

9.2 KERBSIDE REFORM PLANNING INCLUDING FOOD ORGANICS GARDEN ORGANICS (FOGO) AND GLASS KERBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICES

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SUMMARY

This report recommends kerbside collection service reforms for Mitchell Shire in line with the Victorian government's kerbside transition planning framework as outlined in the Recycling Victoria policy.

The report outlines the history of Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service discussions and investigations for Mitchell Shire Council to date and recommends future service delivery considerations and options. Additionally, the report also outlines a proposed approach for a separate glass kerbside collection service for the municipality.

The report provides recommendations for inclusion in Council's Kerbside Transition Plan. The Kerbside Transition Plan must outline Council's proposed timeframe for the introduction of these new services, however there is some flexibility to amend the dates outlined in the Kerbside Transition Plan once it has been submitted.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Seek to implement a weekly FOGO and alternative fortnight garbage and recycling, and monthly glass kerbside collection service from 1 March 2025 as part of Council's new kerbside collection contract.
2. Include this timing in Council's Kerbside Transition Plan for submission to DELWP by 30 September 2020.

BACKGROUND

Council is focused on facilitating an approach to waste management that minimises the volume of waste being sent to landfill by providing opportunities for residents to reduce overall waste generation and divert recyclable materials away from landfill.

Proper management of waste is essential to protecting the health and amenity of our communities and the environment. Resource recovery is a key part of waste management that provides further environmental and economic benefits while responding to global issues such as resource depletion and climate change.

Council's Kerbside Collection Policy May 2020 provides strategic guidance for the provision of Council's kerbside collection services in accordance with the objectives and goals of the Mitchell Shire Council Waste Management Strategy 2016-2021.

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The Kerbside Collection Policy ensures that kerbside collection services are provided across the shire in an efficient, effective and sustainable way and seeks to achieve best practice service delivery through a process of continual improvement. It defines compulsory kerbside collection routes, criteria for service extensions, refusal of services, resident obligations, collection times and the application of the associated waste service charge to properties in the shire.

All residential properties within designated townships in the shire are provided with a kerbside collection service along with rural properties located on main transport routes and/or kerbside collection connector roads. Where a property is located outside of these areas' residents can dispose of their household waste by taking their bins to the nearest kerbside collection point or to one of Council's Resource Recovery Centres or by engaging a private contractor to collect their waste.

Council currently delivers kerbside collection services to approximately 90% of residential households across the shire. This service is provided through Transpacific Cleanaway under Contract 132197 for Landfill waste (including transfer stations) and recyclables collection.

The Contract 132197 commenced on 1 July 2015 for a period of 8 years and 8 months with a one (1) year extension option. A standard kerbside collection service currently consists of a 120 Litre mobile garbage bin collected weekly and a 240 Litre mobile recycling bin collected fortnightly.

Garbage collected from the kerbside collection service is taken to Mitchell Landfill in Hilldene for disposal and recycling collected through the kerbside collection service is taken to the Visy Materials Recovery Facility in Heidelberg.

Approximately 8,572 tonnes of kerbside garbage and 3,852 tonnes of kerbside recycling was collected during the 2019-2020 financial year. It is anticipated that the amount of waste collected from Council's kerbside collection service will continue to increase each year as the shire's population grows. At the time of writing this report, an average of 65 new kerbside collection services are being provided throughout the shire each month.

Over recent years, in an effort to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to reduce the long term waste costs to residents, there has been a shift in the way that Councils manage kerbside collection services, with many now including a third kerbside bin for green organics or FOGO collection. A FOGO kerbside collection service is often accompanied by changes to the volume and frequency of collection of the kerbside garbage service.

The successful introduction of a FOGO bin to a Council's kerbside collection service can be attributed to a reduction in waste to landfill tonnages. In Victoria, it is estimated that the average household kerbside garbage bin contains approximately 40- 50% organic matter comprised mostly of food and garden waste.

When organic waste is disposed in landfill it decomposes without oxygen (anaerobically). This process produces odorous gases and methane, which has a global warming potential 25 times greater than carbon dioxide. Organic waste disposed in landfill also produces leachate, a liquid that is created as material decomposes. Leachate must be carefully managed as it contains harmful substances that can pollute groundwater and waterways if not contained. Therefore, removing

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food organic and garden organics from kerbside garbage bins also assists in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and odour and leachate production in landfill.

In late 2012, the Goulburn Valley Waste Resource Recovery Group (GVWRRG) commissioned a FOGO kerbside collection trial across four municipalities (Campaspe, Mitchell, Moira and Strathbogie shires) for approximately three months per municipality, the trial focused on:

- current behaviour and attitudes towards household recycling, particularly disposal of organic waste, and
- attitude towards a permanent Council implemented kerbside collection service for food and garden organic material.

In Mitchell Shire, the trial was conducted in Wallan from April- June 2013 with 600 households asked to participate. Approximately 80% of households approached took part in the trial.

Some of the key findings from the trial participants included:

- 95% of participants supported a FOGO kerbside collection service
- 21% of participants viewed cost as a barrier to participating in a permanent FOGO kerbside collection service
- 68% of respondents stated that they would be willing to pay \$1 per week for a FOGO kerbside collection service
- 35% of respondents stated that they would be willing to pay \$2 per week for a FOGO kerbside collection service.

The trial results demonstrated strong support for a FOGO kerbside collection service.

In early 2014, the GVWRRG successfully secured \$550,000 from Sustainability Victoria's Organics support package to assist its member councils with introducing a FOGO kerbside collection service.

A report titled '*Proposed Green Waste Kerbside Collection*' was presented to Council in April 2014 to establish a user pays FOGO kerbside collection service in urban townships in the shire. At the time, Council resolved not to proceed with a FOGO kerbside collection service due to the financial impost the service would place on ratepayers.

In December 2014, Moira Shire Council became the first council within the Goulburn Valley Region to provide a FOGO kerbside collection service. The service has been implemented as a fortnightly service to those properties within residential zoning. While contamination rates in the FOGO bin have been extremely low (0.5%) since implementation, landfill diversion rates are not as high as those councils with a weekly FOGO collection service.

In 2015, the City of Greater Shepparton added food organics (FO) to their existing garden organics (GO) kerbside collection and Strathbogie Shire Council introduced a FOGO bin to their kerbside collection service.

The City of Greater Shepparton provide a compulsory fortnightly FOGO kerbside collection service with weekly garbage and alternative fortnightly recycling collection in urban areas only. They have worked closely with residents over the past five years to

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reduce contamination rates from 9.5% down to 2.5%. They are now reviewing changing the frequency of garbage and FOGO collection with their kerbside collection contract re-tender.

Strathbogie Shire Council introduced a weekly FOGO kerbside collection service in 2015 along with an alternate fortnightly collection of kerbside garbage and recycling bins.

After five years of delivering a FOGO kerbside collection service Strathbogie Shire Council have achieved the following results:

- Annual FOGO tonnages have increased by 17%
- Average FOGO contamination rate is 2.05%
- Landfill diversion rate of 69.3%

In March 2016, officers provided Councillors with an update and advice on options for a FOGO kerbside collection service in Mitchell Shire as per the first-year action within the Waste Management Strategy 2016-2021 '*to present a report to Council outlining options for introducing a FOGO kerbside collection service*'. Officers recommended to Council that a FOGO kerbside collection service be rolled out from 1 July 2017.

At the time, Council resolved not to proceed with a FOGO kerbside collection service due to financial implications for residents.

In July 2019, Campaspe Shire Council became the fourth council within the Goulburn Valley region to introduce a FOGO kerbside collection service. The service is currently provided fortnightly with plans to move to a weekly service following the commencement of its new kerbside collection contract. Both Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires are now the only two municipalities in the Goulburn Valley region not providing a FOGO kerbside collection service to their residents.

As of June 2020, there are 26 Councils in Victoria that deliver a FOGO kerbside collection service to their residents. Another 31 Councils in the state deliver a green organics only service (with 11 of these intending to introduce food organics into the green organics bin within the next 2 years). There are 22 Councils in the state that currently do not provide any kerbside organics collection services.

Separate glass kerbside collection services have commenced at Hobsons Bay City Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Moyne Shire Council and Warrnambool City Council. The City of Yarra has recently announced it will introduce a glass recycling bin from September 2020.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

In late February 2020, the Victorian Government released its circular economy policy *Recycling Victoria* and 10-year action plan for waste and recycling. The Recycling Victoria policy seeks to address the challenges that have caused disruptions to Victoria's recycling services and make fundamental changes to help prevent these issues from recurring over the next decade.

Victoria's transition to a circular economy will be guided by four goals, listed below, spanning the life cycle of materials (make, use, recycle and manage). Each goal is designed to maximise value and minimise waste.

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- **Goal 1 - Design to last, repair and recycle.**
Generate less waste in businesses through innovation and design; use recycled materials in products and consider impacts across product life cycles; and support business to explore new circular economy business models ('Make' Chapter).
- **Goal 2 - Use products to create more value.**
Help people make smart purchasing decisions and extend the life of products and support the reuse economy; repair goods where possible ('Use' Chapter).
- **Goal 3 - Recycle more resources.**
Reform kerbside collections to generate more value from waste; improve the separation of recyclable materials; develop markets for recovered materials; plan for and boost investment in recycling infrastructure; embed the waste hierarchy in the management of materials; support the development of appropriate waste to energy facilities ('Recycle' Chapter).
- **Goal 4 - Reduce harm from waste and pollution.**
Protect communities and the environment from high-risk and hazardous wastes ('Manage' Chapter).

The following four targets will be used to measure the success of the policy:

1. Divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill by 2030, and an interim target of 72 per cent by 2025.
2. Cut total waste generation by 15 per cent per capita by 2030.
3. Halve the volume of organic material going to landfill between 2020 and 2030, with an interim target of 20 per cent reduction by 2025.
4. Ensure every Victorian household has access to food and garden organic waste recycling services or local composting by 2030.

Under the Policy, household recycling services will be overhauled with the proposed introduction of a four-bin system and a container deposit scheme to improve the value captured from kerbside recyclables.

The new system will include access to four core waste and recycling services:

1. combined food and garden organics (FOGO)
2. glass
3. combined paper, plastic and metals (Comingled recycling)
4. residual waste (Garbage)

To manage this transition, the Victorian Government will provide a kerbside reform package to support Local Government to roll out this new recycling system.

There will be a focus on standardising bins (including bin lid colours), and kerbside services (including items accepted) across Victoria to simplify household recycling and enable a state-wide education program to be implemented.

Standardised recycling services will look different in metropolitan, regional and rural areas. A standard four-bin service may not be suitable for some communities or dwelling types such as large apartment buildings or more remote areas, where

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alternative arrangements, such as transfer stations, local drop-off points, home composting support or worm farms might be more appropriate.

The Victorian Government will work closely with councils to find options that meet local needs while seeking to maintain a consistent state-wide service and associated education program. Councils will be supported to work together, aggregating waste volumes and pursuing collaborative procurement of waste and recycling contracts to achieve improved services and recycling outcomes.

The reforms will be implemented gradually, with the rollout of new bins for glass and new bin lids commencing from 2021. It is anticipated that all Victorians will have a new glass bin or access to glass services by 2027 and access to a FOGO bin or service by 2030.

There is a requirement for Council to develop a Kerbside Transition Plan that outlines its proposed approach for the introduction of a FOGO kerbside service and a separate glass kerbside collection service. The Kerbside Transition Plan must be submitted to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) by 30 September 2020. The Kerbside Transition Plan must outline Council's proposed timeframe for the introduction of these new services, however there is some flexibility to amend the dates outlined in the Kerbside Transition Plan once it has been submitted. Funding assistance will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist Council with the implementation of this plan; however, the value of this funding is yet to be detailed. It is anticipated that an announcement on individual funding amounts will be made in late 2020.

Proposed FOGO service

As part of Council's commitment to reducing waste to landfill and to comply with the Victorian government's Recycling Victoria policy, it is proposed that a separate bin for a FOGO kerbside collection service throughout Mitchell Shire is implemented before 2030.

Officers have considered a number of service provision, delivery and costing options for implementation of a FOGO service including but not limited to bin sizes and configurations, collection frequency, existing and future kerbside collection contract commitments, results of FOGO service models rolled out in other municipalities and compulsory user pays and income strategy options.

Data from FOGO service models implemented to date demonstrate that the best landfill diversion rates are achieved through the implementation of a weekly FOGO kerbside collection accompanied by an alternative fortnightly garbage and recycling kerbside collection.

Based on this evaluation, officers recommend that the most effective service to implement in Mitchell Shire would be a weekly 240 Litre FOGO kerbside collection accompanied by an alternative fortnightly 120 Litre garbage and 240 Litre recycling kerbside collection.

Officers have considered the following options in relation to procurement of a FOGO kerbside collection service:

- Amend the existing Contract 132197 (contract variation) and undertake a tender process for FOGO kerbside collection noting that the lead in time for procuring

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this service is a minimum of 18-24 months. Financial penalties may be incurred due to the contract variation required for the existing contract,

- Amend the existing contract (contract variation) and seek a Ministerial exemption for FOGO kerbside collection to be delivered under the existing kerbside collection contract (very short time frame as existing contract expires in 4-5 years), or
- Tender for the new kerbside collection contract (to commence in 2024 or 2025 if current contract is extended) and include a FOGO kerbside collection service in the new contract.

Additional considerations include:

- For contract administration and financial efficiencies, it is preferable to have one service provider deliver all kerbside collection services to the community.
- Ability to form part of a regional collaborative procurement process which will provide additional financial benefits to council and be considered more attractive to the market. These benefits were achieved through previous regional contract collaborations.
- The cost of kerbside collection trucks and mobile bins is generally amortised over the life of a kerbside collection contract (normally 8-10 years) which allows the upfront cost to purchase these items to be spread across the life of the contract. This reduces the need to significantly increase the cost of the waste service charge to cover any upfront costs.

Based on the above considerations, officers recommend that the most effective timing for implementation of a weekly 240 Litre FOGO kerbside collection is as part of the new kerbside collection contract scheduled to commence on 1 March 2025. This will allow Council to participate in regional collaborative procurement with a number of other councils in the Goulburn Valley and Hume region resulting in financial benefits to the community, provide lengthy lead in times for education programs and procurement of bins and trucks and ensure efficiencies for contract administration.

FOGO Processing

Once collected, FOGO material will be required to be transported to a Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) approved organics processor for onsite composting. Composting is a natural process of decomposition using oxygen (aerobically) which turns food and garden waste into a range of high quality, natural soil conditioning products such as mulches, composts, blended soils and potting mixes used in landscaping, horticulture and agriculture.

Gate fees for the receipt of FOGO material are currently at least 30-80% less than landfill gate fees. There are two green organics in vessel processors that FOGO material could currently be transported to from Mitchell Shire these include: Western Composting in Shepparton and Biomix in Carag near Stanhope. A tender would be required to procure this service.

Financial penalties are applied by receipt contractors for acceptance of contaminated FOGO material – generally these rates apply where contamination rates exceed 5% per tonne. To date, other council's within the region that have implemented a FOGO

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service generally have contamination rates of 3-5%, although some have exceeded 5% several times during their FOGO implementation phase and incurred a penalty.

Proposed Glass service

As part of Council's commitment to reducing waste to landfill and to comply with the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria policy, it is proposed that a separate bin for a glass kerbside collection service throughout Mitchell Shire is implemented before 2027. By collecting glass separately, it can be more effectively recycled and be transformed multiple times into different products.

Separate glass collection will also improve the recovery of other recyclables such as plastic, metal and paper in the comingled recycling bin as shards and small pieces of glass can become embedded in paper and cardboard in recycling bins and contaminate these recyclables.

Officers have considered a number of service provision, delivery and costing options for implementation of a glass kerbside collection service including but not limited to bin sizes and configurations, collection frequency, existing and future kerbside collection contract commitments, and compulsory user pays and income strategy options.

Data from kerbside recycling audits demonstrate that up to one quarter of a comingled mobile recycling bin is comprised of glass. Therefore, officers recommend that the most effective service to implement in Mitchell Shire is a monthly glass kerbside collection service accompanied by a weekly FOGO kerbside collection service and an alternative fortnightly garbage and recycling kerbside collection.

Based on this information, officers recommend that the most effective timing to implement a monthly 240 Litre glass kerbside collection service is as part of the new kerbside collection contract scheduled to commence on 1 March 2025. This will allow Council to participate in regional collaborative procurement with a number of other councils in the Goulburn Valley and Hume region resulting in financial benefits to the community, provide lengthy lead in times for education programs and procurement of bins and trucks and ensure efficiencies for contract administration.

Glass processing

All glass collected through a kerbside collection service needs to be either sent to a licensed processing facility to be sorted by colour and have contaminated material removed (this is called beneficiation) or sent to a processing facility that processes glass fines (as a sand substitute) into lower grade construction and road material products.

Currently there are only two glass recycling facilities in Victoria, known as beneficiation plants, that sort and clean mixed glass product. These plants are operated by:

- Visy Glass and Cardboard Recycling
- Polytrade Pty Ltd

There are two companies that accept and processes glass fines into lower grade construction and road material products, these include:

- Alex Fraser Group
- Fulton Hogan Warrnambool

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All four Council's currently providing a glass kerbside collection service in Victoria are sending the glass they collect to companies for processing for reuse in construction and local roads.

Gate fees for the receipt of glass material is estimated to be between 30-50% less than landfill gate fees. A tender would be required to procure this service.

FOGO and Glass Education campaign

The success of the introduction of a FOGO and glass kerbside collection service will be reliant on a strong and engaging education program that clearly explains the benefits to residents of both services. A whole of Council approach will be required to ensure that the community embrace the roll out of these kerbside collection service.

The GVWRRG aligned Moira, Strathbogie and Greater Shepparton Councils with the 'Back to Earth' (B2E) initiative to ensure that there was a collaborative and consistent approach in educating their communities about FOGO kerbside collection services. The campaign (derived from the Metropolitan Waste Resource Recovery Group) provides a suite of communications and social mediums to educate the community on the value of a FOGO kerbside collection service.

The objectives of the program are to achieve minimum contamination of the organic material collected from the kerbside and to greatly reduce organic waste ending up in landfill.

Marketing and education with clear guidance must be provided to residents outlining how a FOGO bin is to be used. Assistance to those residents that may experience difficulties transitioning to a new FOGO kerbside collection service such as larger families, those using nappies and people with medical conditions will be essential. The B2E educational material is available for Mitchell Shire to access when a FOGO kerbside collection service is implemented.

If a well-planned and well-resourced education program is overlooked there is a risk that contamination issues may be encountered with FOGO kerbside collection resulting in financial penalties to Council and less desirable environmental outcomes.

Education and engagement for the introduction of a separate glass kerbside collection service would also be developed alongside the B2E program, with both programs being rolled out prior to the introduction of the new kerbside services.

CONSULTATION

Effective community engagement is essential to the success of a new kerbside collection service. For example, encouraging households to divert food waste is a significant behavior change for most people. Some residents may initially feel that they do not need a FOGO bin because 'they don't produce much food waste' or 'compost everything at home'. However once FOGO kerbside collection services are introduced they are typically popular and adopted and supported by 80-85% of the community.

For those people already home composting a FOGO bin can be viewed as an extension of the good work they are already doing and a means to take the pressure off their home compost or worm farm. The FOGO bin can accept hard to compost items

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and things the worms don't like to eat like citrus, meat, bones, fish, dairy, bread and pasta.

The desire for an organics kerbside bin featured heavily in comments in the waste education survey conducted during March 2019. While the survey focused on waste education opportunities many participants used the opportunity to voice their opinion about the need for a kerbside organics collection service. Of the 182 survey participants within Mitchell Shire, questions about, and calls for green waste bins occur 96 times by 66 individuals (36% of responses mentioned green waste bins).

Below is an example of comments received from residents during the Waste Education Survey in March 2019 relating to FOGO kerbside collection services:

- *What do we do with green rubbish from gardening?*
- *Why we don't have a green waste bin confuses me (sic.)?*
- *We need a green bin for compost and green waste*
- *Where to put green waste if you can't get to tip?*
- *What I do find confusing is the lack of commitment from council. You are lagging behind compared to other areas. Look at Clarence valley or Lake Macquarie councils!!!! We need green waste bins, composting and larger recycling bins. All good and well to 'educate' people but if your services are useless then there's no point*
- *Why is there no green waste!!?*
- *I hate the fact that we are expected to take our own green waste and hard rubbish to the dump... Most people don't own trucks*
- *We need green waste collections*

Further community consultation is required following development of Council's Kerbside Transition Plan to inform its communities of the future proposed changes to a four bin kerbside collection service. This includes the development and delivery of a stakeholder engagement plan and communications plan.

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The annual waste services charge applied to each property receiving a kerbside collection service is currently \$440.

Total indicative costings as estimated by Council's finance department in July 2020 for the rollout of a four bin kerbside collection service to approximately 21,130 tenements (plus 5% growth per annum) from 2025 is outlined in table 1. below.

Financial Year	Existing Waste Service Charge	FOGO	Glass	Total
(2025-2026)	\$510	\$96	\$45	\$651
(2026-2027)	\$525	\$96	\$45	\$666
(2027-2028)	\$541	\$96	\$45	\$682

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(2028-2029)	\$557	\$96	\$45	\$698
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Table 1. Cost estimates for 4 bin kerbside collection service

These costs allow for collection and disposal costs (based on a weekly FOGO collection, alternative fortnight garbage and recycling collection and monthly glass collection), bin amortization, community education, employment of a FOGO officer and promotion.

Estimated pricing for new kerbside collection services as part of a new landfill waste and recyclables collection contract is likely to be more cost competitive.

A revised assessment of the costings will need to be completed for following tendering for these services.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Under the Australian Constitution, State and Territory Governments are primarily responsible for managing waste. The *Local Government Act 1989* requires Council to plan for and provide waste management services and facilities for the local community.

The implementation of separate FOGO and glass kerbside collection services aligns with a number of Federal and State Government policies, strategies and initiatives that aim to reduce food waste, increase food organics recycling and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The National Waste Policy was released in 2018 to provide a framework for waste and resource recovery in Australia. In August 2019, in line with this policy, the Australian Government and all state and territory governments committed to implement the National Action Plan. One of the key targets of the action plan is to halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill for disposal by 2030.

The action plan will be implemented in Victoria through the recently released circular economy policy *Recycling Victoria* and accompanying 10-year action plan for waste and recycling.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk Ranking is determined using [ROHS201-G1- Corporate Risk Matrix](#). Risk is identified as Low, Medium, High or Very High.

Risk	Risk Ranking	Proposed Treatments	Within Existing Resources?
Increased organic waste to landfill resulting in increasing greenhouse gas emissions.	High	Introduction of a FOGO kerbside collection bin	This service will be provided as a fee for service through the Waste Service Charge. Likely to be some state government funding provided

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Risk	Risk Ranking	Proposed Treatments	Within Existing Resources?
			for the cost of bins and education
Impact to the organisation's reputation as increasing community expectation that a FOGO kerbside collection service is provided.	High	Introduction of a FOGO kerbside collection bin	This service will be provided as a fee for service through the Waste Service Charge.
If a separate FOGO and glass kerbside collection service is not introduced Council will not comply with the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria policy.	High	Introduction of a FOGO and glass kerbside collection service.	This service will be provided as a fee for service through the Waste Service Charge. Likely to be some state government funding provided for the cost of bins and education

There are a number of actions that are fundamental for the successful implementation of a FOGO and glass kerbside collection service including:

- developing and implementing a well-resourced education and promotional campaign with a whole of organisational approach,
- ensuring adequate timeframes for tendering for collection and receipt contracts and for purchasing FOGO and glass bins,
- timing of the FOGO and glass kerbside collection rollout – in particular avoiding holiday periods when many residents may be away on holidays, and
- conducting ongoing monitoring for contamination.

If these actions are overlooked it is likely to result in poor participation rates and contaminated FOGO and glass materials in bins.

Poor planning and under resourcing of a FOGO and glass kerbside collection service is likely to result in a lack of community engagement that will lead to contamination of bins. The four councils currently delivering a FOGO kerbside collection service in the Goulburn Valley highlighted that the key to the success of their services was primarily due to the resources invested in delivering a comprehensive education campaign to their communities prior to the service roll out. They highlighted that a high quality engaging education program improved the service uptake and assisted in reducing contamination issues.

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SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)

Provision of a FOGO kerbside collection service provides a significant opportunity for Council to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (methane) and climate change impacts associated with waste to landfill.

Evidence from FOGO implementation in other council areas also indicates a significant reduction in waste being sent to landfill for disposal.

With a growing population there is an increased community expectation that Council provides a FOGO kerbside collection service for its communities to enable all residents to have access to food and garden waste disposal.

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

It is determined that the subject matter does not raise any issues impacting children or young people.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

CONCLUSION

How council's manage waste is a significant and growing challenge. Diversion of FOGO material from landfill via kerbside collection services is now a key priority for council waste management services in Victoria as landfill airspace costs increase and strategies to address climate change become more apparent.

As Mitchell Shire's residential population (and subsequent waste volumes) continues to grow, Council needs to seek opportunities to divert more waste from landfill ideally by targeting waste streams that are high in volume and less expensive to address such as FOGO.

Additionally, by improving the way glass is collected at the kerbside it will provide greater opportunities for this material to be repurposed into new products and improve the quality of recycling materials collected in the comingled recycling bin.

The most cost-efficient opportunity to implement new kerbside collection services is as part of the new kerbside collection services contract in 2025. This will also assist in contract administration efficiencies and provide clear direction for the organisation and community moving forward.

Through the successful introduction of a four bin kerbside collection service a reduction in waste to landfill tonnages will be achieved resulting in future cost savings for the community and long-term environmental benefits.