

**South West Regional Waste  
Management Group  
(the Group)**



**Regional Waste  
Management and  
Minimisation Strategy**

**2012 to 2020**

**A Regional Plan for  
Managing Waste and Resources  
in the South West Regional Waste Management Group Region  
For the years 2012 to 2020**

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>BACKGROUND</b> .....	3
<b>OVERVIEW</b> .....	6
<b>VISION</b> .....	6
<b>LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK</b> .....	7
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b> .....	7
<b>EXISTING FACILITIES</b> .....	8
<b>ELEMENT 1 EFFICIENCIES</b> .....	10
<b>ELEMENT 2 HYGIENIC COLLECTION</b> .....	10
<b>ELEMENT 3 MARKET RECYCLABLES</b> .....	11
<b>ELEMENT 4 DIVERSION FROM WASTE STREAM</b> .....	11
<b>ELEMENT 5 WASTE WISE EDUCATION</b> .....	12
<b>ELEMENT 6 COUNCIL OPERATIONS</b> .....	12
<b>ELEMENT 7 ORGANICS MANAGEMENT</b> .....	13
<b>ELEMENT 8 CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION WASTE</b> .....	13
<b>ELEMENT 9 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE</b> .....	14
<b>ELEMENT 10 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b> .....	14

## BACKGROUND

The South West Regional Waste Management Group (the Group) is a group of eight (8) Councils working collaboratively together to manage waste within their individual local government areas. The combined Group represents a population of 61'282<sup>[1]</sup> over an area of approximately 24'081 km<sup>2</sup>, which represents about 3% of the total area of New South Wales<sup>[2]</sup> and in size is equivalent to approximately one-third of Tasmania.

The Member Councils and their boundaries are:



<p><i>Boorowa Council</i></p>  <p>Population: 2'478<sup>[1]</sup> Area: 2'579 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><i>Cootamundra Shire Council</i></p>  <p>Population: 7'729<sup>1</sup> Area: 1'524 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><i>Gundagai Council</i></p>  <p>Population: 3'902<sup>[1]</sup> Area: 2'458 km<sup>2</sup></p>
<p><i>Harden Shire Council</i></p>  <p>Population: 3'669<sup>1</sup> Area: 1'869 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><i>Tumbarumba Shire Council</i></p>  <p>Population: 3'756<sup>[1]</sup> Area: 4'392 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><i>Tumut Shire Council</i></p>  <p>Population: 11'480<sup>[1]</sup> Area: 4'566 km<sup>2</sup></p>

[1] Australian Bureau of Statistics (31 March 2011). "Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2009–10" (<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3218.02009-10>). "Estimated Resident Population, Local Government Areas, NSW" Retrieved 30 November 2011.

[2] Australian Government – Geoscience Australia – Areas of Australia – States and Territories <http://www.ga.gov.au/education/geoscience-basics/dimensions/area-of-australia-states-and-territories>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Yass Valley Council</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Population: 15'190<sup>[1]</sup> Area: 3'999 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Young Shire Council</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Population: 13'078<sup>[1]</sup> Area: 2'694 km<sup>2</sup></p>
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The Group members have affiliations with two Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC's) which were formed by a mutual agreement of common interest for their member Councils. These groups and the members associated with them are:

Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)

Members:

Cootamundra Shire Council  
Gundagai Shire Council  
Tumbarumba Shire Council  
Tumut Shire Council



South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SEROC) – South East Resource Recovery Group (SERRG)

Members:

Boorowa Shire Council  
Harden Shire Council  
Yass Valley Council  
Young Shire Council

South East Resource Recovery Group (SERRG)



South East Regional Organisation of Councils

The development of this Regional Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy has been made possible with financial assistance in 2009 from the then Department of Environment Climate Change and Water. A requirement of this funding is that this Strategy must fit as a sub-strategy within the Regional Waste Plans developed and approved by the REROC and SERRG Regional Waste Groups. In this regard the SWRWMG Strategy has been developed in communication with the two REROC and SERRG Regional Waste Groups to ensure it complements the common goals and key initiatives of the REROC and SERRG Regional Waste Plans, and identified actions are collaborated with input from all parties. The final adopted Waste Strategy will form a template document over each individual member Council's Waste Strategy.

For the Group, the bulk of the putrescible (municipal) waste from the Councils, with the exception of Boorowa, is sent to a regional waste management facility at Jugiong, NSW. Each Council is responsible for the implementation of recyclable and organics managements with the assistance and advice provided by the Group's Manager – Waste Services.

The Group has an agreement with the regional waste management facility operator - Bald Hill Quarry Pty Ltd (Ecofill). Ecofill holds the Environmental Operational Licence and Harden Shire Council, on behalf of the Group, holds the required Environmental Supervisory Licence issued by the Department of Environment and Heritage. The facility is also referred to as the Bald Hill landfill. The Group transports putrescibles from domestic collections to Bald Hill landfill for disposal.

Additionally, Ecofill are able to accept waste direct to their facility from consumers within the Local Government Areas of the eight (8) member Group Councils. At the present rate of disposal it is envisaged that this facility will have a further twenty (20) years life. Plans are being put in place now to reduce the amount of material going to landfill in order to increase the life of the facility. The rehabilitation of this landfill facility, as well as the ongoing monitoring, is to be borne at a cost to the Group.

The Group has been formed to meet the growing physical, social, environmental and economic challenges of waste management for their respective local communities. The Group is bound by a common purpose and regional similarities with a commitment to implementing waste services by best practice actions and practical solutions.

When the Group first commenced there was consensus that by working together greater economies of scale and efficiencies were possible. Since that time, the Group has raised a number of objectives that need to be addressed as part of the overall waste management of the region. This strategy is a way forward to put meaningful measures in place to meet the articulated objectives and longer term strategies and provides a way of monitoring the effectiveness of those measures.

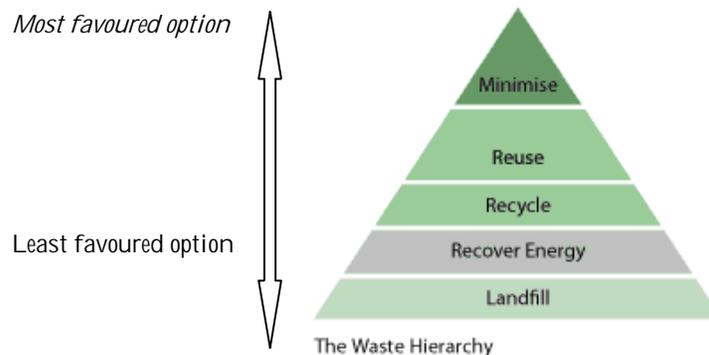
## **OVERVIEW**

In times past many Councils were simply concerned with the three “r’s” of “*roads, rates and rubbish*”. The role of local government in respect of essential services provision to their respective communities has progressed well beyond that focus to one of now being a true service provider. Waste management represents one of the largest on-going costs and environmental challenges facing both Councils and the broader community.

This strategy is not about putting out a bin for Council collection and forgetting about it. It is about education and definitive resident action to choose products that create less waste, taking control of organic waste and turning it into an asset, and ensuring that waste that does go out for collection is properly sorted.

The days of dumping waste into a hole in the ground and forgetting about it are also long gone. We now, as will our future generations, bear the legacy of that action with greenhouse gas emissions and environmental costs for generations to come.

Now is the time to take action to move towards a more sustainable waste management system, with such based on the principle matrix of:



This strategy looks at possible options in which waste within our region can be managed and minimised. Some of those key elements are:

- Setting an example by minimising Council waste;
- Recovering organics from the waste stream as a valuable resource;
- Facilitating the local value adding to recycling and re use; and
- Educating and involving the community about opportunities to reduce and/or re use waste.

## **VISION**

***By 2018, the Group aims to provide a cost effective waste management service that reduces environmental harm to the communities of the Group.***

## **LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

The federal government has demonstrated an interest in waste management, in particular product stewardship in relation to electronic goods. However more could be done nationwide, particularly in relation to moving toward a reduction in packaging.

The NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act, 2001 brought about the development of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy. The WARR Strategy 2007 and the NSW 2021 Plan sets targets of 66% for material to be recycled from municipal waste, 63% for commercial and industrial waste and 76% for construction and demolition waste. This strategy aims to assist the Group's member Councils to reach these targets.

The Group's strategy identifies actions that support the NSW Government in achieving the illegal dumping, littering and recycling targets in Goals 22 and 23 of NSW 2021. Supporting these goals will improve waste management, increase recycling and protect our local environment.

This strategy will tie in with the objectives of the REROC Regional Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2012-2015 and the SERRG Regional Waste Stream Management Strategy 2012-32.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Education and community engagement are keys to the successful implementation of this strategy. In many areas there is widespread ignorance of the services and options available for the disposal of material. Additionally there is little knowledge within our communities of sustainable behaviour although it is acknowledged that this is steadily on the rise.

It is important that an integrated public education program on the issue of landfilled organics and how to utilise organics on site (including training and on-going support), recycling and what is capable of being recycled be implemented. It is also important as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the success of this strategy that regular attitude and use surveys be undertaken.

If the Group is to facilitate the sustainable behaviour needed to achieve the vision of this strategy it is considered essential to fully engage with the residential and business community. It is simply not enough to provide information and hope that behaviours will somehow magically transform for the better. Changing behaviour is a significant challenge requiring specialist skills and consistent application.

## EXISTING FACILITIES

To be able to measure the effectiveness of this strategy it is necessary to collate baseline data which provides a full understanding of the current situation. It is against this baseline data that the effectiveness of this strategy will be measured.

As indicated above, the bulk putrescible waste from Councils within the Group is deposited at the Bald Hill Quarry which is located at Jugiong, with the exception of Boorowa Shire Council. However many Councils within the Group still retain local waste management facilities. These facilities vary considerably in both quality of infrastructure, management, environmental performance and usage. Some facilities are transfer and recycling stations others are traditional landfill operations.

Council	Site	Type of Facility	Landfill tonnes/yr	Recycled tonnes/yr
	Bald Hill	Landfill	20,000	Nil
Boorowa	Rugby Tip	Landfill	11.7	4
Boorowa	Rye Park Tip	Landfill	10.5	6.5
Boorowa	Reids Flat Tip	Landfill	6.37	4.2
Boorowa	Frogmore Tip	Landfill	10.4	6.24
Boorowa	Boroowa	Landfill	169	16
Cootamundra	Cootamundra	Landfill, MRF and Transfer Station	1900	n/a
Cootamundra	Wallendbeen	Transfer Station	200	n/a
Cootamundra	Stockinbingal	Transfer Station	285	n/a
Gundagai	Tumblong Village <sup>1</sup>	Landfill	60	5
Gundagai	Muttama Village <sup>1</sup>	Landfill	40	4
Gundagai	Coolac Village <sup>1</sup>	Landfill	50	4
Gundagai	Nangus Village <sup>1</sup>	Landfill	30	3
Gundagai	Gundagai Waste Depot	Transfer Station	800	300
Harden	Harden/Murrumburrah <sup>2</sup>	Landfill	1000	n/a
Harden	Galong <sup>2</sup>	Landfill		
Harden	Jugiong <sup>2</sup>	Landfill		
Harden	Harden/Murrumburrah	Transfer Station	nil	n/a
Harden	Galong	Transfer Station	nil	n/a
Harden	Jugiong	Transfer Station	nil	n/a
Tumbarumba	Sale Yard Rd	Transfer Station	3500	200
Tumbarumba	Khancoban	Landfill	560	n/a
Tumbarumba	Rosewood	Landfill	150	n/a

**SWRWMG – Regional Waste Management & Minimisation Strategy 2012 to 2020**

Tumut	Adelong	Landfill	400	n/a
Tumut	Batlow	Landfill	1000	n/a
Tumut	Adelong	Transfer Station	250	50
Tumut	Talbingo	Transfer Station	100	20
Tumut	Tumut	Transfer Station	2200	1000
Yass	Yass	Transfer Station	nil	458
Yass	Murrumbateman <sup>4</sup>	Transfer Station / Landfill	2940	n/a
Yass	Binalong <sup>4</sup>	Transfer Station	n/a	n/a
Yass	Bookham <sup>4</sup>	Transfer Station	n/a	n/a
Yass	Bowning <sup>4</sup>	Transfer Station	n/a	n/a
Yass	Wee Jasper <sup>4</sup>	Transfer Station	n/a	n/a
Yass	Gundaroo	Landfill	190	n/a
Yass	Sutton <sup>4</sup>	Transfer Station/Landfill	n/a	n/a
Young	Victoria St	Transfer Station, MRF Landfill	4500	3500
Young	Redhill	Transfer Station and Landfill	9300	n/a
Young	Villages x 5 <sup>3</sup>	Transfer Stations and Landfills	42	562

<sup>1</sup>Gundagai – Only metal recycled at Landfills.

<sup>2</sup>Harden – Consolidated tonnages as all waste transported in one truck to landfill and no weighing mechanisms at individual sites

<sup>3</sup>Young – Village sites are consolidated – not all sites have landfills in operation – waste transferred to Redhill

<sup>4</sup>Yass – Village locations, except Gundaroo, transfer general waste and recycling materials to Yass Transfer Station for transfer to Bald Hill landfill and processing respectively.

**MANAGEMENT ELEMENTS**

***ELEMENT 1 EFFICIENCIES***

**Element Objective**

Effective collection and recycling services, which minimise the individual Council cost.

**Performance Measure**

Best performance contracts on a regional scale are negotiated for recycling processing, transportation and collection.

**Prescriptive Measure**

The current contract arrangements for the transportation of waste to the Regional Landfill for the eight (8) Group Councils are assimilated.

Contract prices for the processing and sale of recyclable material are negotiated for the most efficient outcome for the Group member Councils.

Current collection arrangements are examined to determine the most cost effective method of collection, either by staff or by regional contractor.

***ELEMENT 2 HYGIENIC COLLECTION***

**Element Objective**

The collection, transportation and depositing of waste and recyclable material is undertaken in an effective and hygienic manner from customer to end point.

**Performance Measure**

The community is educated about the collection and disposal of waste and recyclable materials together with the physical, social, environmental and economic hazards involved.

**Prescriptive Measure**

Recyclable material is properly sorted and suitable for processing with minimal contamination.

Collection receptacles are maintained in a manner that allows for hygienic collection.

Hazardous materials are not deposited into the waste or recycling stream.

***ELEMENT 3 MARKET RECYCLABLES***

**Element Objective**

Recyclable material is efficiently and effectively handled from consumer to market.

**Performance Measure**

The community is educated about the transformation and use of recyclable material.

**Prescriptive Measure**

Recyclable material is removed from the waste stream.

Recyclable material is not contaminated with putrescibles.

Market price contracts are negotiated for processed recyclable material.

***ELEMENT 4 DIVERSION FROM WASTE STREAM***

**Element Objective**

Business opportunities are presented for the transformation of traditional waste products on a regional scale.

**Performance Measure**

Larger materials that are traditionally sent to the waste stream are removed by local businesses for processing.

**Prescriptive Measure**

Materials such as mattresses, electronic waste, electrical goods, furniture are removed from the waste stream and transformed into base elements for reuse.

Regional contracts are established for the collection and transformation of traditional waste material.

Local 'RENEW' type businesses are established to remove material from the waste stream.

***ELEMENT 5 WASTE WISE EDUCATION***

**Element Objective**

In conjunction with schools our communities are educated to become waste wise.

**Performance Measure**

Work collaboratively with schools to ensure that each successive generation is educated about becoming waste wise to reduce the amount of material being deposited to landfill.

Work collaboratively with the regional waste groups to raise awareness of the harm litter and illegal dumping do to the environment.

**Prescriptive Measure**

Education material is available in all schools with an education officer implementing school waste wise programs.

Waste wise and litter & illegal dumping material are available at all Council offices and on their websites.

Waste wise principles are reflected in public events.

***ELEMENT 6 COUNCIL OPERATIONS***

**Element Objective**

Group Councils will lead the way in the implementation of waste wise principles.

**Performance Measure**

Each area of Council is aware of, and implements, waste wise principles in everyday functions.

**Prescriptive Measure**

Each Council has an internal waste wise policy covering all aspects of Councils operation.

This policy is educated to all staff within each Council.

Each Council employee demonstrates compliance with Council's waste wise policy.

***ELEMENT 7 ORGANICS MANAGEMENT***

**Element Objective**

Organic material is seen as a valuable resource to be utilised either in the home garden or commercially.

**Performance Measure**

Reduction of amount of organic material entering the waste stream for disposal to landfill.

**Prescriptive Measure**

Alternate organic disposal methods are offered such as green waste collections, free deposit of green waste, at home use.

Educational material is provided about home use of organic material, including information on where to obtain necessary material.

Regional contracts are negotiated for the treatment, and sale, of organic material.

***ELEMENT 8 CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION WASTE***

**Element Objective**

Reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste being deposited to landfill by exploring alternate means of disposal.

**Performance Measure**

The amount of construction and demolition waste presented for disposal at landfill is reduced.

**Prescriptive Measure**

A waste management plan and recycling plan is submitted with all development applications for demolition.

Education material is provided on ways to reduce building waste, such as elements designed to meet standard production size material.

Education material developed on ways to reuse building material.

***ELEMENT 9 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE***

**Element Objective**

Reduce the amount of commercial and industrial waste being deposited to landfill by exploring alternate means of disposal.

**Performance Measure**

The amount of commercial and industrial waste presented for disposal at landfill is reduced.

**Prescriptive Measure**

Explore regional contract for collection and disposal of food waste from commercial premises.

Explore introduction of regional contract for collection of commercial recyclable material.

Encourage waste wise principles in commercial and industrial businesses.

***ELEMENT 10 REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE***

**Element Objective**

Identify the opportunities to develop regional solutions to waste management issues across Group Councils in regards to best practice at transfer stations

**Performance Measure**

The number of small regional landfills closed and transfer stations constructed to assist with resource recovery in small communities

**Prescriptive Measure**

Explore regional contract for design and construction of transfer stations

Explore regional contract for the closure and remediation of regional landfills

Explore alternative waste services provided to village communities