

# FAQs for Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (August 2017)

More information

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## 1. What is the purpose of the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP)?

The Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan (SWRRIP), led by SV on behalf of the Victorian Government, provides Victoria with the long term vision and roadmap to guide future planning for waste and resource recovery infrastructure to achieve an integrated system that:

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

## 2. Why develop a SWRRIP?

It is critical to plan for future waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs to ensure essential services are accessible to all members of the community and maintained with care for the environment. Victoria's waste and resource recovery system provides services essential to the community to manage waste and material streams. They are as important as other essential infrastructure such as roads and those that supply water and electricity to maintain the functionality of Victoria.

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

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

## 3. What are the goals of the SWRRIP?

The SWRRIP strategic directions will guide decision making to ensure investment in the right infrastructure mix will achieve the four goals:

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

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

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

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

#### 4. Who is leading on the SWRRIP?

SV is leading on the SWRRIP. SV will work with supporting organisations to deliver on the SWRRIP, including the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) and the Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (WRRGs).

#### 5. Why is the SWRRIP being amended?

In 2016, SV identified the need to amend the SWRRIP to incorporate key information identified in the development of the seven Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans (Regional Implementation Plans). These amendments will ensure state-wide directions reflect regional infrastructure needs and priorities.

SV will also take the opportunity to update its data and clarify particular chapters in the SWRRIP to ensure it reflects changes in policy, strategy and broader government activities.

#### 6. How is SV consulting on amendments to the SWRRIP?

A four-week consultation period commenced on 1 August 2017 and includes:

- A letter to the heads of Victorian Government departments (specified in the EP Act), Chairperson of the WRRG Boards and Chief Executives of each Victorian council
- Engagement with the waste and resource recovery industry
- Letters to all who made a submission during the 2014 SWRRIP consultation process
- Engagement with owners/operators of hubs of state importance.
- Online consultation via the Victorian Government engagement platform, Engage Victoria, to enable the broader Victorian community to make submissions and provide feedback at [www.engage.vic.gov.au/swrrip](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/swrrip)

#### 7. When will the amended SWRRIP be finalised?

The 2017-46 SWRRIP is expected to be finalised, and submitted to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change for approval, following the formal consultation period.

## 8. What is the purpose of the Regional Implementation Plans?

Victoria is divided into seven waste and resource recovery regions. The Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans (Regional Implementation Plans), released in July 2017, identify the waste and resource recovery infrastructure needs for each of the regions over the next 10 years. The Regional Implementation Plans are:

- guided by the 30 year SWRRIP strategic directions and the needs and priorities of the local communities
- established with neighbouring waste and resource recovery groups (WRRGs) to maximise opportunities to share resources, minimise costs and introduce innovation and job creation.

Each Regional Implementation Plan includes a description of the current waste and resource recovery system in that region. They describe priorities and set objectives for the region, identifying where there are potential opportunities to increase recovery and potential gaps in the infrastructure required to successfully manage resource recovery and waste.

They also include a schedule of all the existing waste and resource infrastructure in the region, and the sequencing of how the landfill airspace in the region will be utilised over the next ten years.

Figure 1 (on page 8) shows the location of the waste and resource recovery regions in Victoria.

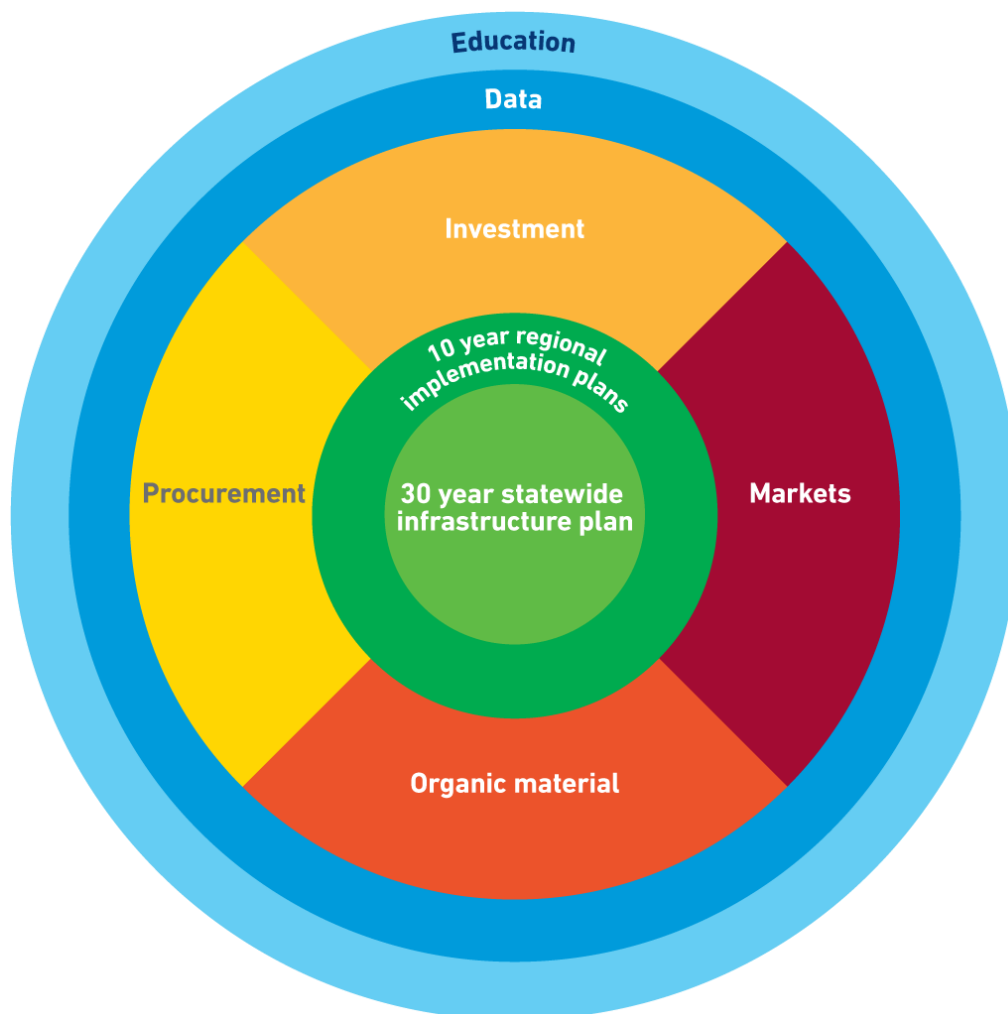
## 9. How will the SWRRIP be implemented?

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

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

These initiatives are represented in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2: Initiatives to achieve Victoria's first class integrated waste and resource recovery system**



## 10. How does the implementation of the SWRRIP affect key stakeholders and what is being asked of them?

### Local government

- Local governments play a critical role in managing the waste and resource recovery system and will help in achieving the goals and long term strategic directions of the SWRRIP.
- WRRGs will work with their local governments to develop Regional Implementation Plans. Local governments will be able to ensure that local needs and priorities are identified and addressed through the plans.
- The SWRRIP encourages local governments to:
  - use the SWRRIP's strategic directions to inform decisions relating to waste and resource

- recovery infrastructure
- prioritise resource recovery in their procurements
- make decisions using evidence to maximise community, environment and economic outcomes
- contribute to the development of Regional Implementation Plans that maximise recovery opportunities in their areas
- protect appropriate sites for waste and resource recovery activities through using planning tools.
- SV is meeting with local governments in those areas where hubs of state importance have been identified to help address any concerns or queries.

### **Waste and Resource Recovery Groups will:**

- Develop Regional Implementation Plans which integrate the SWRRIP's goals and long term strategic directions, local needs and priorities and address planning for waste infrastructure at the regional and local levels.
- Work with their local communities including households, government and business / industry to ensure local needs and priorities are met.
- Work with local government to lead community consultation processes to ensure local communities have an opportunity to have a say on any proposed infrastructure planning and development in their areas. SV will provide support and assistance to WRRGs and local government throughout this process.
- Support their local governments to procure waste services in a way that delivers economic and environmental benefits to communities as well as encouraging recycling and the development of markets for recycled products.

### **Waste and resource recovery industry**

- The waste and resource recovery industry is eager to invest in waste and resource recovery infrastructure to recover more valuable resources, and to reduce and manage residual wastes safely.
- The SWRRIP provides the long term strategic direction and evidence needed by public and private investors to plan and invest in future waste and resource recovery infrastructure.

### **Community**

- The development and implementation of the Regional Implementation Plans is the key mechanism for waste and resource recovery infrastructure planning at the local level and will be an important way for communities (including householders, local government and business / industry) to get involved.

## **11. What are hubs and why are they important?**

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

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

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

for where future hubs should be located.

## 12. Where are the hubs of state importance?

The SWRRIP identifies 23 existing waste and resource recovery hubs of state importance (see list below). These have been identified as currently undertaking activities or managing one or more waste and material streams significant at the state level.

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

**Table 1: List of hubs of state importance by region**

WRR region and location	
<b>Metropolitan Melbourne</b>	
1.	The Brooklyn precinct
2.	Werribee Landfill, Wyndham
3.	Deer Park precinct TPI landfill and Boral Quarry
4.	Laverton precinct
5.	Cooper Street precinct, Epping
6.	Wollert Hansen Quarry and Landfill
7.	South Clayton precinct
8.	Hallam Road, Hampton Park
9.	Lyndhurst Landfill, Taylors Road, Lyndhurst
10.	Ordish Road Precinct, South Dandenong
11.	Owens Illinois, Spotswood
12.	SKM Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), Coolaroo
13.	Veolia Organics facility, Bulla
14.	Citywide Resource Recovery Centre, Footscray
<b>Barwon South West</b>	
1.	Corangamite Landfill, Naroghid
<b>Gippsland</b>	
1.	Gippsland Water's Soil and Organics Recycling Facility, Dutson Downs
<b>Goulburn Valley</b>	
1.	Western Composting, Shepparton
2.	Ellwaste Patho Landfill, Echuca
3.	Cosgrove Landfill, Shepparton
<b>Grampians Central West</b>	
1.	Statewide Landfill, Stawell
2.	Maddingley Brown Coal Landfill, Bacchus Marsh

WRR region and location	
Loddon Mallee	
1.	Eaglehawk Landfill, Bendigo
2.	Mildura Landfill, Mildura

### 13. How does the community get involved in planning decisions particularly around the future of a hub?

The future of these hubs will be determined through local government land use planning systems, strategic and regional growth plans and the development of the Regional Implementation Plans. The Regional Implementation Plans identify those hubs that are important at the local and regional level. Targeted consultation with surrounding communities and the waste and resource recovery industry on these hubs will take place.

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

It is important to note that landfills and recycling facilities will need to meet best practice requirements and will be subject to any relevant planning and building permits, and EPA licences and works approvals required to operate.