

Environment Protection Authority



Waste Delivery Plan



Charting our path to a safe and sustainable
circular economy in NSW



An aerial photograph of a rocky stream flowing through a lush green forest. The water is dark and clear, reflecting the surrounding vegetation. The rocks are brown and jagged, creating small rapids and pools. The forest is dense with various shades of green, including moss and ferns. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Acknowledgement of Country

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The EPA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

We recognise the connection to their land, their waters and surrounding communities and acknowledge their history here on this land.

We also acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees who are an integral part of our diverse workforce and recognise the knowledge embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and culture.

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Wiradjuri Country, Mudgee, NSW

Effective waste management is critical to the protection of the environment, human health and quality of life of current and future generations. It is also the foundation of a safe and sustainable circular economy in NSW and a key focus area for the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Our Waste Delivery Plan outlines the action we will take to reduce the harmful impact of waste and drive behaviours that create a circular economy. It outlines how we will work with our partners to deliver on our strategic waste priorities and the NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041: Stage 1 2021–2027 and NSW Plastics Action Plan.



Transitioning to a safe and sustainable circular economy

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is working to protect the health of our environments, economies and communities by reducing the harmful impact of waste and driving a circular economy.

Increasing waste generation is having significant impacts on the world around us, driving emissions of greenhouse gases, the pollution of land, air, and water, and the degradation of productive land and public amenity. To effectively manage the risks this poses to the health and wellbeing of current and future generations, and to support sustainable economic growth and job creation, the EPA is taking action to ensure:

- waste is reduced and its harmful impacts are minimised
- community and industry actively contribute to a circular economy
- we have resilient systems and robust markets available to keep waste materials circulating and to decarbonise the economy.

In June 2021, the NSW Government released its plan for the first stage in the transition to a circular economy over the next 20 years. The **Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041: Stage 1 2021–2027** (the Strategy) alongside the accompanying **NSW Plastics Action Plan (Plastics Action Plan)** and **NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy: A guide to future infrastructure needs**, sets a six-year path to reduce waste, increase recycling, and realise the environmental and economic benefits of a circular economy.

The EPA is working with the Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment (DPIE) to implement the Strategy and the Plastics Action Plan. Our collective challenge is to 'close the loop' of a low-carbon circular economy – from designing-out waste at the stage of product manufacture to creating sustainable markets for low-carbon recycled materials – while not compromising on the measures in place to protect the environment and human health.

Reducing the harmful impact of waste and driving behaviours that create a circular economy is one of our key focus areas. This Waste Delivery Plan

outlines the actions we will take to achieve this priority and support the implementation of the Strategy and Plastics Action Plan, focusing on:

- reducing carbon emissions by building a resilient circular economy
- managing the risks of problematic, harmful and unnecessary waste
- supporting councils and communities to safely manage waste.

The Waste Delivery Plan sets out how and when we will work with our partners – including communities across NSW, industries of multiple sectors and governments at all levels – to deliver these actions and describes how we will monitor and report on our progress.

Working together to deliver

As highlighted throughout this Waste Delivery Plan, the EPA recognises that collaboration with our partners will be key to our success. This document will be used to guide ongoing consultation with our partners, including on the transition to and delivery of the Strategy and Plastics Action Plan. We will take every opportunity to engage with you to understand your needs and ensure they are met through the design and implementation of the initiatives outlined in this Waste Delivery Plan. This will include local government and waste industry advisory groups established to provide formal channels for input into key waste issues, as well as EPA roadshows which provide face-to-face forums to engage with local councils and EPA licensees across the state.

The EPA has compiled program delivery timeframes in good faith, based on best information to date. However it is prepared for indicative purposes only and are subject to change. The EPA will prepare a five-year calendar confirming anticipated program release timeframes to assist stakeholders with forward planning for future projects and initiatives.

Reducing carbon emissions by building a resilient circular economy

About 45% of global carbon emissions are attributable to the way resources are used. To achieve the NSW Government's ambition of net zero emissions across NSW by 2050, we need to rethink how materials and products are produced, consumed and disposed. The EPA can do this by using all the tools at our disposal to ensure waste is put to better use and drive a circular economy in NSW.

While reducing carbon emissions is a critical part of our response to the challenge of climate change, climate models predict that severe weather events such as droughts, bushfires, storms and floods are becoming more frequent. The EPA will work to ensure that NSW waste and resource recovery systems, as the foundation of a circular economy, are resilient to these risks.

This section provides information on the implementation of the following initiatives:

Initiative	Page	Stakeholders
Diverting organics from landfill	p. 7	Local government, waste service providers, organics processors, key businesses, food rescue organisations, communities.
Increasing uptake of landfill gas capture and waste-derived biogas	p. 8	Local government, landfill operators, biogas producers and users.
Building waste sector resilience to climate change	p. 9	Licensed waste and resource recovery facility operators, local government, state government agencies.
Creating a carbon-negative waste sector	p. 10	Local government, waste and resource recovery sector, manufacturing and construction sectors, state government agencies, and the community.
Leveraging government purchasing power to stimulate a local circular economy	p. 11	Waste and resource recovery sector, construction sector, state government agencies, local government.
Review our regulatory settings to enable the circular economy	p. 12	Waste and resource recovery sector, local government, and industry.
Building on our success: Business Recycling	p.13	Key businesses, local government, waste and resource recovery sector.

Diverting organics from landfill

To implement this initiative we will work with local government, waste service providers, organics processors, key businesses, food rescue organisations and communities.

In line with the NSW Government's commitment under the **Net Zero Plan Stage 1: 2020–2030** to achieve net zero emission from organic waste by 2030, the NSW Government will mandate:

- separate collection of food waste from large food-waste generating businesses, including large supermarkets and hospitality businesses, by 2025
- separate collection of food and garden organics from all NSW households by 2030
- reporting by large supermarkets on surplus food donation to food rescue organisations by 2025.

The NSW Government will invest in a \$69 million organics program over five years to support:

- the rollout of new collection services and development of more organics processing capacity, including composting and anaerobic digestion
- food donation infrastructure, education and equipment
- commit to a State-wide education campaign that will help households adjust to the changes and improve their recycling habits.

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)	
Design and consult	<p>August 2021 Begin targeted consultation on organics investment and education program design and the application of the proposed mandates with local councils and the waste industry.</p> <p>Engagement platforms will include the NSW local government and waste advisory groups and statewide EPA Roadshows. We will also hold dedicated consultation forums for local councils and regional waste groups from Greater Sydney and regional NSW, waste service providers, organics processors and food waste generating businesses.</p>
	<p>October 2021 Commence preparing draft regulations for the three mandatory requirements.</p>
	<p>March 2022 Release draft regulations for public consultation.</p>
Release	<p>Early 2022 Publish organics investment program guidelines, aligning timing of funding release with the renewal of local council service contracts and budget planning, and industry investment planning.</p> <p>Release funding to support food recovery from existing household food and garden collection services using the Scraps Together education materials.</p> <p>Begin targeted consultation on expanded monitoring and data collection systems to track increased avoidance and recycling of food and garden wastes.</p>
	<p>May 2022 Publish local government organics collection support guidelines.</p>
	<p>Mid-2022 Commence scoping and development of guidelines for the construction and operation of new organics processing facilities in line with EPA operational requirements.</p> <p>Begin staged release of organics investment program to support transition to new requirements.</p>
	<p>Early 2023 Publish public processing infrastructure investment program guidelines.</p>
	<p>March 2023 Publish updated guidelines for the construction and operation of new organics processing facilities.</p>
	<p>Release new regulations for commencement of mandatory requirements by 2025 and 2030.</p>
	<p>From 2025 Monitor compliance with food waste mandates in large food waste generating businesses.</p> <p>Deliver state-wide education campaigns from 2025 once majority of households have access to FOGO.</p>

Increasing uptake of landfill gas capture and waste-derived biogas

To implement this initiative we will work with landfill operators, biogas producers and users.



The NSW Government will mandate:

- landfill gas capture for landfills over a certain size and all expanded or new landfills (with exemptions under certain circumstances)
- net zero emissions for landfills that are subject to an environment protection licence.

The NSW Government will invest \$7.5 million over five years to support the installation of landfill gas capture infrastructure and investigate provision of a waste levy rebate for landfills with installed gas capture infrastructure.

The NSW Government will work with state and federal agencies to develop a roadmap of actions taking into account new and emerging opportunities and promote investment certainty. They will also investigate options to establish a new regulatory framework to provide incentives to uptake biogas produced by organic waste as a renewable energy source.

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)	
Design and consult	<p>August 2021 – February 2022</p> <p>Initiate review of existing regulatory frameworks and development of policy options to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement the requirement for landfills to capture landfill gas • incentivise landfill gas capture at landfills • incentivise the uptake of anaerobic digestion facilities and biogas production.
	<p>April 2022</p> <p>Initiate baseline audit to map current infrastructure for landfill gas capture across NSW and it's effectiveness in capturing and utilising landfill gas. Establish reporting system to measure changes over time.</p> <p>Begin targeted consultation on proposed policy and regulatory options and program design with local councils and the waste industry.</p> <p>Engagement platforms will include the NSW local government and waste advisory groups, statewide EPA Roadshows and dedicated consultation forums for private and public landfill operators and biogas generators and users.</p>
	<p>September 2022</p> <p>Finalise policy and regulatory framework.</p>
	<p>From October 2022</p> <p>Commence development of draft legislation and release for public consultation.</p>
Release	<p>End 2023</p> <p>Write to landfill operators subject to new requirements, to advise on the new obligations and funding program launch.</p> <p>Release program guidelines for funding to support landfill gas capture requirements.</p>
	<p>Early 2024</p> <p>Finalise and release new regulations for commencement by end of 2024. Update reporting requirements on existing environment protection licence standards to prepare for consistent landfill gas reporting.</p>
Monitor	<p>From 2023</p> <p>Monitor changes in landfill gas capture and utilisation.</p>

Building waste sector resilience to climate change

To implement this initiative we will work with licensed waste facility operators, local government and state government agencies.

The EPA will:

- identify and map waste facilities at high risk of climate change impacts and severe weather events, including consideration of waste transportation, storage, processing and disposal
- co-develop climate change risk management plans with local government, waste operators and state agencies to manage waste during severe weather events
- identify waste capacity needs to manage waste generated by severe weather events and inform strategic infrastructure planning
- co-design climate resilience programs with local land managers to address the impacts of climate change and severe weather events on communities.



Proposed delivery timeline

Scope	<p>November 2021</p> <p>Begin spatial mapping of licensed waste facilities in areas vulnerable to extreme weather events, drawing on NSW and ACT regional climate modelling data.</p> <p>Commission research into the effect of extreme weather events on waste volumes in NSW and the impact on waste management capacity needs. Findings will be incorporated into strategic infrastructure planning feasibility assessments to support development of contingency capacity to manage waste generated by extreme weather events.</p>
Consult	<p>Mid-2022</p> <p>Initiate consultation with waste operators and local councils on historical waste management responses, and future waste management needs, during extreme weather events, using local government and waste advisory groups and statewide EPA Roadshows as platforms for engagement.</p> <p>Begin collaboration with state government agencies to identify critical waste management risks associated with severe weather events.</p>
Design	<p>Early 2023</p> <p>Begin work with licensees to develop climate change risk management plans to enhance preparedness of their facility to plan for severe weather events.</p> <p>Begin work with local and state governments to develop emergency waste management plans to guide future responses to severe weather events.</p>
Monitor	<p>From 2024</p> <p>Consult with waste industry, local government, and state government agencies, and regularly update assessments of high-risk waste facilities to assess effectiveness of waste management after extreme weather events: adapt management plans as needed.</p>

Creating a carbon-negative waste sector

To implement this initiative we will work with the waste and resource recovery sector, the manufacturing and construction sectors, and state government agencies.



Publish once every two years:

- a carbon-abatement cost curve analysing the lifecycle costs and benefits of the materials consumed in NSW to identify opportunities to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions, including through the uptake of low-carbon waste-derived material in construction and manufacturing
- a list of globally emerging resource recovery markets and priority materials to signal opportunities for investment and innovation.

These publications will inform the NSW Government's investment of \$37 million in a *Carbon Recycling and Abatement Fund* to:

- trial the innovative use of low-carbon recycled materials
- trial new approaches to reduce waste and increase recycling of waste generated through construction and demolition activities
- help businesses co-locate in Clean Manufacturing Precincts and Special Activation Precincts (SAPs) where they can beneficially re-use each other's by-products for materials and energy, reducing their waste and carbon footprints
- support the recovery of biogas from waste materials.

Proposed delivery timeline

Proposed delivery timeline		
Scope	August 2021	Engage with waste, manufacturing and construction sectors to identify research requirements for the development of a carbon-abatement cost curve.
	September 2021	Commission study to identify carbon-abatement cost curves, with a particular focus on material substitution in the NSW waste, construction and manufacturing sectors. The findings of this study will be used to inform research to identify globally emerging resource recovery markets and priority materials, focusing on waste materials that are 'stranded' due to the absence of market demand or processing capacity.
Design and consult	October 2021	Begin targeted consultation with local government and waste, manufacturing and construction sectors on preliminary cost curve findings and design of the <i>Carbon Recycling and Abatement</i> investment program. Engagement platforms will include local government and waste industry advisory groups, statewide EPA Roadshows and dedicated consultation forums, including with manufacturing and construction sector representatives.
	November 2021	Begin designing <i>Carbon Recycling and Abatement</i> investment program, considering options to support the use of the resource recovery framework to facilitate recycling innovations. (See page 12 for more information.)
Release	December 2021	Publish carbon-abatement cost curves and a list of emerging resource recovery markets and priority materials.
	July 2022	Release <i>Carbon Recycling and Abatement Fund</i> program guidelines and communication.
Monitor	From mid-2022	The NSW Government will develop a new measure of the emissions performance of waste and materials management.

Leveraging government purchasing power to stimulate a local circular economy

To implement this initiative we will work with the waste and resource recovery sector, construction sector, manufacturing sector and state government agencies.



The NSW Government will require:

- NSW Government departments to preference products that contain recycled content during procurement
- all NSW Government-owned and leased buildings over 1,000m² to obtain and publish a National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) Waste Rating by 2026.

To support purchasing decisions and help industry plan for the pipeline of demand, the NSW Government will publish:

- a directory of recycled material suppliers
- a register of upcoming government infrastructure and construction projects that will procure recycled material.

Through the *Circular Innovation Fund*, the NSW Government will invest \$13 million to support research into new technologies and recycled material uses, and provide opportunities to pilot them in government projects.

The NSW Government will identify opportunities to embed circular design principles in new NSW Government buildings, infrastructure and precincts.

The NSW Government will also develop circular design guidelines in collaboration with property and infrastructure sectors for incorporation in government planning instruments.

Proposed delivery timeline

Proposed delivery timeline		
Design and consult	October 2021	Engagement with government stakeholders.
	December 2021	Develop roadmap for implementing government demand of recycled content and products.
	January 2022	Commence consultation with recycling, manufacturing and construction sectors on supply of recycled products and design of the Circular Innovation Fund.
Release	From July 2022	Release <i>Circular Innovation Fund</i> program guidelines and communications, and publish directory of recycled material.
	2026	Adopt NABERS waste ratings for NSW Government-owned and leased buildings over 1,000m ² .
Monitor	From 2023	Report annually on the use of recycled content in state government procurement and its associated impact on emissions and waste reduction.

Review our regulatory settings to enable the circular economy

To implement this initiative we will work with the waste and resource recovery sector, and local government.



The EPA will review existing regulatory tools and frameworks to ensure regulatory settings support circular investment and innovation while maintaining protections for the environment and human health.

We will :

- review the resource recovery framework to provide clear information requirements and facilitate feasibility and viability testing of innovative business models, technologies or processes
- put into policy formal, five-yearly reviews of the operation of the waste levy as a tool to drive avoidance of waste and resource recovery, including a review of levy area boundaries.

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)	
Scope	<p>August 2021 Identify objectives, priorities and parameters for the review of the resource recovery framework.</p> <p>September 2021 Begin consultation with local government and the waste industry on the current operation of the resource recovery framework and ways to make it more responsive. Platforms for engagement will include the local government and waste advisory groups and statewide EPA Roadshows.</p>
	<p>January 2022 Begin designing reforms to the resource recovery framework.</p> <p>March 2022 Conclude review and initiate targeted consultation on proposed reforms to the resource recovery framework.</p>
Design and consult	<p>July 2022 Begin targeted consultation on the waste levy review framework with local government and the waste sector. Platforms for engagement will include the local government and waste advisory groups and statewide EPA Roadshows.</p> <p>Early 2023 Conduct waste levy review and prepare five-yearly waste levy review framework.</p>
	<p>Early 2023 Implement changes to the resource recovery framework, including preparing and consulting on legislative reforms where necessary.</p> <p>Early 2024 Release findings from waste levy review.</p>
Release	<p>From 2023 Investigate options to incorporate safe and beneficial reuse of waste as part of the updated monitoring approach for the Resource Recovery Framework.</p>
Monitor	

Building on our success: Business Recycling

To implement this initiative we will work with key businesses, local government, and the waste and resource recovery sector.



The NSW Government will provide \$15 million over five years to support the continuation of EPA business recycling programs, including business advisory services and rebates, and Bin Trim grants that support small and medium enterprises to manage their waste more efficiently, reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill and reduce their carbon footprint.

Under Bin Trim, the EPA provides:

- free advice and support to businesses to help them reduce waste and make cost savings
- businesses with rebates covering up to 50% of the cost of small-scale, on-site recycling equipment.

Proposed delivery timeline

Design and consult	<p>August 2021</p> <p>Begin consultation with small and medium-sized enterprises and Bin Trim assessors to redesign current programs to pivot from a focus on reducing waste to landfill to achieving circular economy outcomes.</p> <p>Platforms for engagement will include local government and waste advisory groups, statewide EPA Roadshows and tailored workshops with key businesses.</p>
Release	<p>Mid-2022</p> <p>Release new program guidelines and open funding rounds.</p> <p>Publish behaviour change resources to accompany program rollout. These will build on the release of the new Bin Trim app to enable businesses to self-assess their waste generation and identify recycling and circular economy opportunities, including through a step-by-step video guide.</p>
Monitor	<p>From mid-2022</p> <p>Program guidelines will establish milestones and monitoring and reporting requirements.</p>

Managing the risks of problematic, harmful and unnecessary waste

As waste generation in NSW increases, the NSW Government will work to improve the management of materials that are not readily or safely recirculated within the economy.

These include residual wastes that cannot be recycled due to material complexities and technical limitations, 'stranded' wastes where material supply outweighs market demand and capacity for recovery, and wastes that are 'leaked' from the circular economy due to illegal activity. Often these waste types needlessly end up in landfill, are littered or illegally dumped. This can have negative impacts on the environment and human health, which may be heightened when the waste involved is hazardous.

We will place a strong focus on managing problematic wastes to minimise risks the NSW environments and communities. We will work with industry to put the right infrastructure and regulatory tools in place to recycle most wastes and safely manage what remains.

This section provides information on the implementation of following initiatives:

Initiative	Page	Stakeholders
Strategic infrastructure planning	p. 15	Waste and resource recovery sector, local government, state government agencies
Avoiding plastic waste	p. 16	Waste and resource recovery sector, manufacturing and retail sectors, research organisations, communities.
Building on our success: Litter prevention	p. 17	Local government, communities, research organisations.
Building on our success: Preventing illegal dumping and strengthening the way we regulate waste crime	p. 18	Waste and resource recovery sector, including waste classifiers and transporters, local government.
Building on our success: Hazardous and household problem wastes	p. 19	Waste and resource recovery sector, communities, local government.
Creating a nationally consistent hazardous waste tracking system	p. 20	Hazardous waste industry operators, other jurisdictions.
Building on our success: NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee	p. 21	Waste and asbestos services industry, NSW Government agencies, Commonwealth Government agencies, local government, community.

Strategic infrastructure planning and investment

To implement this initiative we will work with the waste and resource recovery sector, local government and state government agencies.



Building on the *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy: A guide to infrastructure needs*, the NSW Government will coordinate advice from industry, investors, local government, regional groups and state government agencies to determine how we meet our critical waste management and circular economy needs and work towards targets under the National Waste Policy Action Plan.

The EPA will commission assessments to determine NSW strategic infrastructure needs aligned to the *Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy* and the *EPA Strategic Plan*. These assessments will be informed by work to develop circular design guidelines for incorporation in government planning instruments, and a review of our regulatory settings to enable circular economy.

The findings of these assessments will guide actions to facilitate industry investment in high-priority residual waste and circular economy infrastructure in NSW. These actions will be supported by a \$24 million *Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund*.

Proposed delivery timeline

Scope	October 2021	Commence feasibility assessments of circular economy infrastructure to determine how we meet our critical infrastructure needs. These assessments will be informed by modelling for National Waste Policy Action Plan targets, and carbon abatement and climate change resilience priorities.
Design and consult	April 2022	Begin consultation with local councils, regional waste groups and infrastructure proponents on opportunities for strategic waste and circular economy infrastructure, and the design and priorities of the <i>Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund</i> . Platforms for engagement will include the waste advisory groups and statewide EPA Roadshows.
Release	July 2022	Commence release of program guidelines and funding phases.
Monitor	From July 2022	Develop an infrastructure monitoring and evaluation framework, including establishing indicators on infrastructure investment, waste management capacity and the cost of waste services.

Avoiding plastic waste

To implement this initiative we will work with the waste and resource recovery sector, the manufacturing and retail sectors, research organisations and communities.

The NSW Government will introduce a new head of power to phase-out problematic or unnecessary plastic items including certain single-use plastics. The phase-out will be staged as follows:

- within at least six months after assent to the legislation, phase out the supply of lightweight plastic bags (**Stage 1**)
- on 1 November 2022, phase out the supply of single use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and cotton buds, expanded polystyrene food service items, and microbeads in person care products (**Stage 2**)
- within three years, for environmental or economic purposes, consider phasing out plastic bowls, plates and cups, oxo-degradable plastics and fruit stickers (**Stage 3**).

In addition, the NSW Government will introduce a head of power to set design standards for consumer items. Design standards may be prescribed for environmental or economic purposes, including waste management purposes. As a priority, the NSW Government will apply design standards to personal care and cosmetic products to phase out the use of plastic microbeads. To support these changes, the NSW Government will roll out a statewide community education program.

The NSW Government will investigate extended producer responsibility options for problematic wastes, starting with cigarette butts.

To support manufacturers transition towards sustainable alternatives to virgin or hard-to-recycle plastics, the NSW Government will invest \$10 million in a *Circular Materials Fund*. A further \$2 million will be allocated to a new *Plastics Research Partnership* for universities and other research institutions to enhance the understanding of the environmental impact of plastics and develop innovative solutions to manage plastic waste. \$5 million will also be available for trials and pilots of innovative ways to improve plastic recyclability, plastic alternatives, and the recovery of plastics, with funding initially provided to address plastics medical waste. An online portal will be designed to link NSW plastics recyclers with government procurement bodies to help boost awareness and uptake of products with recycled content. In addition, \$500,000 will be available to help plastic manufacturers install systems to prevent nurdles entering waterways and guidance for councils that regulate plastic manufacturers about best practice management of nurdles.

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)

	June 2021	Consult with stakeholders on the proposed legislation and commence drafting.
Design and consult	September 2021	Commence investigating extended producer responsibility schemes for cigarette butts.
	November 2021	Commence design of the Circular Materials Fund and Plastics Research Partnership.
	Early 2022	Commence education and engagement campaigns with retailers and communities leading up to Stage 1 phase out.
Release	Mid 2022	Stage 1 phase-out commences at least six months after passage of legislation.
	July 2022	Release program guidelines for the <i>Circular Materials Fund</i> .
	Mid-late 2022	Commence education and engagement campaign leading up to the commencement of Stage 2 of single-use plastics phase-out.
	1 November 2022	Stage 2 phase-outs commence within 12 months after the passage of legislation.
	From 2024	Consider Stage 3 phase-outs.

Building on our success: Litter prevention

To implement this initiative, we will work with local government, communities and research organisations.



The NSW Government will invest \$38 million to continue the EPA's litter programs to protect our natural environment and waterways. Through these programs, the EPA will establish new partnerships to empower industry, community organisations and stakeholders to take ownership of local litter management.



Proposed delivery timeline

Proposed delivery timeline	
Scope	<p>October 2021</p> <p>Commence drafting the new NSW Litter Prevention Strategy 2022–30 and establish pathway towards new litter reduction targets and program requirements.</p> <p>Open the transition-year funding round for local government and communities to support strategy development.</p> <p>Finalise evaluation of the <i>Waste Less, Recycle More</i> programs under the <i>Litter Prevention and Enforcement Fund</i> and review recommendations for future program development.</p>
	<p>December 2021</p> <p>Align the NSW Litter Prevention Program with single-use plastic phase-out and identify ways to support Plastic Action Plan outcomes through data collection, evaluation of the impact of bans, additional policy advice and program support.</p>
Consult	<p>August 2021</p> <p>Commence targeted consultation on the direction of future litter programs.</p> <p>Engagement platforms will include local government, Regional Waste Groups, community groups and industry.</p>
	<p>Mid-2022</p> <p>Commence review and consultation on next iteration of the <i>Don't be a Tosser!</i> campaign.</p>
Release	<p>April 2022</p> <p>Release NSW Litter Data Framework, including access to public-facing dashboard to track litter across NSW and progress towards state litter targets.</p>
	<p>Late 2022</p> <p>Release new NSW Litter Prevention Strategy 2022–30 with supporting draft partnership strategy.</p> <p>Open new program funding opportunities.</p>
Monitor	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Use new streamlined litter-data information system to monitor program success.</p>

Building on our success: Preventing illegal dumping and strengthening the way we regulate waste crime

To implement this initiative, we will work with the waste and resource recovery sector, including waste classifiers and transporters and local government.

LET'S GET RID OF ILLEGAL DUMPING

The NSW Government will invest \$16 million over five years to continue the delivery of the EPA's illegal dumping prevention programs including the regional illegal dumping (RID) squads and the RIDonline reporting system. To proactively target illegal dumping, the EPA will use a combination of education and behaviour change, prevention infrastructure, clean-up, regulation, enforcement data and evidence.

The EPA will also target regulatory efforts towards problematic and harmful waste types and investigate a suite of legislative reforms to strengthen our regulatory powers, including:

- requirements for the accreditation of waste classifiers
- extending licensing requirements for waste transporters and mandating the use of GPS tracking for vehicles transporting asbestos waste over a certain volume
- requiring waste-receiving facilities to generate electronic waste dockets that are not easily falsified
- requiring the waste generator to pay disposal fees directly to waste facilities, to ensure the waste is transported to the facility and not illegally dumped
- enhancing the investigation and enforcement powers of EPA officers and increasing the penalties for waste crime offences.

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)

	Ongoing	Continue funding investigations and illegal dumping compliance campaigns. Continue funding preventative programs and grants.
Scope	August 2021	Commence investigations into the feasibility of implementing legislative reforms to strengthen the way we regulate illegal dumping and waste crime.
	March 2022	Commence preparation of regulations to implement high-priority proposed legislative reforms.
Design and consult	October 2021	Commence targeted consultation on the direction of future illegal dumping programs.
	January 2022	Finalise evaluation of the <i>Waste Less, Recycle More Illegal Dumping Prevention and Enforcement Fund</i> and review recommendations for future program development.
	February 2022	Commence drafting the new illegal dumping prevention plan, and establish pathway towards new targets and program requirements.
	January 2022	Finalise evaluation of the NSW Illegal Dumping Strategies developed under Waste Less Recycle More.
	April 2022	Commence consultation with stakeholders on high-priority legislative reforms.
	March 2022	Commence preparation of regulations to implement other legislative reforms.
Release	Late 2022	Commence consultation with stakeholders on other legislative reforms.
	September 2022	Finalise and release legislative reforms to implement high-priority reforms.
	Late 2022	Release new illegal dumping prevention plan for 2022–27. Open new program funding opportunities.
	Late 2023	Finalise and release legislative reforms to implement other reforms.
Monitor	From July 2022	Use social research and data sources such as RIDonline to monitor program success.

Building on our success: Hazardous and household problem wastes

To implement this initiative we will work with the waste and resource recovery sector, communities and local government.



From July 2022 the NSW Government will provide \$66 million over five years to continue to support Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) and continue Chemical CleanOut collection events to minimise contamination in waste streams and allow for the safe and convenient collection of problematic and hazardous household wastes.

The EPA will continue to integrate these services with existing product stewardship schemes and explore opportunities for new extended producer responsibility schemes for products such as flammable solvents. These schemes will be informed by an assessment of the critical infrastructure capacity we need for hazardous waste.

Proposed delivery timeline

	August 2021	Release transition funding for <i>Waste Less, Recycle More</i> program.
Scope	March 2022	Commence feasibility study of potential expansion of the household problem waste items that can be collected via CRCs within available funding.
	Mid-2022	Complete needs assessment to identify immediate and emerging market shortfalls for hazardous waste and identify contingency plans for critical waste types where inadequate disposal options exist. Commence investigation into opportunities for extended product stewardship schemes to treat and recycle for problem and hazardous wastes, such as flammable waste solvents.
Consult	Mid-2022	Commence consultation with local government and CRC operators to identify opportunities to improve existing programs and expand the collection of household problem wastes accepted by CRCs. Platforms of engagement will include targeted consultations as well as local government and waste advisory groups and statewide EPA Roadshows.
Release	July 2022	Commence expanding and completing the network of CRCs and continue Chemical CleanOut collection events.
Monitor	Ongoing	Monitor our success through existing household problem waste reporting databases.

Creating a nationally consistent hazardous waste tracking system

To implement this initiative, we will work with hazardous waste industry operators, other jurisdictions.



To obtain improved hazardous waste flow data, the EPA is leading the development of a nationally consistent hazardous waste tracking and data system. The EPA is responsible for this action under the **National Waste Policy Action Plan**. A modernised and integrated nationally consistent hazardous waste tracking and data system will:

- provide access to higher-quality data and therefore improve our ability to manage the environmental and health risks posed by hazardous waste
- increase end-to-end regulatory oversight between jurisdictions, minimising opportunities for illegal activity.

Proposed delivery timeline (Actions in green represent regulatory changes.)

Scope	Timeline	Actions
Scope	August 2021	Continue program research into hazardous waste tracking system development options.
	From October 2021	Commence identifying amendments to regulations required to support the introduction of new hazardous waste tracking system and associated stakeholder consultation needs.
Design and consult	August 2021	Commence consultation with other jurisdictions to identify opportunities to improve current waste tracking systems and propose way forward. Use local government and waste advisory groups and statewide EPA Roadshows as additional platforms for engagement.
	February 2022	Commence development and testing of a nationally consistent hazardous waste tracking and data system. Commence development and testing of accompanying communications and training materials for system users.
	March–June 2022	Prepare draft amendment regulation. Commence consultation with stakeholders on draft amendment regulation. Refine regulations based on consultation outcomes.
Release	June 2022	Finalise and release amended regulations to support implementation of the new system.
	Mid-2022	Launch new NSW system and commence use.
Monitor	Ongoing	Promote system use and interjurisdictional take-up.
	Ongoing	Monitor take-up and use of new system through analytics and user feedback. Run user satisfaction surveys, to inform improvements to usability.

Building on our success: NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee

To implement this initiative, we will partner with waste and asbestos services industry, NSW Government agencies, Commonwealth Government agencies, local government, community.

The EPA has led the coordination of asbestos safety initiatives via the NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee (NACC) since 2018. Under the Strategy, the NSW Government has committed \$5 million over five years to support the continued operation of the NACC.



Proposed delivery timeline

Scope	August 2021	NACC will work on Asbestos in NSW: Setting the Direction 2021 and 2022 to outline priority issues and objectives to reduce exposure to asbestos in NSW. Continue to enhance the asbestos.nsw.gov.au webpage.
	August 2021	Continue the design of a targeted asbestos behaviour change program. This will include initiatives which raise awareness of the risks of asbestos in many contexts (for example, in homes and after disasters) and how to stay safe.
Design and consult	November 2021	NACC will support the rollout of the Asbestos Awareness Week national campaign led by the Federal Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency.
	February 2022	NACC will commence wide consultation with partners and the community to design a longer-term strategic agenda to reduce unsafe exposure to asbestos in NSW.
Release	November 2021	NACC to release Asbestos in NSW: Setting the Direction 2021 and 2022.
	Mid-2022	NACC will launch a comprehensive NSW asbestos behaviour change program.
	Late 2022	NACC release longer-term strategic agenda.
Monitor	Ongoing	Use an outcomes measurement framework to evaluate the success of initiatives and share learnings from implementation. Conduct social research to track the impact of the asbestos behaviour change program.

Supporting councils and communities to safely manage waste



Through our community waste programs, the EPA has partnered with local councils and communities to support waste management and resource recovery at the local level. We want to build on past successes and develop local circular economies by providing continued support for councils and communities to better manage waste in their local spaces.

The way the NSW Government provides this support is changing. The EPA will assist local government in transitioning to a new funding model for waste and circular economy programs and will work to empower local councils to continue their critical role in ensuring NSW communities have access to essential waste services and are protected from the risks of waste.

This section provides information on the new funding arrangements for local government waste programs under the Strategy and Plastics Action Plan.

It also outlines the implementation pathways for new and continuing local council and community waste management initiatives, including the following:

Initiative	Page	Stakeholders
Facilitating joint council procurement of waste services	p. 24	Local government, joint and regional organisations of councils and regional waste groups, waste service providers.
Building on our success: Local government waste and resource recovery	p. 25	Local councils, regional waste groups, Regional Organisations of Councils and Joint Organisations.
Building on our success: Waste in Aboriginal communities	p. 26	Aboriginal land councils and their peak body, Aboriginal communities, local councils, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, NSW Health, Rural Fire Service, regional waste groups.
Building on our success: Continue the Landfill Consolidation and Environment Improvements Program	p. 27	Local councils, regional waste groups.

Transitioning to a contestable funding model for local government waste programs



Gadigal Country, Bronte, NSW

Local councils play a vital role in protecting their environments and communities from the risks of waste. Under the Strategy and Plastics Action Plan, local government partnerships will remain pivotal in creating circular economy opportunities and ensuring waste is sustainably managed – from increasing the collection and processing of organic waste streams to tackling litter and illegal dumping in public spaces.

To better leverage industry investment and build innovative partnerships and capabilities with local councils, funding previously available for local government waste programs under *Waste Less, Recycle More* will transition to a competitive funding model. From July 2022, local councils will be eligible to bid for contestable pools of funding, targeted towards the delivery of critical waste and circular economy priorities including infrastructure, carbon abatement, organics waste, and innovation to tackle problem wastes such as plastics.

The transition to a contestable funding arrangement aligns with NSW Treasury guidelines on outcomes-based budgeting. It will enable greater transparency in financial decision-making and greater accountability for the delivery of waste and circular economy outcomes.

To support local councils to transition to the new funding arrangements, the NSW Government has provided \$85 million to continue key waste and resource recovery activities and support councils to deliver waste services, tackle illegal dumping and develop regional waste strategies. This will ensure continuity in the delivery of waste services and programs while allowing councils to collaborate with the NSW Government on the design and implementation of initiatives under the Strategy and Plastics Action Plan.

From August 2021, the EPA will engage with local councils, joint organisations, regional organisations of councils and regional waste groups on how to best support them through this transitional period and reorient local government waste programs and regional waste planning to align with circular economy priorities.

Facilitating joint council procurement of waste services

To implement this initiative we will work with local government, joint and regional organisations of councils and regional waste groups, and waste service providers.

The NSW Government will invest \$16 million over five years to establish a new voluntary service to facilitate local government joint procurement of waste services.



Proposed delivery timeline

Proposed delivery timeline		
Scope	August 2021	Begin preparing a report examining options for the establishment of a joint council procurement facilitation service.
Design and consult	November 2021	Release an options paper for targeted consultation with local councils and co-design a facilitation service with local councils, joint organisations, regional organisations of councils and regional waste groups. Consultation will be conducted through statewide EPA Roadshows as well as local government and waste advisory group forums.
Release	By July 2022	Commence joint procurement facilitation service.

Building on our success: Local government waste and resource recovery

To implement this initiative, we will partner with local councils, regional waste groups, Regional Organisations of Councils and joint organisations.

The NSW Government will provide continued funding over the next five years to support local council waste and resource recovery projects, including:

- \$10 million for local councils in the waste levy paying area to support local waste and recycling initiatives
- \$15.6 million for regional waste groups in the Metropolitan Levy Area and regional waste groups in rural and regional NSW.



Proposed delivery timeline

Design and consult	August 2021	Begin working with regional waste groups to transition to new funding arrangements, outlining investment principles and priorities and co-designing an outcome measurement framework for the program. Begin working with local government partners to redesign the approach to supporting local waste and recycling initiatives. Engagement platforms will also include a targeted workshop with waste groups.
	From September 2021	Release another round of funding under the <i>Better Waste Recycling Fund</i> .
Release	November 2021	Release guidance on regional waste strategies.
	Mid-2022	Funding under the Strategy commences. Release new program guidelines and communications material, encouraging innovative circular economy solutions and aligning investment with Strategy targets in program requirements.

Building on our success: Waste in Aboriginal communities

To implement this initiative we will partner with Aboriginal land councils and their peak body, Aboriginal communities, local councils, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, NSW Health, the Rural Fire Service and regional waste groups.

The NSW Government will provide funding of \$5 million over the next five years to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to manage waste and recycling, tackle litter and illegal dumping, and improve community amenity.



Cleaning up Wongaibon Country, near Nyngan, NSW

Proposed delivery timeline

Design and consult	From early 2022	Commence work with our partners to redesign the Aboriginal waste programs.
Release and monitor	From mid-2022	<p>Release new program guidelines and communications material and work to facilitate access to program funding and support.</p> <p>Adopt a culturally appropriate outcome measurement framework to strengthen the delivery of the program and meet the aspirations of Aboriginal communities in NSW.</p>

Building on our success: Continue the Landfill Consolidation and Environment Improvements Program

To implement this initiative, we will work with local councils and regional waste groups

The NSW Government will provide \$6 million over five years for the continued *Landfill Consolidation and Environmental Improvements Grant Program* to support regional councils to improve, consolidate or close landfills in the Regional Levy Area and non-regulated area of NSW.

This will support councils to address potential liabilities posed by landfill activities, reduce environmental risks and contribute to the long-term protection of the environment.



Management of sand dune erosion exposing former landfill. Worimi Country, Stockton Beach, NSW

Proposed delivery timeline

Proposed delivery timeline	
Design and consult	<p>August 2021</p> <p>Begin targeted consultation on the design of the <i>Landfill Consolidation and Environment Improvements Program</i> with local councils and regional waste groups. Engagement platforms will include the NSW local government and waste advisory groups, statewide EPA Roadshows, and dedicated consultation forums for local councils and regional waste groups in the Regional Levy Area and non-levy paying area of NSW.</p> <p>Initiate review and update the Environmental Risk Assessment and Mitigation Package (E-RAMP) risk assessment tool for operators of small waste facilities.</p>
Release	<p>Mid-2022</p> <p>Develop and release new program guidelines.</p> <p>Develop and publish new education resources to accompany program.</p>

Improving our performance as a world class regulator

We will develop effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks, improve how we collect and use data, and report annually on the success of our initiatives.

As a world class regulator, the EPA is committed to continuous improvement. This means using contemporary tools, technology and data to monitor our performance, learn from our past, and adapt to future challenges to achieve better outcomes for NSW environments, communities and economies.

In consultation with our partners, we will develop a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework to evaluate the success of the initiatives under this Waste Delivery Plan against our waste management and circular economy targets.

Targets of the National Waste Policy Action Plan

- Reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030.
- Have an 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030.
- Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry.
- Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025.
- Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030.

Working towards our targets

The Strategy and Plastics Action Plan adopts the targets endorsed by the NSW Government under the *National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019*. We will develop a framework to apply these nationwide targets to the NSW context and guide the design of the actions under this *Waste Delivery Plan* accordingly. In addition to adopting the *National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019* targets, the NSW Government has committed to:

- introduce new targets to
 - » **reduce litter items by 60% by 2030**
 - » **reduce plastic litter items by 30% by 2025**
- set a goal to **triple the plastics recycling rate by 2030**.

The EPA will also develop targets for reductions in illegal dumping in NSW.

Being smart with data

To track progress against our targets, we will improve how we collect, manage and use data. We will seek opportunities to create more accessible and collaborative approaches to data collection and reporting.

Creating a single, nationally consistent tracking system for hazardous and controlled waste is a first step in this process.

We will also explore innovative opportunities to partner with industry, government and the research community to use data and technology to enable the transition to a circular economy. To this end, we will work with the waste industry to establish indicators on infrastructure investment and the cost of waste services. We will also build upon measuring tonnages of waste diverted from landfill as an indicator of program success to adopt measures of emissions performance across the life cycle of materials, from production to final destination. This will provide a better understanding of where carbon savings can be made.

Improved data and analytics will support the development of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track our performance in delivering our waste and circular economy actions. Through program consultation, we will seek our partners feedback to inform development of the monitoring and evaluation framework that will be used to support reporting on our progress.

Waste Delivery Plan - Program Development Timeline

Scope
 Design and Consult
 Release and Monitor



Number	Initiative	Workstream	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Beyond 1 July 22 (release dates to be confirmed as part of a five-year programs calendar)		
1	Diverting organics from landfill	Regulation	Design and Consult Release draft regulations for public consultation March 2022											Release 2022			
		Programs	Design and Consult Begin targeted consultation on organics investment and education program design and mandates August 2021					Early 2022 - Release organics investment program guidelines - Release funding to support food recovery - Begin targeted consultation on expanded monitoring and data collection systems Publish local government organics collection support guidelines May 2022					Commence scoping and development of guidelines for new organics processing facilities in 2022 and publish in 2023 Publish public processing infrastructure investment program guidelines 2023				
2	Increasing uptake of landfill gas capture and waste-derived biogas	Regulation and program	Design and Consult Initiate review August 2021-February 2022 Begin targeted consultation April 2022											Finalise policy and regulatory framework 2022 Release draft legislation 2023 Release program guidelines and new requirements 2023 Release new regulations 2024			
3	Building waste sector resilience to climate change	Partnership						Scope					Initiate consultation mid-2022 Design 2023				
4	Creating a carbon-negative waste sector	Carbon-abatement cost curves	Scope				Publish cost curves and list of emerging resource recovery markets										
		Carbon Recycling and Abatement Fund			Design and Consult Begin targeted consultation October 2021										Release		
5	Leveraging government purchasing power to stimulate a local circular economy	Government procurement and Circular Innovation Fund			Design and Consult Commence targeted consultation January 2022										Release program and publish directory of recycled material 2022 Adopt NABERS 2026		
6	Review our regulatory settings to enable the circular economy	Review waste levy													Targeted consultation 2022 Review 2023 Release findings of review 2024		
		Resource recovery framework	Scope Commence targeted consultation on the framework September 2021		Design and Consult Conclude review and initiate targeted consultation on proposed reforms March 2022										Implement changes 2023		
7	Building on our success: Business Recycling	Program	Design and Consult Targeted consultation February/March 2022												Release 2022		
8	Strategic infrastructure planning and investment	Strategic Infrastructure Investment Fund			Scope					Design and Consult Begin targeted consultation April 2022					Release 2022		

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Number	Initiative	Workstream	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Beyond 1 July 22 (release dates to be confirmed as part of a five-year programs calendar)
9	Avoiding plastic waste	Regulation	Design and Consult On proposed legislation June 2021 Commence investigating extended producer responsibility schemes September 2021								Commence education and engagement campaigns leading up to Stage 1 phase-out			Stage 1 phase-out commences at least 6 months after passage of legislation Commence education and engagement campaigns leading up to Stage 2 phase-out 2022 Stage 2 phase-outs commence within 12 months after the passage of legislation Consider Stage 3 phase-outs 2024	
		Circular Materials Fund & Plastics Research Partnership	Design and Consult Commence targeted consultation August 2021											Release	
10	Building on our success: Litter prevention	Program	Scope and Consult Commence targeted consultation August 2021							Release Data Framework			Review and consult on 'Tosser' 2022 Release strategy 2022 Release funding 2022		
11	Building on our success: Preventing illegal dumping and strengthening the way we regulate waste crime	Regulation	Scope				Design and Consult Commence consultation on high-priority legislative reforms April 2022					Commence consultation on other legislative reforms 2022 Release 2022 and 2023			
		Program	Funding is on-going	Design and Consult Commence targeted consultation October 2021							Release new illegal dumping prevention plan for 2022-27 Release funding 2022				
12	Building on our success: Hazardous and household problem wastes	Program	Scope											Commence targeted consultation mid-2022 Commence expanding and completing the network of CRCs and continue Chemical CleanOut collection events July 2022	
13	Creating a nationally consistent hazardous waste tracking system	Regulation			Scope				Design and Consult Commence consultation on draft amendment regulation March-June 2022		Release				
		Program	Scope Design and Consult Commence targeted consultation August 2021					Development and testing					Release 2022		
14	Building on our success: NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee	Program	Scope Design	Design and Consult Release Asbestos in NSW: Setting the Direction 2021 and 2022 in November 2021 Commence wide consultation on longer-term strategic agenda February 2022							Launch NSW asbestos behaviour change program mid-2022 Release longer-term strategic agenda 2022				
15	Facilitating joint council procurement of waste services	Program	Scope			Design and Consult Release options paper for targeted consultation October 2021						Release			
16	Building on our success: Local government waste and resource recovery	Program	Design and Consult Begin working with regional waste groups and local government partners August 2021 Release Better Waste Recycling funding September 2021 Release guidance on regional waste strategies November 2021											Release 2022	
17	Building on our success: Waste in Aboriginal communities	Program							Design and Consult Commence work with our partners from early 2022					Release 2022	
18	Building on our success: Continue the Landfill Consolidation and Environment Improvements Program	Program	Design and Consult Begin targeted consultation August 2021 Initiate review of E-RAMP August 2021											Release 2022	

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Page 27: Management of sand dune erosion exposing former landfill - Worimi Country, Stockton Beach, NSW. Photo: Adam Gilligan/EPA

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