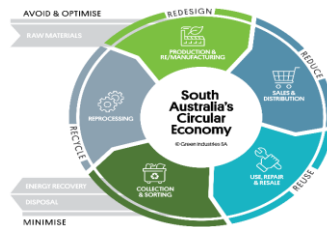




Discussion Paper: Review of the Spencer Gulf Councils 2020–2025 Waste Management and Recovery Strategy



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1. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Spencer Gulf Councils and Spencer Gulf Cities Board consider the following directions for the new Strategy:

1. Reframe the Strategy around circular economy outcomes. Position the Strategy as a regional waste, resource recovery and circular economy strategy aligned with South Australia's 2025–2030 policy direction.
2. Develop a prioritised regional action plan. Identify short-, medium- and long-term actions with clear responsibilities, partners, indicative costs, funding pathways and measures of success.
3. Undertake a regional infrastructure and market assessment. Map existing facilities, material flows, transport constraints, landfill capacity, processing gaps and potential local end markets.
4. Strengthen organics recovery. Assess opportunities to expand or optimise food organics and garden organics recovery, processing capacity, contamination management and end-market development.
5. Use council procurement to create demand. Adopt consistent procurement principles that support recycled-content materials, reuse, repair, low-waste service delivery and circular construction practices.
6. Coordinate problematic waste solutions. Develop regional approaches for batteries, e-waste, solar panels, tyres, mattresses, textiles, soft plastics and other emerging streams.
7. Build partnerships with industry and major projects. Engage early with renewable energy, hydrogen, mining, steel, housing and infrastructure proponents to identify waste avoidance, material reuse and recovered-resource opportunities.
8. Improve regional data and reporting. Establish shared indicators and annual reporting to track diversion, contamination, landfill, emissions, procurement and circular economy outcomes.
9. Align education and community engagement. Develop consistent regional messaging while allowing local tailoring for each council area.
10. Seek long-term funding and advocacy support. Advocate to state and federal government for funding models that recognise regional transport costs, infrastructure needs and place-based circular economy opportunities.
11. Align renewal of individual council contracts where possible to facilitate the establishment of a regional subsidiary (Regional Waste Management Authority) and determine whether the reach of this organization should extend to the Eyre Peninsula, northern South Australia and beyond, with the potential aim of creating a northern and western South Australia approach to waste management and recovery.
12. Identify the full scope of SA Government funding availability eg Regional Coordinator role and support to establish a regional subsidiary.

2. Proposed next steps

The following next steps are proposed:

1. Confirm the scope and governance for the renewed Strategy.
2. Complete targeted consultation with councils, Green Industries SA and key regional stakeholders.
3. Prepare a concise findings summary identifying confirmed priorities, risks and opportunities.
4. Undertake a regional material flow, infrastructure and market opportunities assessment.
5. Develop a draft strategic framework, including vision, objectives, focus areas and actions.
6. Test the draft framework with councils and the Spencer Gulf Cities Board.
7. Prepare a final Strategy and implementation plan for adoption.

3.Introduction

Prepared to inform the development of a renewed regional waste, resource recovery and circular economy strategy for the Spencer Gulf Councils and the Spencer Gulf Cities Board.

Tony Lawson of Tony Lawson Consulting was engaged to undertake the review and prepare this Discussion Paper. A Project Steering Group of member Councils was formed and met on a few occasions to support and guide the project.

This discussion paper has been prepared to inform the review of the Spencer Gulf Councils 2020–2025 Waste Management and Recovery Strategy and to support the development of a new regional Strategy. It is intended to provide a shared evidence base, identify emerging opportunities and challenges, and outline strategic recommendations for consideration.

The paper considers how changes in the region, state policy settings, market conditions, infrastructure needs and circular economy opportunities should shape the next phase of regional waste and resource recovery planning.

4. Consultation and research undertaken

The development of the discussion paper has been supported by targeted consultation and desktop research. Consultation has identified the priorities, constraints and opportunities through the current Strategy and these have been tested to determine whether these remain fit for purpose in light of regional change.

Consultation has occurred with the Spencer Gulf Councils (SG Councils), Green Industries SA, regional waste and resource recovery operators, industry proponents, community stakeholders and neighbouring regional bodies where cross-boundary solutions may be appropriate.

A survey of SG Councils was undertaken to assess the performance and relevance of the 2020–2025 Strategy. (See **Attachment 1** for a summary of the key issues identified).

Account has been taken of state and national policy changes, comparable local government waste and circular economy strategies, regional infrastructure plans, grant programs, market development opportunities, and emerging waste stream risks.

5. Strategic context

The Upper Spencer Gulf is undergoing significant economic and industrial change. The current regional waste and resource recovery strategy recognised opportunities linked to renewable energy, mining and minerals processing, arid agriculture, defence, tourism, industrial transformation, organics processing and the transition away from coal-fired power generation. These themes remain relevant, but the scale and urgency of regional transformation have increased.

South Australia's policy direction is also shifting from a traditional waste management focus toward a broader circular economy agenda. Green Industries SA's 2025–2030 strategy framework emphasises waste avoidance, food waste reduction, preservation of material value, emerging and problematic wastes, circular markets, circular built environments, knowledge and skills, measurement of circular economy progress and contribution to net zero emissions.

For the Spencer Gulf Councils, the renewed Strategy should therefore move beyond service delivery and landfill diversion to position waste and recovered materials as regional economic, infrastructure and emissions-reduction opportunities.

6. Changes in the region and emerging opportunities

The revised Strategy should be aligned with the following regional changes and opportunities:

- **Industrial transformation:** Opportunities linked to green steel, minerals processing, renewable energy projects and industrial decarbonisation may increase demand for recycled inputs, construction materials, logistics solutions and local circular economy partnerships.
- **Major project activity:** Infrastructure, energy and housing projects may generate construction and demolition waste streams while also creating demand for recycled aggregates, recovered metals, organics-derived products and other secondary materials.
- **Regional population and workforce shifts:** Major project growth may affect housing, services, community infrastructure and waste generation profiles across Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie.
- **Organics and food waste recovery:** State and national policy attention on food waste and emissions creates opportunities to strengthen organics collection,

processing, compost markets and use in agriculture, landscaping and land rehabilitation.

- **Emerging and problematic wastes:** Solar panels, batteries, e-waste, tyres, soft plastics, textiles, treated timber and other difficult materials require coordinated regional solutions and stronger product stewardship pathways. It is noted the Container Deposit Legislation and Scheme is to be expanded to include wine bottles from late 2026, so this will reduce contamination and enhance glass recycling and reuse.
- **Procurement and market development:** Councils can use procurement, civil works and asset management programs to increase demand for recycled-content products and build confidence in local circular economy markets.

7. Relevant practice from other councils and regions

Recent local government practice in South Australia and other jurisdictions points to a broader role for councils in the circular economy. Relevant approaches include:

- Regional collaboration on infrastructure planning, procurement, education and market development.
- Food organics and garden organics services, supported by contamination reduction programs and local end-market development.
- Community reuse initiatives such as repair cafés, salvage shops and circular hubs.
- Use of recycled materials in roads, footpaths, drainage, public realm works and council construction projects.
- Procurement policies that preference recycled-content, reusable, repairable or low-waste products and services.
- Targeted programs for problematic waste streams, including e-waste, batteries, textiles, tyres, mattresses and solar panels.
- Partnerships with industry, social enterprises and education providers to build local circular economy skills and employment pathways.

A summary of various approaches around Australia is set out in **Attachment 2**.

For the Spencer Gulf region, the most relevant lessons are the importance of tailored regional solutions, stronger long-term funding, practical partnerships, and clear prioritisation of actions that councils can influence directly.

8. Key issues for the renewed Strategy

The renewed Strategy should address several key issues:

- **Regional governance:** Clarify the respective roles of Spencer Gulf Cities, member councils, state agencies, industry and delivery partners.
- **Infrastructure planning:** Identify priority gaps in transfer, sorting, processing, reuse and disposal infrastructure, including where shared regional solutions are preferable.
- **Data and measurement:** Establish consistent regional waste, recycling, contamination, emissions and circular economy indicators.
- **Financial sustainability:** Consider the cost of service delivery, landfill management, transport distances, market volatility, grant opportunities and long-term investment requirements.
- **Community behaviour and education:** Improve consistent messaging across councils on waste avoidance, correct recycling, organics recovery, reuse and household hazardous waste.
- **Industry integration:** Connect council waste planning with major project pipelines, industrial precincts, resource recovery businesses and procurement opportunities.
- **Risk management:** Address landfill capacity, illegal dumping, contamination, problematic wastes, emergency waste, climate impacts and regulatory change.

9. Suggested Organisation Structure and Funding Opportunities

Through the course of this project, the proposal to establish a regional waste management authority as a subsidiary under Section 43 of the SA Local Government Act was made on a number of occasions. In order to ascertain whether this would be a good model for the Spencer Gulf Councils discussions and research on this type of organisation structure was undertaken. In particular, a detailed overview of the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority (NAWMA) was undertaken.

Legal and Organisational Structure of the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority

The Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority (NAWMA) is a South Australian regional local government subsidiary established under section 43 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government Act 1999. Its core purpose is to provide waste management, recycling and resource recovery services for its constituent councils, principally the City of Salisbury,

City of Playford and Town of Gawler. NAWMA also provides services to other clients, including businesses, industry and regional councils, which allows it to operate at a regional scale rather than as a single-council waste service.

Legal Structure

Legally, NAWMA is not a private company or a stand-alone state agency. It is a regional subsidiary of local government. This means it is created by participating councils through a formal charter and operates within the accountability framework of the Local Government Act 1999. The charter sets out NAWMA's objects, functions, powers, governance arrangements, financial responsibilities and relationship with its constituent councils.

This structure gives NAWMA a clear statutory foundation. It can own and operate waste and resource recovery infrastructure, enter contracts, employ staff, manage facilities and deliver services on behalf of councils. At the same time, it remains accountable to the councils that established it and ultimately to the communities those councils represent.

Organisational and Governance Structure

NAWMA is administered by a Board of Management. The board includes directors appointed by the constituent councils and an independent chair. This governance model is designed to balance local democratic representation with independent oversight and strategic decision-making. The board is responsible for overall governance, management and strategic direction, while operational delivery is carried out by NAWMA's executive and staff.

Operationally, NAWMA manages a range of services and infrastructure, including three-bin kerbside collection coordination, hard waste services, resource recovery centres, municipal waste processing, a materials recovery facility, landfill operations, hazardous waste drop-off programs and community education. This integrated structure allows NAWMA to control several stages of the waste and recovery chain, from household collection through to sorting, processing, disposal and education.

Effectiveness in Supporting the Circular Economy

NAWMA's legal and organisational structure is generally effective in supporting circular economy goals because it enables cooperation across councils, economies of scale and investment in specialised infrastructure. A circular economy requires materials to be kept in productive use for as long as possible, with waste prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised over disposal. NAWMA's regional subsidiary model supports this by pooling waste streams from multiple council areas, making it more viable to operate large-scale facilities such as a materials recovery facility and resource recovery centres.

The structure also supports strategic alignment. Because NAWMA exists to serve its constituent councils, it can coordinate consistent kerbside systems, education campaigns and resource recovery programs across a large population base. This consistency helps residents understand correct waste separation, reduces contamination and improves the quality of recovered materials. NAWMA's stated strategic direction includes conserving natural resources, participating in the circular economy, promoting waste prevention and recycling, supporting local processing, leveraging end markets for recovered materials and using innovation and technology.

Its effectiveness is also shown through its investment in facilities and programs that move beyond simple waste disposal. Examples include materials recovery, food and garden organics services, resource recovery centres, hazardous waste collection, local recycling initiatives and renewable energy projects associated with landfill operations. These activities demonstrate that NAWMA's structure can support practical circular economy outcomes by recovering value from materials and reducing reliance on landfill.

Limitations and Challenges

However, NAWMA's effectiveness is not unlimited. As a local government subsidiary, it must balance environmental objectives with cost control, council priorities and community expectations. Circular economy outcomes also depend on factors outside NAWMA's direct control, including household behaviour, contamination rates, market demand for recycled materials, state and national policy settings, product design and private-sector processing capacity.

Another limitation is that waste authorities often operate after products have already become waste. This means NAWMA can strongly influence collection, sorting, recovery and education, but it has less direct power over upstream decisions such as product packaging, repairability, reuse systems and producer responsibility. For this reason, NAWMA's structure is effective for resource recovery, but broader circular economy achievement requires collaboration with manufacturers, retailers, regulators, residents and end-market users of recovered materials.

Conclusion

Overall, NAWMA's legal status as a regional subsidiary under the Local Government Act 1999 and its board-based governance structure make it well suited to achieving circular economy requirements at the local and regional level. The model gives councils a shared vehicle for delivering efficient services, investing in infrastructure and coordinating community education. It is most effective in the areas of collection, recycling, resource recovery and landfill diversion. Its main challenge is that a full circular economy requires

action across the whole product life cycle, not only at the waste management stage. Therefore, NAWMA is an effective regional mechanism for advancing circular economy outcomes, but its success depends on continued collaboration, strong markets for recovered materials and broader policy and industry support.

Establishing an Upper Spencer Gulf Regional Waste Management Authority

If it was agreed that a Regional Waste Management Authority was the preferred approach for the future benefit of the region, a number of steps would need to be undertaken.

1. Purpose and legal basis

The Upper Spencer Gulf councils could establish a regional waste management authority as a regional subsidiary under section 43 of the Local Government Act 1999. Section 43 allows two or more constituent councils to establish a regional subsidiary to provide specified services, carry out specified activities, or perform council functions under the Act or another Act. Establishment is subject to Ministerial approval for the conferral of corporate status, and Schedule 2 of the Act sets out further subsidiary requirements, including charter matters and governance arrangements.

2. Steps to establish the regional subsidiary

- Agree the regional problem and mandate. The councils should first confirm the waste management challenges to be addressed, such as landfill capacity, transfer station rationalisation, recycling and organics processing, transport costs, procurement scale, compliance, and circular economy opportunities.
- Form a project steering group. Each council should nominate senior officers and, if appropriate, elected member representatives to oversee the business case, governance model, stakeholder engagement, and Ministerial approval pathway.
- Prepare a feasibility study and options analysis. This should compare maintaining separate council services, shared service agreements, a regional subsidiary, procurement collaboration, and other corporate or contractual models. It should test expected benefits, risks, cost sharing, asset ownership, workforce implications, and community impacts.
- Develop a business case. The business case should set out the authority's proposed functions, services, operating model, asset and infrastructure requirements, financial forecasts, prudential risk assessment, transition costs, and implementation timetable.
- Draft the charter. The charter should define the subsidiary's name, purpose, functions, powers, board composition, appointment process, reporting obligations,

budget process, asset arrangements, liabilities, dispute resolution, review requirements, and winding-up provisions.

- Undertake required council decision-making. Each constituent council must formally resolve to participate in establishing the regional subsidiary and approve the proposed charter and application for Ministerial approval. The power to establish or participate in establishing a regional subsidiary should not be treated as an officer delegation.
- Address consultation and prudential requirements. Councils should consider whether community engagement, prudential management, procurement, rating, financial, and asset management obligations are triggered by the proposal, especially if major infrastructure, borrowings, or long-term financial commitments are involved.
- Submit the application for Ministerial approval. The councils should submit the proposed charter, business case, council resolutions, risk assessment, financial model, and supporting material to the Minister responsible for local government seeking approval for corporate status.
- Establish transition arrangements. Once approved, councils should appoint the inaugural board, adopt initial policies, transfer or licence assets where required, establish service level agreements, employ or second staff, set opening budgets, and commence procurement or operational transition.
- Implement governance and reporting. The authority should operate under its charter, annual business plan and budget, financial reporting framework, audit requirements, risk management system, and performance reporting to constituent councils.

3. How the authority could be funded

A sustainable funding model would likely combine council contributions, user charges, gate fees, grants, borrowings, and project-specific funding. The charter and annual budget process should clearly distinguish establishment funding, operating funding, capital funding, and risk-sharing arrangements.

Funding source	Potential use	Comments
Constituent council contributions	Core administration, governance, planning, compliance, and shared regional services.	Could be based on population, waste tonnage, property assessments, equal shares, service usage, or a hybrid formula.
Gate fees and user charges	Operation of transfer stations, landfill, resource recovery facilities, commercial waste services, and regional processing services.	Fees should be transparent, cost-reflective, and reviewed annually through the business plan and budget.
Service level agreements with councils	Kerbside contract management, education, procurement, compliance support, data reporting, and project delivery.	Useful where not all councils receive identical services from the authority.
State and Commonwealth grants	Infrastructure, circular economy projects, organics processing, recycling modernisation, regional transport, and community education.	Grant funding should be treated as project-specific and not relied on for ongoing core operations unless confirmed.
Borrowings	Major infrastructure such as transfer stations, material recovery, organics, landfill rehabilitation, or fleet investment.	Borrowings would require strong prudential analysis and agreement on liability sharing between constituent councils.
Commercial income	Sale of recovered materials, mulch, aggregates, recyclables, landfill gas, carbon-related opportunities, or services to non-member councils and commercial customers.	Commercial activity should be consistent with the charter, risk appetite, procurement rules, and competition neutrality principles.

4. Potential South Australian Government support

The most relevant State Government support is likely to come through Green Industries SA and the Office of Local Government. Green Industries SA funding programs support circular economy projects, recycling and waste infrastructure, council modernisation, food

waste systems, regional transport subsidies, and market development. The Office of Local Government provides guidance on subsidiaries and Ministerial approval processes. The councils should engage both agencies early to test the proposal, confirm application requirements, and identify current grant rounds or policy priorities.

5. Recommended immediate actions

1. Confirm the participating Upper Spencer Gulf councils and the intended scope of the regional waste management authority.
2. Commission a feasibility study and business case covering legal, financial, operational, governance, and infrastructure issues.
3. Seek early meetings with the Office of Local Government and Green Industries SA to confirm Ministerial approval expectations and funding opportunities.
4. Develop a draft charter and cost-sharing model for consideration by each council.
5. Prepare a staged implementation plan, including establishment costs, first-year operating budget, asset arrangements, staffing, procurement, and risk controls.
6. Identify priority grant applications, especially for regional transport, circular infrastructure, council modernisation, organics, recycling, and market development projects.

10. Conclusion

The review of the 2020–2025 Strategy provides an opportunity to reset the Spencer Gulf region’s approach to waste, resource recovery and the circular economy. The new Strategy should reflect the region’s economic transformation, align with state policy, support councils in their core waste responsibilities and position recovered resources as part of broader regional development, emissions reduction and industry diversification.

A renewed Strategy should be practical, prioritised and partnership-based, with clear actions that recognise the distinct needs of Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie and the western area of South Australia while pursuing shared regional outcomes where collaboration can deliver greater impact.

Attachment 1 - Summary and Discussion of the Main Key Issues outlined by USG Councils on critical waste storage and recovery.

At the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee, it was resolved that a survey of all SGC Councils should be undertaken to collect information and analysis on a wide range of critical waste storage and recovery matters impacting on all Councils in the region. This report provides an overview of the key issues summarised from the consolidated responses.

Progress with Implementation of the Current Strategy

1. This is the first major review undertaken since the implementation of the 2020-2025 Strategy.
2. There is a considerable amount of work being undertaken by all Councils to improve waste management and recovery and much of it is contingent on the future operations of key facilities eg Port Pirie smelter, Whyalla steelworks and Port Augusta power station.
3. There is a focus on the development of an organics composting and processing facility but a broader discussion on a wider regional facility being established to service Eyre Peninsula and the areas to the north, would be welcomed.
4. It would appear that there has been no line of sight on more sustainable processes by nearby mining operations.
5. While the current USG Strategy suggests joint work occurs in a number of areas there have been individual efforts on Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and green waste but there does not appear to have been a significant amount of joint collaboration and particularly not on meeting the needs of key stakeholders.
6. There have been some impressive developments on collection and disposal of batteries and asbestos and recovered crushed concrete is used for council's road base program and receiving clean fill is used for asbestos pit daily cover and road programs.
7. All Councils have achieved good results from FOGO services and are achieving very good diversion rates.
8. Councils have identified the most important and priority issues for the region, including.
 - Reducing contamination in both recycling and FOGO streams to improve material quality outcomes
 - Reducing illegal dumping

- Optimising the use of current infrastructure and increasing the availability of disposal infrastructure for regional communities such as hazardous waste, soft plastic, e-waste, textile etc.
- Improving community engagement to increase landfill diversion
- Increasing landfill diversion, particularly through FOGO
- Reducing waste-related costs
- Education on contamination within waste/kerbside collection.

Key regional issues including regional collaboration

9. In terms of discussions and potential collaborations with other Councils and Regions on waste matters, the following is either occurring or suggestions made for further collaborations;

- Port Pirie Regional Council (PPRC) have forums with the Flinders Alliance Councils – Norther Areas, Orroroo, Flinders Rangers, Mt Remarkable, Peterborough DC and the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association.
- Port Augusta City Council (PACC) agree but believe we need to look further afield with the expansion of mining activities to the north and areas including Outback Communities and Roxby Council.
- Whyalla City Council (WCC) says it would be good if all 3 councils can share their experiences, lessons and collaboration for waste education specifically for similar issues such as illegal dumping, contamination and littering.

10. In response to what impact are SA Government decisions having on the region -

- WCC says there may be some extra need for safe and cost-effective recycling requirements for solar panels as there does not appear to be any solar panel recycling in the region.
- PPRC says in relation to this project it will have an end-of-life cycle impact – processing of large scale and volume of associated waste, without any current considered disposal path for recycling.
- PACC – Council has actively advocated to the State Government that renewable energy developments should remain subject to general rating arrangements for all properties and not be exempt. These projects benefit from local infrastructure, services and regulatory oversight, and should therefore contribute equitably to the cost of municipal services.

- Providing rate exemptions or reductions for renewable energy investments would reduce the revenue available to fund essential community services and infrastructure, effectively transferring those costs to local ratepayers. Council's position is that all developments should make a fair contribution to the services and infrastructure that support them, ensuring the financial burden is not shifted onto the broader community.

11. In terms of an overview of all waste issues and types impacting on the region, all Councils refer to the increasing costs of transporting all types of waste to sites far away from the region and all point to the need for a government-funded waste-to-energy facility which would benefit the wider region, including Eyre Peninsula regional councils such as Ceduna and other remote communities.

12. Councils provided the dates on current contract terms and renewal dates for kerbside waste and transfer station operations as follows.

- All PPRC services expire in 2031.
- WCC states all contracts are under consideration.
- PACC – kerbside collection contract expires October 2027.

Hence, a new and updated strategy is very timely indeed.

13. In response to the question re an “appetite” for establishing a regional waste management organisation under Section 41 of the LG Act (that is, a Section 41 Committee) to be responsible for the management of all regional waste recovery and storage issues, all Councils responded positively. PPRC states the Flinders Alliance and possibly NYLGA are already working in this space or have completed some investigations and looking to establish under section 42 of the LG Act and as a subsidiary like other models already existing – NAWMA, FRWA etc. WCC states as this has been mentioned earlier, establishing a regional waste management authority similar to Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority would support the growth of the circular economy across the region by providing infrastructure for the storage, sorting, and processing of recyclable and other waste materials. This would help reduce transport costs and encourage residents to properly dispose of difficult-to-manage waste streams. PACC believes that a broader view needs to be taken to include areas to the north and possibly the northern area of Eyre Peninsula, noting the availability of heavy road transport and rail linkages into Port Augusta already exist and PAs central geographical location.

Assets of individual Councils

14. All Councils list their individual assets.

Other research reports/information

15. PPRC provided the NYLGA strategy and their Circular Economy Strategy 2025-2030.
16. In response to surveying their communities and industry to assess their satisfaction with waste recovery processes and seeking ideas on improvements PPRC stated yes receiving a rating of 3 stars out of 5. Neither WCC nor PACC have conducted recent surveys.

Attachment 2 – Review of Waste Management Practices around Australia

The examples below highlight how Australian local governments are adopting comprehensive, community-focused strategies to minimize waste, increase recycling, and move toward a circular economy.

Victoria's Goulburn Valley

A notable example of regional councils collaborating on waste and resource recovery is found in Victoria's Goulburn Valley Waste and Resource Recovery Group (GVWRRG). Councils such as Greater Shepparton, Moira, and Strathbogie work together to develop regional waste management plans, coordinate recycling facilities, and implement education campaigns about waste reduction. By pooling resources, these councils have established joint contracts for kerbside recycling, green waste processing, and landfill management, creating cost efficiencies and improved environmental outcomes.

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) - Western Australia

Another strong partnership is the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) in Western Australia, where several councils—including Belmont, Kalamunda, and Mundaring—collaborate on comprehensive waste strategies. Together, they operate regional transfer stations, invest jointly in advanced waste processing technology, and run community initiatives to promote recycling and reduce landfill. Such collective approaches allow member councils to address shared challenges and deliver better services to their communities.

City of Port Phillip - Victoria

The City of Port Phillip in Victoria has embraced a comprehensive resource recovery program, including the rollout of food and green waste bins, extensive community education initiatives, and goals for zero waste to landfill.

Southern Downs Regional Council - Queensland

The Southern Downs Regional Council in Queensland has introduced advanced organics recycling and provides residents with practical guidance to reduce contamination, resulting in higher recovery rates for compostable materials.

Bunbury - Western Australia

In Western Australia, Bunbury has implemented source separation for household waste, streamlined collection services, and promoted sustainable disposal practices through active public engagement and education campaigns. These local governments highlight

Australia's commitment to reducing landfill, increasing recycling, and fostering community responsibility for sustainable waste management.

City of Sydney – Waste Less, Recycle More:

The City of Sydney has implemented innovative programs such as food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection, public place recycling bins, and community education campaigns to promote waste reduction and increase recycling rates.

City of Melbourne – Resource Recovery Centers:

Melbourne operates several resource recovery centers that accept a wide range of recyclables, green waste, and hazardous materials. These centers help divert waste from landfills and encourage residents to recycle responsibly.

Brisbane City Council – Circular Economy Initiatives:

Brisbane's waste strategy focuses on transitioning to a circular economy by supporting reuse and repair workshops, composting programs, and the introduction of advanced waste sorting technologies.

Penrith City Council – FOGO and Community Engagement:

Penrith was one of the first councils in New South Wales to introduce FOGO bins, significantly reducing landfill waste. The council also emphasizes community education and engagement to support sustainable waste practices.

City of Adelaide – Zero Waste to Landfill by 2030:

Adelaide's ambitious strategy includes comprehensive recycling services, support for business waste reduction, and investment in infrastructure to process organic and hard-to-recycle materials.