

Update on Kerbside Waste and Resource Recovery Trials

Strategic Alignment - Our Environment

Tuesday, 7 October 2025

City Planning, Development
and Business Affairs
Committee

Presenter: David Bills, Manager
Low Carbon and Circular
Economy

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss a range of trials undertaken by Administration to improve kerbside waste services and resource recovery, as follows:

1. Laneways trial - shared bins
2. Laneways trial – little bins
3. City-wide trial - little bins
4. Soft plastics trial.

Details relating to the little bins initiatives are published on Council's website ([Link 1](#)).

The trials focus on higher density and residential laneways to test the use of smaller bins and a shared bin system for resource recovery in space constrained city environments. An update on the soft plastics kerbside collection trial is also provided.

The workshop seeks feedback to inform potential future waste management service level changes and the City of Adelaide's waste contract negotiations, with the current contract due to expire on 30 June 2027.

Strategic Alignment

The City of Adelaide Strategic Plan 2024-2028 (Strategic Plan) sets the following actions and target for waste management and resource recovery:

Provide progressive waste management and resource recovery services

Partner with the community to divert more waste from landfill

Increase diversion from landfill for residential kerbside waste from 50% (2020) to 80% by 2030.

The development and delivery of the trials respond to the Council's Strategic Plan ([Link 2](#)) as well as Goal 4: of the Integrated Climate Strategy 2030, Resilient, Protected, Sustainable ([Link 3](#)).

Background Context

The workshop follows confidential advice to the City Planning Development and Business Affairs Committee on 5 August 2025 regarding current performance toward strategic waste and resource recovery targets.

As part of an ambitious population growth target of 50,000 people living in the City of Adelaide by 2036, the City of Adelaide is seeking to leverage and grow South Australia's green economy and green brand to prioritise economic outcomes through growth in circular economy businesses and jobs, and repurposing existing buildings for adaptive reuse.

Council endorsed a submission to Green Industries SA (GISA) regarding Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's Waste Strategy 2025-2030 (SA's Waste Strategy) at its meeting on 22 July 2025 ([Link 4](#)).

This submission noted that the Council 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. Council sought a greater focus on waste management solutions in medium and higher density environments and the introduction of lower-emission collection methods.

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The trials provide options relating to service level changes which will be required to meet the Council's strategic waste and resource recovery targets and State Government targets. Future recommendations will also be informed by the outcomes of the current waste and recycling collection feasibility study.

Ongoing complementary work relating to waste and resource recovery includes a proposed amendment to the State Government's Planning and Design Code to address waste management in multi-unit dwellings (subject to State Government decision).

KEY QUESTIONS

In relation to potential future service level changes, Administration seeks the following feedback:

- What are Council Members' views on extending the trials to other locations in the city?

- END OF REPORT -