

Submission to South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Public

Tuesday, 15 July 2025
Infrastructure and Public
Works Committee

Program Contact:
Sarah Gilmour, Associate
Director Park Lands, Policy &
Sustainability

Approving Officer:
Ilia Houridis, Director City
Shaping

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of a submission to Green Industries SA's (GISA) consultation on *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030: Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy* (SA's Waste Strategy), that opened on 28 May 2025 and closes on 23 July 2025 ([Link 1](#)).

The submission is based on Council policy and objectives contained in the CoA Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Integrated Climate Strategy 2030: *Resilient, Protected, Sustainable*, and Economic Development Strategy- *A thriving economy for all*.

The submission acknowledges alignment between the strategic objectives contained in SA's Waste Strategy and the City of Adelaide's (CoA's) targets and strategies for economic development, adaptive reuse, waste reduction, resource recovery and a transition to a circular economy.

Through its strategies, the CoA is seeking to leverage and grow South Australia's green economy and green brand and has an ambitious population growth target of 50,000 people living in the City of Adelaide by 2036. The submission encourages the State Government to prioritise economic outcomes through growth in circular economy businesses and jobs, and repurposing existing buildings for adaptive reuse.

The Council's submission is structured to respond to the questions raised in the GISA consultation survey. Key matters relate to:

- City growth
- Circular economic development
- Systems improvement
- Stewardship.

Attachment A includes detailed responses, examples of CoA initiatives and further opportunities to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation will be presented to Council on 22 July 2025 for consideration

THAT THE INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL
THAT COUNCIL

1. Endorses the submission to Green Industries SA as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee held on 15 July 2025.
 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, to make minor technical or typographical amendments to the submission to Green Industries SA as contained in Attachment A to Item 7.1 on the Agenda for the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee held on 15 July 2025, for the purposes of finalising and lodging the submission.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Environment <i>Provide progressive waste management and resource recovery services</i> <i>Partner with the community to divert more waste from landfill</i> <i>Increase diversion from landfill for residential kerbside waste from 50% (2020) to 80% by 2030</i>
Policy	The submission is based on Council policy and objectives contained in its Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Integrated Climate Strategy 2030: Resilient, Protected, Sustainable (ICS), and Economic Development Strategy- A thriving economy for all.
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Not as a result of this report
Opportunities	The consultation provides an opportunity to influence the direction of South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030.
25/26 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of a submission to Green Industries SA's (GISA) consultation on *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030: Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy* (SA's Waste Strategy), that opened on 28 May 2025 and closes on 23 July 2025.
2. The submission is based on Council policy and objectives contained in its Strategic Plan 2024-2028, Integrated Climate Strategy 2030: *Resilient, Protected, Sustainable* (ICS), and Economic Development Strategy- *A thriving economy for all* (EDS).
 - 2.1. Strategic Plan 2024-2028 target:
 - 2.1.1. *Increase diversion from landfill for residential kerbside waste from 50% (2020) to 80% by 2030.*
 - 2.2. ICS Priorities:
 - 2.2.1. *Growth in circular economy industries in the city*
 - 2.2.2. *Procurement decisions that localise supply, prioritise reuse and drive green industries*
 - 2.2.3. *Achieve Zero avoidable kerbside waste to landfill ('zero waste') in 2030.*
 - 2.3. EDS Priorities:
 - 2.3.1. *Leverage and grow the green economy and green brand*
 - 2.3.2. *Encourage repurposing, adaptive reuse and improvement of buildings and facilities.*
3. The submission acknowledges alignment between the strategic objectives contained in the draft SA Waste Strategy and the City of Adelaide's (CoA's) targets and strategies for economic development, adaptive reuse, waste reduction, resource recovery and a transition to a circular economy.
4. Through its strategies, the CoA is seeking to leverage and grow South Australia's green economy and green brand and has an ambitious population growth target of 50,000 people living in the City of Adelaide by 2036.
5. The submission encourages the State Government to prioritise economic outcomes through growth in circular economy businesses and jobs, and repurposing existing buildings for adaptive reuse.

Summary of key matters raised in the submission

6. The Council's submission (**Attachment A**) is structured to respond to the questions raised in the GISA consultation survey, with key matters as follows:
 - 6.1. City growth
 - 6.1.1. CoA recognises that city environments and areas of medium and high density development may require alternative service delivery models and flexibility in the frequency of service collection to enable resource recovery.
 - 6.1.2. CoA supports proactive approaches including legislative reform, flexibility in frequency of waste collection for Council services, and precinct level solutions to enable more tailored organics collection services. Options can consider medium and higher density environments and lower-emission collection methods.
 - 6.1.3. The CoA is actively implementing a range of initiatives and interventions, some of which are supported by grant funding provided by GISA. The CoA is actively pursuing State Government support to amend waste management policies in the Planning and Design Code and seeks a strong focus by GISA on medium and higher density development in the implementation of SA's Waste Strategy.
 - 6.2. Circular economic development
 - 6.2.1. CoA supports meaningful ways to measure circularity and greater guidance for local governments to measure and contribute to State and National circular economy metrics.
 - 6.2.2. There is an opportunity to leverage [Circular Adelaide](#), a portal connecting businesses with circular activities in the City of Adelaide with consumers, to other parts of Greater Adelaide and SA.

6.3. Systems improvement

- 6.3.1. CoA supports minimum standards being established for both customer reporting and anonymised reporting to the State Government and by local government area to increase the transparency of waste system performance and behavioural change programs.
- 6.3.2. CoA supports wide-spread application of National Plastics Recycling Scheme to signal change to end-markets; and further on ground, multi-lingual engagement and education to support businesses to transition and align with changing regulations for single use and other problematic plastic products.
- 6.3.3. There is an opportunity to standardise data tools to drive consistent and reliable reporting of targets and signal change to the market relating to performance expectations.
- 6.3.4. CoA requests the development of guidelines and interim support for collection systems to support safe collection of batteries as well as e-waste as batteries are often embedded in these products.

6.4. Stewardship

- 6.4.1. CoA supports a state-level textile stewardship legislative framework aligned with the objectives of the Federal Government to ensure a consistent national approach.
- 6.4.2. CoA urges the transition from voluntary to mandatory product stewardship to drive further impact within the industry and reduce the downstream costs often borne by local governments through waste contracts.

- 7. **Attachment A** includes detailed responses, examples of CoA initiatives and further opportunities to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

Implications for CoA

- 8. SA's Waste Strategy outlines the responsibility for implementation across government, business, industry, communities and individuals. The table below outlines the responsibilities for local government and how the CoA is positioned to deliver on the proposed responsibilities.

SA's Waste Strategy - Responsibilities for local government	CoA activities
<i>Deliver and educate communities on high-performing kerbside collection systems.</i>	The CoA is currently trialling two alternative collection systems with corresponding education. This includes a weekly collection of green organics in smaller 80L bins and a shared-bin method in select laneways across the city. To support better recovery in residential multi-unit dwellings.
<i>Adopt circular procurement policies and practices (with related measurement, reporting and community education).</i>	Council adopted an amended Procurement Policy at its meeting on 25 February 2025. The Policy includes criteria supporting a transition to a circular economy. Further work is underway to develop mechanisms to report on circular procurement outcomes.
<i>Support community-led initiatives like repair hubs and swap centres.</i>	In 2023/24 the CoA supported delivery of 1 Repair Café and through the libraries offers 2 makerspaces for the community.
<i>Support adaptive reuse of existing building stock</i>	As highlighted in SA's Waste Strategy, the CoA's ARCHI program is creating new homes in underused buildings by repurposing existing structures.
<i>Consider reform for mandatory reporting by local government to state government on household waste generation and resource recovery performance, to provide an accurate and timely circular economy metric for all levels of government.</i>	The CoA has developed the Performance on Waste and Resource Recovery (PWRR Tool) to aggregate, synthesise and report on kerbside waste performance against the CoA targets.

Next Steps

- 9. Pending the Council's decision, the submission will be made to GISA by 23 July 2025.

10. Administration is preparing further information on current CoA waste and resource recovery initiatives to be presented to the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee over the next 12 months, including:
 - 10.1. The CoA's performance on waste and resource recovery against its adopted strategic targets.
 - 10.2. Higher density and residential laneway trials testing the use of smaller bins and a shared bin system for resource recovery in constrained city environments.
 - 10.3. The outcomes of the waste feasibility study and future kerbside waste contract negotiations.

DATA AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Link 1 – [South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030: Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy YourSay consultation](#)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Submission to Green Industries SA responding to the invitation to comment on South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030

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