

WASTE COLLECTION POLICY

Policy Number:	4.1.1
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	June 2026
Date of Next Review:	December 2027
Applicable to:	Natural Environment and Parks
Responsible Officer:	Manager Natural Environment and Parks Coordinator Waste and Sustainability
Related Policies:	Nil
Related Documents:	Waste Collection Boundary Maps (Online), Waste Services Guideline
Statutory Reference:	<i>Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021</i> <i>Climate Change Act 2017</i> <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i> <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> <i>Local Government Act 2020</i>

OVERVIEW

This Policy outlines Wellington Shire Council's high-level framework for the provision of kerbside waste and recycling services. It sets the principles that determine service eligibility, service types, and charging, in line with the *Local Government Act 1989*, *Local Government Act 2020*, *Environment Protection Act 2017* and the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*.

All operational requirements, service standards, access criteria and procedures are detailed in the Waste Services Guideline, which supports this Policy.

This Policy applies to all residential and eligible non-residential properties within Council's Declared Collection Areas.

The Policy governs the provision of:

- Kerbside collection services
- Hard waste collection
- Waste, recycling and processing charges

POLICY STATEMENT

1.1 Service Provision

- Council provides kerbside waste, recycling and hard waste collection services to properties located within the Declared Collection Areas.
- Properties must meet safe, lawful and practical access requirements as detailed in the Waste Services Guideline.
- Properties outside the Declared Collection Area are not eligible for a Council-provided kerbside service. Legacy properties are currently exempt from this rule.
- The Declared Collection Areas will be reviewed at least every three years to reflect changes in land use, access conditions and service feasibility. Any amendments to the Declared Collection Areas are approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

1.2 Standard Kerbside Collection Service

Council provides a mandatory kerbside service to eligible properties in accordance with the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. In Wellington Shire, the mandatory standard service includes a 120L general rubbish bin, 240L recycling bin, and 240L food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin.

1.3 Frequency

The collection frequency of each service is as follows;

- Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection - Weekly
- General Rubbish collection – Fortnightly
- Recycling Collection - Fortnightly

1.4 Flexibility

Council provides the option of user-pays flexibility to households requiring additional waste or recycling capacity. Subject to access and eligibility requirements, properties within a Declared Collection Area may apply for larger bin sizes (general rubbish only) or any number of optional additional General Rubbish, Recycling or Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services. The Waste Services Guideline outlines all available service configurations, standard bin entitlements and the process for requesting additional bins.

1.5 Additional General Rubbish Subsidy

The availability of an 'Additional General Rubbish Subsidy' can be applied for, for those with excess Medical/Hygiene Waste, and for families with 2 or more children under 4 years of age, subject to eligibility requirements, on a proof-based application process, either as property owners or directly as tenants for properties within a Declared Collection Area. The Waste Services Guideline outlines the process, eligibility criteria and application process for the additional general rubbish bin subsidy.

1.6 Exceptions

Certain property types—such as commercial properties, dependent persons units, temporary dwellings, vacant land, non-rateable land and not-for-profit aged-care housing—are exempt from mandatory kerbside services. These properties may elect to receive a kerbside service, and may also request additional bins, provided they meet all access and eligibility requirements outlined in the Waste Services Guideline.

1.7 Waste Service Charges

Council applies waste and recycling charges based on cost recovery, transparency and accountability, equity and efficiency, consistent with Ministerial Guidelines.

The categories of charges include:

- Kerbside Service Charges
- EPA Waste Levy Charge
- Waste Infrastructure and Management Charge

Charge descriptions and calculation principles are set out in the Waste Services Guideline.

1.8 Compliance

Council may take action in instances of service misuse, contamination or illegal dumping in accordance with the Guideline, Local Laws and relevant legislation.

1.9 Supporting Guideline

This Policy is supported by the Waste Services Guideline, which contains:

- Types of charges and charging methodology
- Service provision and eligibility criteria
- Standard service and additional bins
- Additional general rubbish subsidy
- Conditions of collection
- Exceptions and exemptions
- Declared Collection Area principles
- Contamination processes

The Guideline may be updated administratively to reflect operational or legislative changes. Any amendments to the Guideline to support Operations are approved by the Chief Executive Officer.

DEFINITIONS

Additional general rubbish subsidy – Kerbside serviced properties with a medical condition or disability associated with the significant generation of medical or hygiene related waste confirmed in writing by a medical professional, or families with 2 children under the age of 4, that meet the criteria outlined in the Waste Services Guideline, may apply for an additional 120L general rubbish bin – no additional fees apply (each case will be assessed as to how it meets the criteria).

Contamination – Materials that cannot be processed by the receival facility (e.g., plastic in green bin), materials which are hazardous to health or the environment (e.g. syringes), not domestic in nature (e.g. building products, paint), or are illegal to place in the bin (e.g. asbestos, batteries) in accordance with Recycling Victoria Service Standards and Wellington Shire Community Local Law 2021.

Declared Collection Area (DCA) - A spatial boundary determined by Council under its powers in the *Local Government Act 2020* to provide and charge for waste and recycling services. All properties within this boundary are required to receive the mandatory standard service and are subject to the associated service charges, regardless of individual use or preference.

Council may amend the Declared Collection Area, or exclude individual properties, where service provision is not reasonably or safely practicable due to access, safety, cost, or operational constraints

Legacy properties – are residential properties located outside the declared collection area that retained a right to a bin collection service during Council amalgamations in 1994 and have paid a Waste Kerbside Service Charge (historically referred to as Garbage Charge) as part of that right.

Multi-Unit Developments (MUDS) – means two or more dwellings (whether attached or detached) on one lot of land. This may include Nursing Homes, retirement villages, residential flats.

Non-rateable land - as per the definition contained in Section 154 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Not for Profit - as per the definition of the Australian Tax Office.

REVISION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	December 2022	No changes applicable at this review.
1.1	December 2023	Date of New Review updated to December 2024. Minor formatting changes.
1.2	December 2024	Date of Next Review updated to December 2025.
1.3	December 2025	Date of New Review updated to December 2026.
2.0	June 2026	Major update of policy undertaken to reflect the high-level framework for the provision of kerbside waste and recycling services.