) and garden organics (17%) as the primary drivers of landfill demand, together accounting for more than half of all general waste sent to landfill. Other significant contributors include plastics, paper and cardboard, and textiles. This action focuses on system-wide waste avoidance and improved source separation across these priority materials and provides the foundation for assessing higher-impact recovery options, including food organics and FOGO services, through subsequent feasibility analysis (Actions 1.2).
1.2 Undertake a feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis to assess food organics and combined Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service options, including service models, processing pathways, affordability impacts, and behaviour-change requirements, to inform future Council decisions.	Provides Council with a robust, evidence-based assessment of organics recovery options, enabling informed decisions that could significantly reduce landfill disposal, extend landfill life, lower emissions, and support circular economy outcomes without committing to unaffordable service changes.	In the 2024–25 base year, approximately 1,095 tonnes of food organics and 472 tonnes of garden organics were landfilled, representing the largest single contributor to municipal landfill disposal. Council does not currently provide a kerbside garden organics service due to the high cost and service delivery challenges associated with a low-density, dispersed municipality. While fee-based green waste disposal is available at waste transfer stations, this limits overall diversion potential. Food organics represent a higher-impact diversion opportunity, delivering significant environmental and landfill life benefits. This action ensures any consideration of food organics or FOGO services is guided by affordability, service practicality, regulatory requirements, and long-term financial sustainability, rather than assumed implementation.
1.3 Implement a green waste diversion awareness program supported by community education, contamination controls, to maximise recovery of green waste and production of low impurity mulch for garden use.	Significant reductions in landfill disposal and long-term costs would be realised, alongside improved resource recovery, increased availability of saleable mulch, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and stronger circular-economy and sustainability outcomes for the community.	Council currently manages significant volumes of green waste at St Helens, Scamander and St Marys waste transfer stations, with a material proportion still disposed of as landfill cover due to contamination, limited source separation, and variable processing capacity. While St Helens successfully produce saleable mulch, inconsistent material quality and reliance on landfill cover at Scamander and St Marys, represent missed opportunities to recover resources, reduce disposal costs, and support circular-economy outcomes. A more consistent, source-separated approach to green waste management is required to improve material quality, and reuse potential and strengthen the environmental and operational performance of Council’s waste services.
1.4 Increase plastics capture by 36% by improving source separation and recovery of non-kerbside and low-value plastics currently entering landfill, supported by targeted education, improved segregation and drop-off arrangements at waste facilities, and participation in regional or product-stewardship programs where practical and cost-effective.	General waste sent to landfill currently contains an estimated 333 tonnes of mixed plastics annually. Achieving a 36% plastics capture rate would divert approximately 120 tonnes of plastics from landfill each year.	In the 2024–25 base year, plastics were distributed across the waste system as follows: 333 tonnes in general waste to landfill and 32 tonnes captured through kerbside recycling, resulting in total plastic generation of approximately 365 tonnes. Kerbside recycling currently accepts only PET (PIC 1), HDPE (PIC 2), and PP (PIC 5). While the introduction of the Container Deposit Scheme in May 2025 has begun reducing recyclable beverage containers in landfill, significant volumes of plastics remain outside the kerbside system. Plastics not accepted through kerbside recycling—PVC (PIC 3), LDPE (PIC 4), PS/EPS (PIC 6), and other plastics (PIC 7)—represent a priority diversion opportunity where consistent separation and viable recovery pathways exist. Key challenges include contamination risks and low commodity value for soft plastics, limited processing capacity, under-utilisation of existing programs such as DRUM MUSTER, and emerging issues associated with agricultural and film plastics.
1.5 Increase recovery of construction and demolition materials recovery by 29% by implementing a structured, campaign-based approach to processing recoverable clean-fill stockpiles when economically viable, prioritising reuse in Council civil construction projects to reduce landfill reliance and extend landfill life.	Implementation would lift C&D material capture by 29%, diverting approximately an additional 30 tonnes per year from landfill and improving the efficiency of material re-use in Council civil construction projects.	Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste represents a significant component of Break O’Day Council’s overall waste stream. In 2024–2025, 1,182t of C&D waste was handled, with 105t landfilled, 4 t recovered, and 1,073t stockpiled for future campaign recovery. Materials landfilled predominantly consisted of cement sheeting, porcelain, gyprock, treated timber, and laminated - particle board products. C&D materials recovery from existing stockpiles provides an immediate opportunity for the Council to increase capture rate and recover for use in civil construction projects.

Target: Increase Landfill Diversion by 23% by 2030 continued.			
Action	Impact if achieved	Context	
1.6	Increase textile diversion from landfill by 15% by delivering targeted education and promoting State Government-supported and community-led repair, reuse, and recovery initiatives, improving community awareness and participation using low-risk, cost-effective approaches rather than new processing infrastructure.	<p>If achieved, this action would increase textile diversion from landfill by 15%, diverting approximately 34 tonnes of material per year from disposal based on 2024–25 baseline data. Improved participation in reuse and repair pathways would reduce landfill demand, conserve embedded resources, and support broader circular economy outcomes. By leveraging education and existing State Government-supported and community-led initiatives, this approach would deliver environmental and social benefits while minimising financial risk and avoiding the need for new processing infrastructure.</p>	<p>Textiles contribute 228 t of Break O’Day Council’s landfill waste each year. Textile waste presents growing environmental, social, and economic challenges due to slow decomposition, greenhouse gas emissions from natural fibres, microplastic generation from synthetics, and the loss of valuable resources embedded in clothing and household fabrics. Nationally and statewide, textile consumption and disposal continue to rise, contributing to landfill pressure and lost economic value.</p> <p>Tasmania is beginning to address textile waste through the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, community repair initiatives, grants, and investment in circular economy programs. In 2023–24, reuse networks across Tasmania diverted 11,000 t of items from landfill and supported significant social benefits, including job creation and community reinvestment. However, textile specific recycling infrastructure remains limited, and most unwanted textiles still enter landfill.</p> <p>For Break O’Day Council, opportunities exist to reduce textile disposal by enhancing reuse pathways by supporting repair and recovery initiatives, expanding local drop off points, promoting improved donation quality, and community education through programs such as Rethink Waste Tasmania. Strengthening these actions will support broader strategic goals to reduce landfill reliance, increase resource recovery, and build local circular economy capacity.</p>
1.7	Increase paper and cardboard recovery by 31% by addressing identified system gaps through fit-for-purpose waste transfer station infrastructure, improved drop-off arrangements, and targeted education, reducing landfill reliance and improving long-term system efficiency.	<p>If achieved, this action would increase paper and cardboard recovery by 31%, diverting approximately 86 tonnes of material per year from landfill based on 2024–25 baseline performance. Improved capture of this high-volume, readily recyclable material would reduce landfill demand, lower disposal and levy costs, and improve the efficiency of existing recovery systems. Over time, strengthened infrastructure, clearer drop-off pathways, and improved source separation would contribute to extended landfill life, better use of recovery capacity, and a more reliable and fit-for-purpose waste system.</p>	<p>Paper and cardboard represent a significant recoverable material stream within Break O’Day Council’s waste profile, with 277 tonnes landfilled in the 2024–25 Base Year. While existing recovery systems capture material through kerbside recycling and bulk-bin collections at waste transfer stations, current infrastructure and drop-off arrangements limit correct source separation, particularly for bulky cardboard generated by households and businesses.</p> <p>To address these system gaps, Council will install a cardboard and paper compactor at the St Helens Waste Transfer Station in the 2026/27 financial year. This investment will encourage the direct placement of clean paper and cardboard into dedicated recovery infrastructure, rather than disposal via bulk general-waste bins destined for landfill. Improving access to fit-for-purpose infrastructure at this site, alongside clearer drop-off arrangements at Scamander, St Marys Waste Transfer Stations and targeted education, will support improved source separation, reduce avoidable landfill disposal, and strengthen the efficiency and reliability of existing recovery pathways.</p>
1.8	Progress an 80% increase in timber recovery by improving separation and supporting reuse and recovery pathways for clean timber where practical and cost-effective.	<p>If achieved, this action would significantly reduce the volume of timber entering landfill by improving the capture of clean, recoverable timber through better separation, reuse, and recovery pathways. While Council does not currently have detailed data distinguishing timber by type (e.g. treated, untreated, composite), improved separation practices would enable higher-value timber streams to be diverted from disposal, reducing landfill demand and extending landfill life. Over time, strengthened timber recovery would lower disposal costs, support broader construction and demolition waste recovery outcomes, and improve Council’s understanding of timber material flows, enabling more refined data collection and future performance measurement.</p>	<p>Timber represents a significant portion of Break O’Day Council’s C&D waste stream, with large volumes of recoverable material currently being landfilled due to limited separation and processing pathways. Clean, untreated timber—including furniture, cabinetry, packaging, and industrial off cuts—can be readily diverted for reuse, mulching, biofuel production, or regional value adding opportunities.</p> <p>Improving timber recovery would substantially reduce landfill inputs and support circular economy outcomes. Key barriers include inconsistent source separation, limited on site sorting practices, and a lack of accessible processing facilities. To address this, opportunities exist to strengthen demolition site separation requirements, enhance collection points at waste facilities, support regional timber recovery operators, and expand reuse partnerships with community organisations and local businesses.</p> <p>Increasing clean timber capture aligns with broader waste reduction objectives and provides environmental, economic, and social benefits through reduced disposal costs, extended landfill life,</p>

Target: Increase Landfill Diversion by 23% by 2030 continued.		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
1.9	Increase hazardous waste capture by 9% by strengthening data collection, clarifying service pathways, expanding accessible drop-off options where feasible, and improving community awareness through targeted education and collection initiatives, prioritising safety, risk reduction, and regulatory compliance.	<p>If achieved, this action would increase the capture of hazardous waste by approximately 4.7tonnes, improving the safe handling and lawful disposal of higher-risk materials and reducing the likelihood of hazardous substances entering landfill or the wider environment. While Council currently has limited data on the total quantity of hazardous waste generated across the municipality or disposed of through informal pathways, stronger service clarity, improved data collection, and increased community awareness would enable more hazardous materials to be intercepted through approved programs. Over time, this would reduce environmental and public health risks, strengthen regulatory compliance, improve planning confidence, and enhance Council's ability to monitor hazardous waste trends and target future risk-reduction initiatives.</p>
1.10	Progress a stretch target of reducing kerbside recycling contamination to below 14% (National Average) through improved community education, clearer recycling guidance, and ongoing performance monitoring.	<p>Hazardous waste represents a small but higher-risk component of Break O'Day Council's waste stream. These materials—ranging from e-waste, solvents, pesticides, batteries (including lithium ion), medical sharps, sanitary products, waste oil, and asbestos—pose risks to human health and the environment due to their ignitable, corrosive, reactive, toxic, or biological properties. Improper disposal can lead to soil and water contamination, air pollution, ecological harm, and serious public health impacts.</p> <p>Current hazardous waste services are delivered through a combination of contracted providers and state-supported programs, for household hazardous waste collection. While some streams have established arrangements, others lack clear data or consistent service levels, limiting Council's ability to plan, monitor, and optimise recovery.</p> <p>Strengthening hazardous waste management is essential for compliance, risk reduction, and community safety. Improved data collection expanded drop off options, clearer service pathways, and increased community awareness will support safer handling and ensure alignment with broader waste strategy objectives.</p>
		<p>In the 2024–25 base year, kerbside recyclables in Break O'Day Council had a contamination rate of approximately 22%, resulting in an estimated 130 tonnes per annum of material being rejected or diverted to landfill. High contamination undermines recycling performance by increasing sorting and disposal costs, reducing material quality, and limiting recovery outcomes at processing facilities. Contaminated loads place additional pressure on landfill capacity, increase exposure to transport and levy costs, and heighten the risk of rejected loads and service inefficiencies. Reducing contamination is therefore a critical system performance improvement, fundamental to delivering cleaner material for reprocessing, lowering operational costs, strengthening contractor and market confidence, and ensuring kerbside recycling services remain affordable and fit for purpose over time.</p>

Target: Improve Landfill Operations Management		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
1.11 Develop and maintain emergency waste management plans aligned with state and national preparedness frameworks to ensure continuity of waste services, protect public health and the environment, and enable rapid and coordinated recovery following natural disasters and emergency events.	If achieved, this action would ensure waste services can continue safely and reliably during natural disasters and emergency events, protecting public health, minimising environmental harm, and supporting faster community recovery. Clearly defined procedures and responsibilities would improve coordination, reduce the risk of illegal dumping and hazardous waste mismanagement, and strengthen Council's preparedness and resilience. Over time, this would lower operational and financial risk, improve compliance with state and national preparedness expectations, and increase community confidence in Council's ability to maintain essential services under disruption.	Break O'Day Council is exposed to a range of natural hazards, including bushfires, storms, floods, and other emergency events that can disrupt normal waste services and generate sudden increases in waste volumes, including hazardous materials. Effective emergency waste management planning is essential to protect public health, maintain environmental standards, and support timely community recovery. Aligning local emergency waste plans with state and national preparedness frameworks ensures Council is ready to respond in a coordinated, safe, and compliant manner while maintaining critical waste service continuity during and after emergency events.
Target: Increase Material Recovery Rate by 23 % by 2030		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
1.12 Increase the overall material recovery rate by 23% in 2030 by improving source separation, strategically processing recoverable stockpiles through campaign-based recovery when economically viable, enhancing community education, and optimising existing waste services, thereby reducing landfill reliance, conserving resources, and supporting progress toward the 2030 target.	Reaching this level would represent a significant step change from the 2024/25 base year from 1744 tonnes to 2,145 tonnes and establish a strong foundation for progressively moving toward higher recovery performance over a longer 10-plus-year timeframe, as recovery pathways, markets, infrastructure, and community behaviours continue to mature.	Break O'Day Council's 2024/25 base year recovery performance reflects the municipality's small scale, dispersed population, limited local processing capacity, and reliance on regional markets and campaign-based recovery. While state and national policy directions set longer-term expectations for recovery rates approaching 80%, an 80% target is not realistically achievable within the 2025–2030 strategy period given current service configurations, infrastructure constraints, market availability, and affordability considerations. Within this context, achieving a recovery rate of approximately 23% by 2030 represents a more realistic outcome that balances ambition with practicality. This level of recovery would require measurable improvements in source separation, periodic processing of recoverable stockpiles when economically viable, stronger community participation, and optimisation of existing services, rather than wholesale system change. Framing 23% recovery as an interim milestone provides a credible pathway toward higher recovery performance over a longer 10-plus-year timeframe, as recovery pathways, infrastructure, markets, and community behaviours continue to mature and adapt.

Target: Ensure MSW, C&I and C&D Recovery Capacity Pipeline is Sufficient to 2050		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
<p>1.13 Ensure recovery capacity for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Commercial and Industrial (C&I), and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste streams is sufficient to 2050 through staged infrastructure planning, strategic management of recoverable material stockpiles, and diversion of recoverable materials from landfill to support long-term system resilience and landfill life extension.</p>	<p>If achieved, this action would ensure Break O’Day Council’s waste recovery infrastructure and systems remain capable of managing future waste volumes to 2050 without premature reliance on landfill expansion. Improved planning and staged development of recovery capacity would optimise resource allocation, enhance service reliability, and reduce long-term disposal and compliance risks. By diverting recoverable materials from landfill and strategically managing recovery pipelines, Council would extend landfill lifespan, strengthen system resilience, and maintain flexibility to respond to changing markets, regulatory requirements, and recovery technologies over time.</p>	<p>Ensuring adequate recovery capacity for MSW, C&I, and C&D waste streams to 2050 is a core requirement of long-term waste management planning for Break O’Day Council. Each waste stream relies on an integrated recovery capacity pipeline—including waste transfer station layouts, recycling infrastructure, processing systems, stockpiling arrangements, and reuse pathways—that must be able to adapt to future waste volumes, regulatory changes, and evolving circular economy expectations.</p> <p>Break O’Day Council already has an established foundation for material recovery, including clean-fill stockpiling, glass recovery, white-goods recycling, and mulching of untreated timber and gyprock. However, constraints remain, including limited recovery options for composite and laminated materials and the finite capacity of inert landfills. While the approved Scamander Inert Landfill will provide additional disposal capacity, its long-term operational life is dependent on reducing inflows through improved diversion and recovery.</p> <p>This action focuses on maintaining flexibility and resilience by planning recovery capacity in stages, avoiding premature capital investment, and ensuring landfill infrastructure is complemented by effective recovery pathways. Doing so enables Council to manage disposal risk, extend landfill life toward the mid-2050s, and remain aligned with longer-term state and national recovery objectives without over-committing to fixed infrastructure in advance of demonstrated need.</p>

Goal 2: Improving Data and Reporting for Waste Operations

Target: Deliver Transparent, Consistent and Regulatory-Compliant Waste Data Reporting		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
2.1 Work collaboratively with regional partners to improve alignment and shared understanding of waste data collection and reporting requirements, adopting proportionate, practical, and compliant approaches that support regulatory reporting, operational decision-making, and regional planning while avoiding unnecessary administrative burden for councils.	Improved consistency, accuracy, and reliability of waste data reporting across the region, enabling Council to meet regulatory obligations with greater confidence while reducing duplication and unnecessary administrative effort. A targeted, proportionate approach to regional alignment will support better-informed operational and strategic decision-making, improve the quality of shared regional datasets, and strengthen Council’s ability to participate effectively in regional planning, benchmarking, and advocacy without imposing undue resourcing pressures.	<p>Consistent and reliable waste data is essential for regulatory compliance, performance monitoring, and informed decision-making. However, waste data collection and reporting requirements continue to evolve and can vary across jurisdictions, creating challenges for smaller regional councils.</p> <p>As a member of Circular North, Break O’Day Council benefits from regional collaboration to align data definitions, methodologies, and reporting expectations. A targeted, proportionate approach to regional alignment supports compliance and shared understanding while recognising local service scale, operational capacity, and resource constraints. This ensures waste data reporting remains accurate, efficient, and fit-for-purpose without imposing unnecessary administrative burden.</p>
2.2 Develop and maintain a fit-for-purpose waste data dashboard that consolidates key waste, diversion, recovery, and carbon information into a clear and accessible format to support Council decision-making, regulatory reporting, and transparent community communication.	Improved transparency, accountability, and confidence in Council’s waste management performance through the availability of clear, consistent, and accessible waste and carbon information. A centralised waste data dashboard will support evidence-based decision-making, streamline internal and external reporting, and enhance community understanding of waste impacts, contributing to improved engagement, trust, and participation in waste reduction and resource recovery initiatives.	<p>Clear, accessible, and timely information is essential for effective waste management planning, transparent governance, and meaningful community engagement. While Break O’Day Council collects a range of waste-related data to meet regulatory and operational requirements, this information is currently dispersed across multiple systems and reports, limiting its usefulness for decision-making and public communication.</p> <p>Developing a centralised waste data dashboard will provide a single, trusted source of information on waste generation, diversion performance, recovery outcomes, and associated carbon impacts. Presenting this information in a clear and consistent format will improve internal understanding of system performance, support evidence-based service planning, and streamline reporting to Council and external stakeholders.</p> <p>A community-facing dashboard will also strengthen transparency and trust by enabling residents to better understand how waste is generated and managed locally, the environmental impacts of different waste streams, and how individual behaviours influence system outcomes. Over time, improved visibility of waste and carbon data will support education initiatives, encourage positive behaviour change, and reinforce shared responsibility for reducing landfill reliance.</p> <p>The dashboard will be developed at a scale and level of detail appropriate to Council’s operational capacity, using validated data and proportionate reporting methods. It will complement—not replace—statutory reporting obligations and will be updated regularly to ensure information remains current, reliable, and relevant to strategic decision-making and community engagement.</p>
2.3 Establish and maintain consistent, reliable, and scalable waste data reporting mechanisms by using validated estimation methods, standardised reporting templates, and coordinated regional practices where appropriate, to support regulatory compliance, operational planning, and regional data sharing without requiring unnecessary investment in new infrastructure.	A consistent framework will streamline the process of data collection and reporting, ensuring consistency and efficiency across the region’s waste data reporting.	This Action aims to establish a consistent regional framework for waste data collection and reporting to improve accuracy, comparability, and efficiency across councils. For BODC, supporting this action means adopting standardised reporting templates, using validated estimation methods, and participating in regional coordination efforts—while avoiding unnecessary investment in costly infrastructure. By focusing on data quality, transparency, and scalable practices suited to a low volume council, BODC can contribute reliable data to the regional strategy and help shape a framework that is practical, inclusive, and aligned with available resources.

Target: Ensure the carbon impacts of Councils waste management operations are understood and inform waste initiative business cases.		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
2.4 Undertake proportionate carbon modelling of Break O’Day Council’s waste management activities and future service options to improve understanding of emissions associated with waste services and ensure carbon impacts are transparently considered in business cases, investment decisions, and service planning.	Improved understanding of the carbon emissions associated with Council’s waste management activities, enabling carbon impacts to be transparently and consistently considered alongside cost, service, and regulatory factors in business cases and investment decisions. Proportionate carbon modelling will strengthen strategic planning, support more informed choices between waste management options, and improve Council’s ability to demonstrate environmental responsibility and alignment with broader state and national sustainability objectives without imposing excessive resource demands.	<p>Waste management activities contribute to greenhouse gas emissions through landfill disposal, transport, processing, and operational practices. As state and national policy directions increasingly emphasise emissions reduction and climate-informed decision-making, councils are expected to understand and demonstrate how their waste services influence carbon outcomes.</p> <p>Break O’Day Council currently has limited, consolidated information on the carbon footprint of its waste management activities. Without a clear understanding of emissions associated with different waste streams and service options, it is difficult to transparently compare alternatives or fully assess trade-offs in business cases and long-term planning.</p> <p>This action focuses on undertaking proportionate and fit-for-purpose carbon modelling that reflects Council’s scale, operational capacity, and data availability. Rather than pursuing complex or resource-intensive reporting frameworks, the emphasis is on practical modelling that provides meaningful insight into emissions trends and relative impacts of future service or infrastructure options. Integrating carbon considerations into waste planning will strengthen Council’s ability to make informed, balanced decisions that consider environmental, financial, and service outcomes together. It will also support transparent governance, improve alignment with broader sustainability objectives, and position Council to respond confidently to future regulatory, funding, and community expectations related to climate and emissions management.</p>
Action: Improve understanding of Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste generation and material flows through participation in a coordinated regional C&I audit program		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
2.5 Participate in and support a coordinated regional Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste audit program, using a shared and scalable approach to improve understanding of C&I waste generation, material flows, and sector-specific behaviours, and to inform regional planning, targeted education, and future waste reduction and resource recovery initiatives without placing undue resourcing demands on Council.	Improved understanding of C&I waste generation, material flows, and sector-specific behaviours across the region, enabling more informed planning, targeted education, and future waste reduction and resource recovery initiatives. Participation in a coordinated regional audit program will improve the quality and consistency of C&I waste data, support evidence-based decision-making, and reduce duplication of effort, allowing Council to access meaningful insights without placing disproportionate resourcing or financial demands on local operations.	Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste represents a less well-understood component of Break O’Day Council’s overall waste profile. Limited local data on C&I waste generation, material composition, and sector-specific behaviours constrains Council’s ability to plan targeted services, education initiatives, and recovery pathways.

Goal 3: Leveraging Collaboration to Improve Local Waste Outcomes

Target: Increase Circular Materials Market Access		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
3.1 Support Circular North initiatives by contributing to and utilising annual material flow reports to improve understanding of Break O’Day Council’s waste and resource recovery material flows, informing infrastructure planning, service design, and regional market development decisions.	Greater confidence in infrastructure planning, service design, and investment decisions through improved understanding of local and regional material flows. Enhanced access to reliable, shared material flow data will support better-targeted infrastructure development, more efficient resource allocation, and stronger market signals for circular economy investment, helping to improve circular materials market access over time.	Understanding material flows at a local and regional scale is essential for effective waste planning, infrastructure investment, and market development. As a small regional council, Break O’Day Council benefits from participating in shared regional analysis rather than developing standalone material flow assessments. Contributing to and using Circular North annual material flow reports enables Council to access consistent, credible data that supports evidence-based decision-making, improves alignment with regional market development, and helps identify priority materials and opportunities to improve circular materials market access.
Target: Leverage Circular North Membership to Deliver shared and Local Value		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
3.2 Continue to actively participate in Circular North technical committee and governance meetings to support coordinated decision-making, technical collaboration, information sharing, and the effective delivery of regional circular economy initiatives.	Stronger regional coordination, improved information sharing, and enhanced access to technical expertise, supporting more consistent, efficient, and well-informed waste management outcomes. Active participation in Circular North governance and technical forums will strengthen Council’s capability, reduce duplication of effort, and help ensure regional initiatives are practical, inclusive, and aligned with Break O’Day Council’s local priorities.	Strong regional governance and technical collaboration are essential to achieving consistent, effective, and efficient waste management outcomes across northern Tasmania. As a small regional council, Break O’Day Council benefits from structured access to shared expertise, peer learning, and coordinated decision-making through established regional forums. Ongoing participation in Circular North technical and governance meetings ensures Council remains informed of emerging policy, regulatory, market, and service developments, while contributing local insights to regional initiatives. This engagement supports inclusive program design, reduces duplication of effort, and helps ensure regional initiatives remain practical, relevant, and aligned with local priorities and capacity.
3.3 Participate in regular regional technical knowledge-sharing and peer-support sessions to strengthen capability, support consistent program delivery, and ensure shared regional initiatives remain accurate, adaptive, and responsive to emerging waste management challenges.	Improved organisational capability and confidence through regular access to shared technical knowledge, peer support, and emerging best practice. Ongoing regional knowledge-sharing will support consistent program delivery, reduce the risk of errors or misalignment, improve the quality and accuracy of regional initiatives, and strengthen Council’s ability to respond effectively to changing policy, regulatory, and market conditions while maintaining alignment with local priorities.	The waste and resource recovery sector is evolving rapidly in response to regulatory change, market volatility, and emerging technologies. For a small regional council, maintaining up-to-date technical knowledge and capability can be challenging without access to shared expertise. Regular participation in regional technical knowledge-sharing and peer-support sessions enables Break O’Day Council to learn from the experience of other councils, access emerging best practice, and resolve operational and compliance issues efficiently. This collaborative approach supports consistent program delivery, reduces reliance on single-person expertise, and strengthens Council’s ability to respond to change while remaining aligned with local priorities and capacity.
Target: Provide Ongoing Education and Engagement		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
3.4 Deliver an ongoing community education and engagement program to improve waste avoidance, correct source separation, and participation in waste and resource recovery services, supporting improved system performance and long-term waste reduction outcomes.	Reduced contamination and landfill disposal, improved recovery outcomes, and stronger community participation supporting long-term system sustainability.	Community behaviour plays a critical role in waste avoidance, correct source separation, and overall system performance. In a dispersed, low-density municipality, clear, consistent, and ongoing education is essential to minimise contamination, maximise recovery from existing services, and ensure services remain affordable and fit for purpose. Targeted engagement supports shared responsibility for reducing landfill reliance and reinforces long-term waste reduction outcomes.

Target: Ensure Strategic Alignment and Long-Term Readiness of Waste Infrastructure		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
<p>4.1 Replace ageing compaction infrastructure at the Scamander Waste Transfer Station with a flexible waste transfer facility in 2026–27 to support regulatory readiness, operational resilience, and improved system performance.</p>	<p>This action will ensure the continued safe, compliant, and reliable operation of a system-critical waste transfer facility by addressing end-of-life infrastructure risk and maintaining service continuity. Replacing the ageing compactor with a flexible waste transfer facility would reduce reliance on single-asset infrastructure, improve operational resilience, and strengthen Council’s ability to respond to changing service demands, seasonal peaks, and emergency events. Over time, the investment would reduce operational and regulatory risk, support long-term financial sustainability through a more adaptable infrastructure model and ensure the waste system remains fit for purpose and aligned with evolving regulatory and service expectations.</p>	<p>Replace ageing compaction infrastructure at the Scamander Waste Transfer Station with a flexible waste transfer facility in 2026–27 to support regulatory readiness, operational resilience, and improved system performance. This project is identified as a high-priority capital investment for Council in the 2026–27 financial year due to its system-critical role and end-of-life infrastructure risk.</p>
<p>4.2 Achieve Tasmanian EPA design approval in 2026–27 for an additional inert landfill at the Scamander Waste Transfer Station, and plan for a staged development to provide long-term, compliant disposal capacity, manage future disposal risk, and maintain system resilience in line with demand, diversion performance, and Council’s financial planning.</p>	<p>Achieving this action would secure compliant long-term inert disposal capacity, reduce future disposal risk, and allow landfill development to be staged in line with demand, diversion performance, and financial planning, improving system resilience and long-term sustainability.</p>	<p>The St Helens Inert Landfill is a finite asset with an estimated remaining operational life of around 10-15 years based on current inflows and continued clean-fill recovery practices. To maintain long-term disposal resilience and avoid future capacity constraints, Council has progressed planning for an additional inert landfill at the Scamander Waste Transfer Station, located over the closed putrescible landfill. The proposed development has received preliminary approval and requires formal Tasmanian EPA design approval to enable future delivery.</p> <p>Securing design approval in 2026–27 provides regulatory certainty and allows Council to plan and sequence landfill development in a controlled and staged manner. This approach ensures additional capacity can be delivered in line with actual demand, diversion performance, and financial planning, rather than committing to premature capital investment. The action supports long-term system resilience by maintaining compliant inert disposal capacity while reinforcing the Strategy’s objective to minimise landfill reliance through improved recovery and diversion outcomes.</p>

Target: Support and Strengthen Regional Consistency through Standards and Procurement		
Action	Impact if achieved	Context
4.3 Support the development and adoption of regionally consistent waste management operating standards through Circular North, where they demonstrably improve service quality, material outcomes, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder confidence while remaining fit-for-purpose for local delivery.	Operating standards and processed material outputs are standardised, increasing regional stakeholder confidence in waste management processes	<p>The Circular North region is working to improve the consistency and quality of waste management practices across its member councils. Currently, variations in operating procedures, processing methods, and material output standards can limit efficiency and undermine stakeholder confidence. Establishing consistent operating standards provides a shared framework that strengthens collaboration, ensures more predictable service outcomes, and supports compliance with evolving state and national waste management expectations.</p> <p>For BODC, aligning local practices with regional standards will enhance operational reliability, improve the quality of recovered materials, and build greater trust among residents, businesses, and service providers. A coordinated regional approach also enables better data reporting, more efficient resource use, and clearer communication about waste management expectations and performance. Ultimately, consistent standards position the Circular North region to deliver more transparent, efficient, and future focused waste management outcomes.</p>
4.4 Support the development of standardised procurement specifications across the Northern Region to support efficiency and the development of a Circular Economy.	Reduced duplication of effort, streamlined procurement processes, enhanced efficiency in waste management services, cost savings through standardised purchasing, easier comparison and evaluation of services and improved consistency in service quality across northern regional Councils.	<p>Standardising procurement specifications across the Circular North region is an important step toward improving the efficiency, quality, and sustainability of waste management services. Currently, each council often develops its own specifications for waste services, equipment, and infrastructure, leading to duplication of effort, inconsistent service levels, and missed opportunities for cost savings. By adopting shared procurement standards, councils can work from a common framework that simplifies purchasing, reduces administrative workloads, and supports more consistent expectations for contractors and suppliers.</p> <p>A coordinated approach also strengthens the region’s ability to embed circular economy principles into procurement. Standard specifications that require recycled content, product durability, resource recovery options, or end of life considerations help shift the market toward more sustainable solutions. This alignment not only improves environmental outcomes but also supports industry innovation and regional leadership in circular procurement practices.</p> <p>For BODC, adopting regionally consistent procurement standards will help ensure waste services and infrastructure align with best practice and regional priorities. It also provides opportunities to participate in joint tenders or bulk purchasing arrangements, which can reduce costs and improve the quality and reliability of contracted services—demonstrated by previous successful shared procurement initiatives such as the Veolia MRF contract. Clear, shared standards make it easier to evaluate suppliers, compare service offerings, and ensure consistent service quality across the region.</p> <p>Ultimately, standardised procurement delivers benefits beyond efficiency: it promotes transparency, strengthens collaboration between councils, and builds the foundation for a more coordinated and sustainable regional waste management system.</p>

Glossary

Capture rate - The capture rate is the percentage of material that is captured from the residual waste stream for lawful storage, reuse or reprocessing for recovery based on 2018 National Waste Data.

Circular Economy - An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources through principles of reuse, repair, refurbishing, and recycling.

Circular North - A regional initiative established in 2007, now hosted by NRM North, coordinating waste management efforts among eight local councils to achieve significant improvements in resource recovery.

Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I) - Waste is produced through commercial and industrial activities.

Construction and Demolition Waste (C&D) - Waste produced through construction and demolition activities.

Kerbside Collection - A service provided by local councils for the collection of household waste, recyclables, and organics.

Landfill - A site for the disposal of waste materials for burial.

Material Flow Analysis (MFA) - A method to track material inputs, outputs, and transformations within a system for resource management.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) - Waste produced through municipal activities (i.e. residential or household waste).

Resource recovery - The process of extracting useful materials or energy from waste.

Waste diversion rate - The percentage of waste materials diverted from landfill through recycling and recovery processes.

Waste category - A group of similar types of waste categorised for management and recycling purposes, such as paper, glass, plastic, metal, or organics.

Waste stream - A specific type of waste produced by different activities.

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