

THE FUTURE OF OUR WASTE

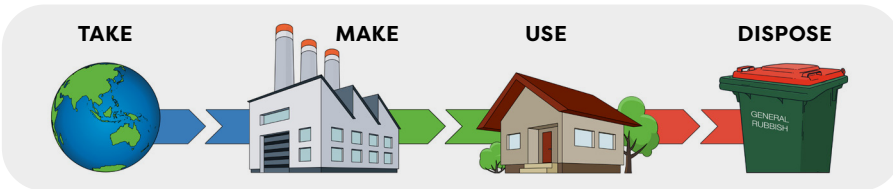
We are developing a Circular Economy & Resource Recovery Strategy. It will guide how we manage waste and resources in Melton City Council until 2030.



WHAT IS CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Our current economic system is a “linear economy”, built off a model of take resources, make items, use them and then dispose of the waste. In a linear economy we treat the resources used to make products as though they are unlimited. But many resources that we rely on, such as metals and minerals, will run out if we do not conserve them.

Circular economy, on the other hand, aims to minimise waste and promote a sustainable use of natural resources, through smarter product design, reusing, repairing, sharing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. This reduces the environmental impacts of production and consumption, allowing nature to regenerate.



WHAT DOES THE CITY THROW AWAY?

More than half the items in the average household garbage bin can be recycled, composted or avoided, instead of sent to landfill. The image below shows the contents of the average garbage bin in the City of Melton (data from 2023).

Hazardous items such as electronic waste (items with a plug, battery or cord) and household chemicals are often found incorrectly disposed of in the garbage bin.



RECYCLING

In the City of Melton, 14,000 tonnes of household recycling are collected and transformed into new products each year. While recycling isn't the first choice in a circular economy, it can help keep materials circulating that may otherwise end up in landfill.

We need your help to get it right. Currently 29% of our recycling bins contain incorrect materials (contamination), well above the State average of 17%. Incorrect items in the recycling bin can prevent other items being recycled and may end up in landfill and can also risk workers' safety.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Why do we need a strategy?

This strategy sets priorities for waste management up until 2030, as we transition to a circular economy. This will assist Council to meet State legislation, while also providing more effective and responsive waste services that meet the needs of our community and environment.

We want your say to help shape the future of our waste, moving away from the traditional linear model of 'take, make, use and dispose', and moving towards a circular system, a model which involves reducing, reusing, repairing, sharing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible.

This survey will help us find ways to support households, businesses and schools and guide the direction of our new waste strategy, the *Circular Economy and Resource Recovery Strategy* until 2030.

Consultation will be open from 5 March to 25 March 2024.

Community members and businesses are invited to attend online workshops being held on Monday 18 March 7pm – 8:30pm and Tuesday 19 March 10am – 11:30am, to share their thoughts and ideas. Please refer to the consultation page for more details.

Who can have their say in this survey?

Anyone that lives, works, studies in, or visits the City of Melton, including businesses and teachers/staff from education facilities.

What will my feedback be used for?

Feedback from the consultation will be considered and used to inform how we can support households, schools and businesses in the Circular Economy and Resource Recovery Strategy.

Have questions? Or want to learn more?

If you have any further questions, email Environment@melton.vic.gov.au or call 9747 7200.

Find out more about circular economy at the Victorian Government website:

vic.gov.au/building-victorias-circular-economy

What next?

Feedback from this survey will be used to inform the *Circular Economy and Resource Recovery Strategy*.

Once finalised, a copy of the strategy will be available on the Melton Conversations page, and on the Melton City Council website.



For more information scan the QR code or visit conversations.melton.vic.gov.au/future-our-waste

SURVEY CLOSSES 5PM 25 MARCH 2024

HAVE YOUR SAY

