



# Investment in recycling facilities

**Glen Eira City Council is seeking a commitment from the State Government for significant investment to save our recycling and create new generation garbage recycling, sorting and processing facilities that serve the Glen Eira community.**

## SAVE OUR RECYCLING

Our growing community, consumerism and the proliferation of product packaging, generates large quantities of waste and recyclable material from households. China's decision not to accept highly contaminated, low quality mixed plastics since 2018 has had significant repercussions for the local recycling industry unable to offload tonnes of contaminated mixed plastic.

Glen Eira City Council provides kerbside waste collection services as well as processing and disposal services for the community. Council also provides hard waste collections and public place litter bin collections.

Glen Eira's previous landfill disposal site in Clayton closed in 2016 due to reaching capacity, and alternate landfill sites in the outer western suburbs of Melbourne were identified for the disposal of residential garbage. This has increased transport costs due to longer haulage routes. SKM's demise has put further strain on existing landfill options, with Victorian landfills filling faster than initially projected. The practice of landfilling is now a critical issue that requires urgent action at domestic, municipal and regional levels.

Significant investment is now required to bolster Victoria's capacity to sort and process recyclables to a higher standard. We also urgently need more capacity in our materials recovery facilities across Victoria. This includes the recovery of waste resources for re-use, recycling, composting, or conversion to energy.

## FACTS

In 2018–2019, an estimated 64 per cent of the material going to landfill (approximately 17,000 tonnes) from red kerbside bins could have been recycled or composted. The population of Glen Eira will grow from 155,352 in 2019 to 180,626 by 2036 — a 16 per cent increase, further increasing waste volumes.

The Victorian Government charges a landfill levy on all waste disposed at licensed landfills across Victoria. Councils pay the levy on municipal waste sent to landfill, with the cost passed through to ratepayers via a separate waste charge applied on the rates. The charge covers the cost of kerbside collections, on demand collection of hard rubbish, as well as disposal fees and other waste amenities.

The Victorian Sustainability Fund is established under Section 70 of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and receives money collected from Victorian landfill levies. Funds are allocated with the joint consent of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and the Premier. The total money accrued in the Victorian Sustainability Fund as at 30 June 2018 was \$511 million.

In March 2010, the Government announced that it was substantially increasing landfill levies in order to provide the community with an incentive to improve their resource recovery. The cost per tonne in 2009–10 was \$9 in metropolitan areas; however this has risen progressively to \$65.90 in 2019–20. Glen Eira City Council will pay approximately \$2 million dollars in landfill levy to the State Government in 2019–20.

The overseas markets for recycling has collapsed owing to unacceptable contamination rates, however the level of State support for waste education projects to Victorian councils since 2017, has been limited to eight councils receiving grants of up to \$8,500.

[www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Grants-and-funding/Waste-education-grants](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Grants-and-funding/Waste-education-grants)

## THE ASK

Council is calling on Commonwealth and State Governments to create a responsible and sustainable recycling system in the immediate to short-term.

This includes:

- The release of the hundreds of millions of dollars in the Victorian Sustainability Fund to significantly increase regional recycling sorting standards and processing capability.
- Increasing the number of councils and amount per grant allocated through the Victorian Waste Education Grants.
- Investment in options to increase diversion of waste from landfill through container deposit schemes and construction of new generation waste facilities for resource recovery that serves the Glen Eira community.
- Mandate the reduction of unnecessary single use packaging and promotional items in supermarkets.

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT

The creation of working recycling, sorting and processing facilities will provide a range of social, economic and environmental benefits including job creation, development of new business models and services, reduced energy costs and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The potential cultural, educative and economic benefit is significant.

Reducing and diverting waste from landfill will reduce our impact on the environment. The decomposition of organic matter under anaerobic conditions in landfills produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas 25 times stronger than carbon dioxide.

The practice of direct haulage of waste to landfill in distant suburbs to the west of Melbourne contributes to a substantial amount of Council's carbon pollution. Securing nearby processing facilities will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## MORE INFORMATION

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