

Kerbside collection changes

Q. Why is Moira Shire Council introducing a four-bin system?

A. Following the turbulent recent history in the recycling sector, the Victoria Government implemented the Circular Economy (waste reduction and recycling) Act 2021. This Act aimed at improving the recyclability of our kerbside system through the introduction of a kerbside glass recycling service. This prevents the glass from becoming crushed and embedded in cardboard and plastic which allows for these streams to be recycled more easily.

Under this Act, the four-bin system is a requirement for Council to implement. Council endorses this transition as it is an opportunity for us to get better at recycling, reduce what goes into landfill, and create environmental benefits for our future.

Additionally, national and state governments have set targets to reduce waste to landfill, which Moira Shire Council need to meet, which this transition will aid in.

Q. So what exactly is the new four-bin system?

A. The new four-bin system is improving how we manage waste and recycling in Victoria. It will see glass, food and garden organics, mixed recyclables, and household landfill waste separated at the home. This will achieve better recycling practices and contribute to reducing waste in landfill.

Q. When we have a four-bin system in 2024, what will the collection schedule look like?

A. Currently our kerbside waste services are inefficient with many items not sorted correctly, costing ratepayers money and significantly adding to our community's carbon footprint. As such we are looking at collection frequencies to improve services and better manage ratepayers costs. Your input is important to guide these decisions. We are currently seeking community feedback on the configuration of the four bins, and what you think will work best for your community. Council has developed three different collection options, each with different cost and waste diversion implications.

The consistent aspect of all three options is the delivery of a new 120lt purple-lidded bin for glass to all households with or eligible for a kerbside recycling service, which will be collected monthly. The collection frequency of the kerbside landfill bin is proposed to be reduced to fortnightly with the increased recycling options available to residents.

Q How do I have my say on my preferred option?

A. We've developed a poll on [Moira Matters](#) where you can indicate your preferred option. For those who don't have internet access, phone Council's Customer Experience team on 5871 9222 to have your say (make sure you're prepared with option 1, 2 or 3) or join us at one of our consultation sessions out in the community.

Q. Can you please explain the proposed different options to me?

A. The new service options not only provide for better and more recycling options, but they also provide an opportunity to review costs for ratepayers in providing this essential service.

The difference in the 3 options is in the frequency of collection of different kerbside bins. These are indicated in the table below.

	Landfill	Recycling	Organics	Glass
Current	Weekly	Fortnight	Fortnight	-
Option 1	Fortnight	Monthly	Fortnight	Monthly
Option 2	Fortnight	Fortnight	Weekly	Monthly
Option 3	Fortnight	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly





Under current arrangements, kerbside collection costs for the ratepayers are projected to increase by ~\$1,200,000/year, without the revision of the kerbside collection system. Compared with the status quo, all three options will save ratepayers between \$350,000-\$1,000,000/year.

Q. Why are we proposing to change the frequencies of collections?

A. Currently our kerbside waste services are inefficient with many items not sorted correctly, costing ratepayers money as currently considerable household waste material is being dumped in landfill that could be recycled. This also significantly adds to our community's carbon footprint.

Australia's National Waste Policy Action Plan has a target of recycling and reusing 80% of the country's waste by 2030. Victoria's Circular Economy Action 2021 has set the same target of diverting 80% of waste from landfill by 2030 with an interim target of 72% by 2025. The introduction of a glass bin will assist Moira Shire Council in reaching both State and National government targets, but more needs to be done.

Currently, 55% of Moira Shire Council's kerbside waste is recycled. Over 1 million bins are emptied annually in Moira with nearly 11,000 tonnes of materials managed. By introducing a kerbside glass service to the current kerbside services, we estimate an increase in waste recovery of around 3%, taking our kerbside diversion rate to 58%. This leaves us a long way from the target of 80%. To reach national and state targets, three options for a kerbside transition are being considered, including the introduction of a kerbside glass service.

BUSINESS AS USUAL	
 Landfill	Weekly
 Recycling	Fortnightly
 Organics	Fortnightly
 Glass	Monthly
IMPACTS:	
Predicted kerbside service charge	\$569
Recovery	58%
Annual km's	267,168
Tonnes CO2 avoided	265
Equivalent to tree seedlings planted	4,382

Q. Can you tell me more about Option 1?

A. Option 1 sees collection frequency change for landfill and recycling services including the addition of a glass monthly collection. The landfill collection service would change from weekly to **fortnightly** and food and garden organic waste would remain fortnightly. The collection service of recycling bins would change from fortnightly to **monthly**. This would also see an estimated waste recovery of up to 70% (from current 55%), only 10% from the 80% state and national target in 2030.

The change in frequency for recycling reflects the anticipated change in the composition of the recycling bin with the addition of a glass bin and the container deposit scheme (10c container return). To put it simply we expect there will be less materials in your recycling bin.

The table below shows changes under Option 1.

Landfill	Recycling	Organics	Glass	Predicted Kerbside Service Charge*
Fortnightly	Monthly	Fortnightly	Monthly	\$506

Q. Can you tell me more about Option 2?

A. Option 2 would see minor cost increases of ~5% but would be cheaper for ratepayers than continuing the current waste collection with the addition of a glass service. The household collection service for landfill waste would change from weekly to **fortnightly** and food and garden organics waste from fortnightly to **weekly**. The collection service for recycling materials would remain fortnightly. This would see an estimated waste recovery rate of up to 73% (from current 55%), only 7% from the 80% state and national target in 2030.

The table below shows changes under Option 2.

Landfill	Recycling	Organics	Glass	Predicted Kerbside Service Charge*
Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Weekly	Monthly	\$548

Q. Can you tell me more about Option 3?

A. Option 3 would see a decrease in cost for ratepayers of 3%. The household collection service for recycling material would change to a **monthly** collection and food and garden organics collection to **weekly**. Household landfill waste collection would change from weekly to **fortnightly**. It would also see an estimated waste recovery of up to 73% (from current 55%), only 7% from the 80% national and state target in 2030.

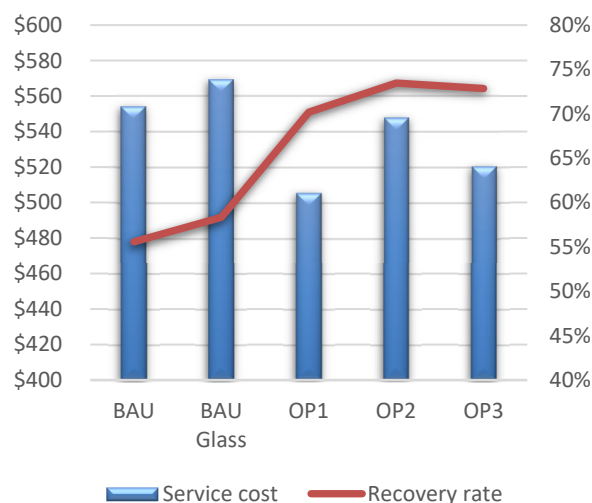
The table below shows changes under Option 3.

Landfill	Recycling	Organics	Glass	Predicted Kerbside Service Charge*
Fortnightly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	\$521

Q. How did you estimate the cost changes?

A. Each scenario and their costs estimated based on best practices utilising current business as usual and historical data and projections of waste generation. Current kerbside waste charges and recovery rates are shown as business as usual (BAU).

Annual waste service charge and waste recovery rates



Q. Why would we propose changing the household food and garden organic collection frequency to weekly?

A. Every year in Victoria, \$6 billion dollars is lost with food waste ending up in landfill. This does not need to be the case. Food and garden organics are a useful product that can be turned into compost, growing food for our future. Rotting organic waste in landfill releases methane into the air and contributes greatly to climate change. A fortnight of food and garden organic waste in a kerbside bin can lead to unpleasant odours, especially over the summer months.

Research has shown that a more frequent collection of food and garden organics is a driver in encouraging change to reduce food waste in landfill bins. A 2021 kerbside waste audit indicated that 51% of waste in Moira landfill bins was food and garden waste.

Q. Why isn't a landfill bin weekly collection included in the proposed options?

A. Council understands the proposed move of the Landfill Red Lid bin from weekly to fortnightly would be a big change to some households. However, including a weekly Landfill Bin moving forward and keeping our services as Business as Usual but with an added Glass Bin will highly impact Council and Ratepayers economically and environmentally. Research collected from councils that have already introduced the fourth purple bin indicates if we were to remain the same, we will not meet the state or national targets, and recovery rates will grow by only 3%.

Q. Why would we propose changing household landfill frequency to fortnightly?

A. Currently Moira Shire is landfilling over 3,000,000kg/per year of recyclable or compostable materials. Through better sorting of waste we can better manage the financial and environmental costs of our actions. Transitioning to a more frequent food and garden organic collection has been demonstrated to

be a driver in encouraging behavioural change to reduce food waste in landfill bins. With national and state government targets of diverting 80% waste from landfill by 2030, we need to increase our diversion rate by 25% in the next 6 years.

Recent kerbside bin audits have shown that Moira residents have the potential to recover over 60% of items found in landfill bins. The potentially recoverable materials, in the kerbside landfill bin, include textiles, soft plastics, electronic waste and hazardous materials such as batteries. 51% was organic materials.

A neighbouring council changed the frequency of their household landfill collection from weekly to fortnightly in 2015 in response to a new organic kerbside service (weekly). This change resulted in a waste diversion rate above 70%.



Q. Can I get a bigger landfill bin?

A. Currently, requests for a larger bin at no extra cost will only be available to households with special considerations, such as medical reasons. We encourage all of our residents during this consultation phase to consider what items they are putting into their landfill bin. Currently households who generate greater waste can apply for an additional bin – fees do apply. However, Council will be considering how and if alternative bin sizes would be suitable to the community and your feedback on this matter is appreciated.

In the meantime we encourage all of our residents during this consultation phase to consider what items they are putting into their landfill bin and if they can make conscious decisions to change their waste behaviour.

Analysis of what is going into each bin shows that 61% of what is going into our landfill bins can be composted or recycled.

Q. Will all Victorian households have four bins?

A. In areas with kerbside collection services, households will move to a four-bin system. For households that do not have a kerbside service, or where one may not be possible, glass recycling can be accessed through drop-off points at all Moira Shire Resource Recovery Centres.

Q. I don't have a kerbside service – what will I do with my glass?

A. There are 9 drop-off points at Moira Resource Recovery Centres. This ensures all residents in the Shire have access to recycling their glass materials. Also, the Victorian Government's container deposit scheme (CDS) has been rolled out, providing another resource for the recycling of glass. More information can be found at this link <https://www.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme>.

Q. Why separate glass? Aren't materials separated and recycled at a sorting facility?

A. Glass, when mixed with other recyclable materials, often shatters and contaminates valuable, easy-to-recycle materials such as paper, plastic and cardboard. This reduces these materials quality and ability to be recycled, which lands them in landfill. By separating glass effectively, more materials from the recycling bin can also be recycled. It also ensures all glass is recycled, including glass shards.

Q. We already have a three-bin system, but other Councils already have a glass bin – why don't we yet?

A. The new household waste and recycling system is a key component of the once-in-a-generation reform of Victoria's waste and recycling sector. It takes time to make sure local infrastructure such as bins, trucks, and processing facilities are in place. Appropriate markets are also needed for recycled products. We are working closely with industry, business, councils, and all Victorians to build a sustainable and thriving circular economy for Victoria. The State Government requires the rollout of the standardised four-bin system to be completed by 2030, with glass bins introduced no later than 2027. Moira Shire is on track to have glass bins introduced by the end of 2024.

Q. Will the items I can put in my recycling bin change?

A. With the introduction of the purple-lidded glass bin, all glass containers and bottles should be placed in the new bin to improve the recyclability of the yellow-lidded recycle bin contents. [The Victorian Government](#) is in the process of developing a standardised list of accepted materials for each waste stream. Defining which items go in which stream, and making this the same for all Victorian households, will increase recycling and the quality of recycled materials and means less waste to landfill.

* Cost modelling for the services was created using best available data and local aggregated waste trends from 21/22 and 22/23 alongside tendered service rates. Actual fees and charges may fluctuate due to external factors beyond the control of council. Additional fees and charges may vary by level of service undertaken on each property i.e., additional bins or upsized bins.