



Walgett Shire Council
Waste Strategy
September 2018

Document Check Off and Disclaimer

DATE	DRAFT	AUTHOR	CHECKED
22 nd August 2018	1 st	Thomas Freeman	Greg Freeman
11 th September 2018	2 nd	Thomas Freeman	Greg Freeman
3 rd October 2018	3 rd	Thomas Freeman	Greg Freeman

The collection of information presented in this report was undertaken to the best level possible within the agreed timeframe and should not be solely relied upon for commercial purposes. The opinions, representations, statements or advice, expressed or implied in this report was done so in good faith. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within is accurate, Impact Environmental Consulting makes no representation as to the suitability of this information for any particular purpose. Impact Environmental Consulting disclaims all warranties with regard to this information. No part of this report is to be reproduced without the written consent of Impact Environmental Consulting Pty Limited.

Table of Contents

PART 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
PART 2 INTRODUCTION	5
2.1 THE NEED FOR A STRATEGY	5
2.2 SCOPE AND TIMEFRAME.....	5
2.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS STRATEGY	5
PART 3 POLICY CONTEXT	6
3.1 NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT	6
3.2 NETWASTE	7
3.3 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.....	7
PART 4 WHERE ARE WE TODAY	8
4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS	8
4.2 The Existing Service	9
Waste Disposal	9
i. Walgett Waste Management Facility:	9
ii. Lightning Ridge Waste Management Facility:	10
iii. Village Landfills:	10
Waste Collection	11
i. Council's kerbside collection:.....	11
ii. Town litter bins:	11
Council staff collect and deliver litter bin waste to the nearest landfill.	11
iii. Yellow skip bins:.....	11
Waste Education	11
4.3 Waste Streams	11
4.4 LITTER AND Illegal Dumping	12
4.5 Community Opinion of Waste Services Provided by Council	12
PART 5 4 WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO?.....	13
5.1 Vision	13
5.2 Themes	14
PART 6 HOW WILL WE GET THERE?	15
6.1 How will the strategy themes be addressed?	17
Theme 1 - Waste Management Infrastructure	17
Theme 2 - Improve recycling	18
Theme 3 – Litter and Illegal Dumping.....	19
Theme 4 - Resourcing	20
Theme 5.....	20
PART 7 HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?.....	21

PART 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Walgett Shire Local Government Area is home to some 6,000 people living in towns and villages spread across 22,007 square kilometres in the far north west of New South Wales. Walgett Shire Council provides waste services to residents in the form of kerbside waste collections, waste disposal and recycling at landfills, and street litter-bin collections.

The need for strategic approach to waste management was identified in Walgett Shire's Community Strategic Plan: *To operate an urban waste management system that meets the community needs and environmental standards*. Walgett Shire Council faces a number of waste related challenges. Some are variable, such as increasing landfill compliance standards set by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority. Others are inherent, like the long distances between population centres which limits centralisation of infrastructure; and small tonnages of recyclable material which do not benefit from economies of scale.

The Strategy provides the ongoing management framework for delivery of the major waste management activities that Council provides to the community. Public participation during the development of this strategy included holding public meetings in Walgett and Lightning Ridge, conducting a community survey, and placing this document on public exhibition.

To assist with categorising and prioritising issues and actions, the Strategy includes objectives grouped into five key theme areas: Waste Infrastructure Management, Improve Recycling, Litter & Illegal Dumping, Resourcing, and Regional Collaboration. For each objective a number of activities were examined using low, medium, and high as indicators for the changes to Councils current practices.

At first glance, Walgett Shire residents and business lag behind the rest of New South Wales when it comes to recycling. The New South Wales average in 2014/2015 was 58% recovery of municipal waste – that means over half of waste collected in kerbside bins, and self-haul loads did not end up in landfill. Scrap steel, batteries, paper/cardboard, and some plastics are currently diverted from landfill in Walgett Shire – but their weight is not recorded. The challenge for Council is that it has no accurate way of measuring the waste generated, let alone recycled. Neighbouring shires in Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, and Coonamble also face this issue.

This 5-year strategy is about enabling Council to accurately monitor waste streams; to be responsive to changes in waste generation, and to ensure effective capture of recoverable wastes.

2.1 THE NEED FOR A STRATEGY

Walgett Shire Council, like many regional councils in NSW, faces challenges with the management of solid waste due to:

- Increasing compliance standards set by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority intended for large waste facilities;
- Long distances between population centres which limits centralisation of infrastructure; and
- Small tonnages of recyclable material which do not benefit from economies of scale.

2.2 SCOPE AND TIMEFRAME

This Strategy documents Council's waste management direction to 2023. The Strategy describes existing and planned waste management facilities and services provided or supported by Council to manage the community's waste.

The Strategy includes management practices for the majority of waste streams generated within the Walcha LGA, but focuses mainly on household wastes.

2.3 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS STRATEGY

Council invited public participation during the development of this strategy which included:

- holding a public meeting;
- conducting a community survey; and
- placing this document on public exhibition.

3.1 NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT

Waste in NSW is regulated primarily through the following legislative instruments:

- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and associated Regulations
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Act 2001.

In December 2014, the NSW Government released the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-21 (WARR Strategy). This Strategy revises the waste hierarchy (Figure 2) and documents waste management targets for NSW across six key result areas.

Table 1 - NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy targets

Key Result Area	Target
1. Avoid and reduce waste generation	By 2021–22, reduce the rate of waste generation per capita
2. Increase recycling	By 2021–22, increase recycling rates for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • municipal solid waste from 52% (in 2010–11) to 70% • commercial and industrial waste from 57% (in 2010–11) to 70% • construction and demolition waste from 75% (in 2010–11) to 80%
3. Divert more waste from landfill	By 2021–22, increase the waste diverted from landfill from 63% (in 2010–11) to 75%
4. Manage problem wastes better	By 2021–22, establish or upgrade 86 drop-off facilities or services for managing household problem wastes state-wide
5. Reduce litter	By 2016–17, reduce the number of litter items by 40% compared with 2011–12 levels and then continue to reduce litter items to 2021–22.
6. Reduce illegal dumping	From 2013–14, implement the NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2014–16 to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping state-wide. As part of this strategy, by 2016–17 establish baseline data to allow target-setting in regional parts of the state/

Other tools used by the NSW Government include the waste levy. To discourage landfilling in metropolitan and coastal areas, the NSW Government charges a levy, on a per tonne basis, for all the material that is disposed of in landfill. In 2016-17 the coastal areas pay \$81.30 per tonne and the metropolitan areas \$141.20 per tonne. The cost of the levy is borne by the disposer of the waste, this results in increases to the annual domestic waste charge and also a higher gate fee at the facilities.

To further drive recycling the NSW Government limits new landfill facility approvals. Under amendments to State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure), the relevant consent authority is required to consider how a proponent proposes to minimise waste to landfill, and in particular:

1a) whether there is a suitable level of recovery of waste, such as by using alternative waste treatment or the composting of food and garden waste, so that the amount of waste is minimised before it is placed in the landfill.

3.2 NETWASTE

NetWaste is a voluntary regional waste group formed in 1995 to provide collaborative approaches to waste and resource management to the 26 member councils which cover almost 40% of the state.



Figure 1 – NetWaste Map

Walgett Shire Council has benefited greatly from NetWaste support. In recent years this has included:

- Assistance completing NSW EPA grant applications for upgrades to village landfills; and
- A regional contract for collection of scrap metal and greenwaste mulching; and
- Grant funds to help with community waste education.

3.3 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Federal Government has traditionally left waste management issues in the hands of the States and Territories. In 2009 it developed a National Waste Policy, which set a 10-year framework of priorities and guiding principles for managing resource recovery issues and relevant stakeholder relationships. Product stewardship, such as the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme, is one area where the Federal Government has been able to exert influence. However, history has shown that the schemes rarely made it west of the ranges due to low population densities.

4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

Walgett Shire Local Government Area is located in the far north west of New South Wales and covers an area of 22,007 square kilometres that borders Queensland to the North, Moree Plains and Narrabri to the East, Coonamble to the South and Brewarrina to the West.

The Shire is geographically on the productive black-soil plains of New South Wales, part of which is in the Central Division and part in the Western Division. In the north and north west of the Shire is opal bearing country.

Walgett Shire comprises of thirteen towns / villages / hamlets spread throughout the Shire, each community having its own identity, through cultural expression, cultural diversity and economic structures and development. Income is derived from traditional farming and grazing activities, together with cotton and other irrigated crop production. Opal mining, tourism, and service industries are other sources of income for residents of the Shire.

The population of the Shire is very difficult to collate due to the high number of people in the mining areas and the Aboriginal communities who chose not to complete the census. There are also a number of people who reside in the mining areas for different periods of the year but whose main residence is in other Local Government Areas.

The 2016 Census QuickStats indicated a population of 6,107 in the Walgett Local Government Area. This was down from 7,199 in 2006. Population in each of the towns and villages from.

Table 2 – Census Data

Town Village	2016 Census QuickStats
Walgett	2,145
Lightning Ridge	2,284
Collarenebri	650
Villages	
Burren Junction	276
Carinda	
Come By Chance	125
Pokataroo	
Cumborah	249
Rowena	181
Hamlet of Cryon	
Grawin	Itinerant - mining village –n/a
Glengarry	Itinerant - mining village –n/a
Sheepyard	Itinerant - mining village –n/a

4.2 THE EXISTING SERVICE

Waste Disposal

i. Walgett Waste Management Facility:

The Walgett Waste Management Facility (WWMF) is the largest landfill in the Shire, and the only licensed by the NSW EPA. A contractor operates the site currently, but Council has expressed its intent to take over operations in the near future.

Residents and businesses have the ability to recycle the following wastes at the WWMF:

- Greenwaste
- Plastics, Cardboard, Cans and Tins
- Tyres
- Scrap metal and batteries

However, very little ends up being recycled for a number of reasons:

- Disposal is free so there is little incentive for residents to spend time sorting loads.
- There is only one operator with multiple duties.
- Greenwaste loads are often contaminated with other wastes.

In the absence of a weighbridge, and using the population of the town as a guide, Council believes around 3,000 tonnes per year of waste is delivered to the WWMF each year. A three week vehicle survey in October/November 2017 found an average of 30 cars, 11 vehicles and 5 trucks entering the WWMF each day.

In November 2017, Council's GIS officer surveyed the current landfill volume by drone. The resulting figure was 138,000m³ – roughly 20 years of life at current filling rates. However, the licenced area of the WWMF is actually larger than that surveyed. Figure 5 below, from the 2014 Pollution Incident Response Management Plan, shows that land is available to the west and south. This represents another 20 or 30 years of waste disposal on the doorstep of the current operation.



Figure 2 – Licenced area of the WWMF. The 20-year landfill life estimate is only for the red dashed area.

ii. Lightning Ridge Waste Management Facility:

The Lightning Ridge Waste Management Facility (LRWF) is an unlicensed landfill on the northern edge of the town. Council has expressed its intent to take over operations from the contractor in the near future.

Using population as a guide, Council estimates around 3,500 tonnes of waste are disposed each year. A drone survey in 2017 estimated around 6 years of life remaining.



Figure 3 – The ‘T’ shaped LRWF. Red circles are houses adjacent to the boundary.

In 2018 the NSW EPA awarded Council grant funding to build a transfer station at Lightning Ridge.

iii. Village Landfills:

Unlicensed landfills service the villages of Collarenebri, Burren Junction, Rowena, Carinda and Come By Chance. The sites generally consist of a trench for waste disposal, and a scrap metal pile. Council manages the sites and engages a contractor to excavate and fill the trenches, and to tidy up the tip face on an as-needs basis.

In 2017 and 2018 the NSW EPA awarded grant funding to Council to install perimeter fencing around all sites (with the exception of Burren Junction). Access is at all hours and the sites are unmanned. The main operational challenges are illegal fires and the disposal of large truck loads of waste from outside the Shire, which is driven by a desire to avoid paying disposal fees in neighbouring Narrabri and Moree.

In 2018 Council and its consultant investigated the life remaining at each of the village landfills. Come By Chance, with 70 years of life left, has the shortest life, the others have well over 100+ years due to small amounts of waste and a large area available for trenches.

Waste Collection

i. Council's kerbside collection:

Council owns and operates a kerbside collection truck that empties 240L household waste bins in Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Cumborah, Rowena and Carinda.

ii. Town litter bins:

Council staff collect and deliver litter bin waste to the nearest landfill.

iii. Yellow skip bins:

Yellow skips are located by the roadside at Lightning Ridge and intended for use by travellers. The bins are large in size which has attracted the illegal disposal of tyres and other wastes that would attract either a charge, or attention, at the landfill. The contractor at Lightning Ridge reported that \$600 worth of tyres were delivered to the facility in yellow bins in August alone. Council records indicate an average of 500 illegally disposed per year since 2014.

Waste Education

Council has limited staff resources to dedicate towards waste education. NetWaste, the regional waste group, employ an environmental learning advisor who assists Council.

4.3 WASTE STREAMS

Material delivered to Council's waste facilities arrive from three sources:

- Municipal solid waste (MSW) is primarily waste collected from households, such as kerbside collections, and self-haul drop-off.
- Commercial and Industrial (C&I) is waste that is produced by institutions and businesses; ,schools, restaurants, offices, retail and wholesale businesses, and industries including manufacturing.
- Construction and Demolition (C&D) refers to waste produced by demolition and building activities, including road and rail construction and maintenance and excavation of land associated with construction activities.

Council lacks a robust annual record of waste tonnages that residents and business of Walgett Shire generate and dispose. For starters there is no weighbridge at the Walgett Waste Management Facility, and secondly there have been substantial gaps between the volumetric surveys. Material leaving the site, such as recyclables, scrap metal and greenwaste cannot be weighed-out. This limits Councils ability to track any future progress on recycling.

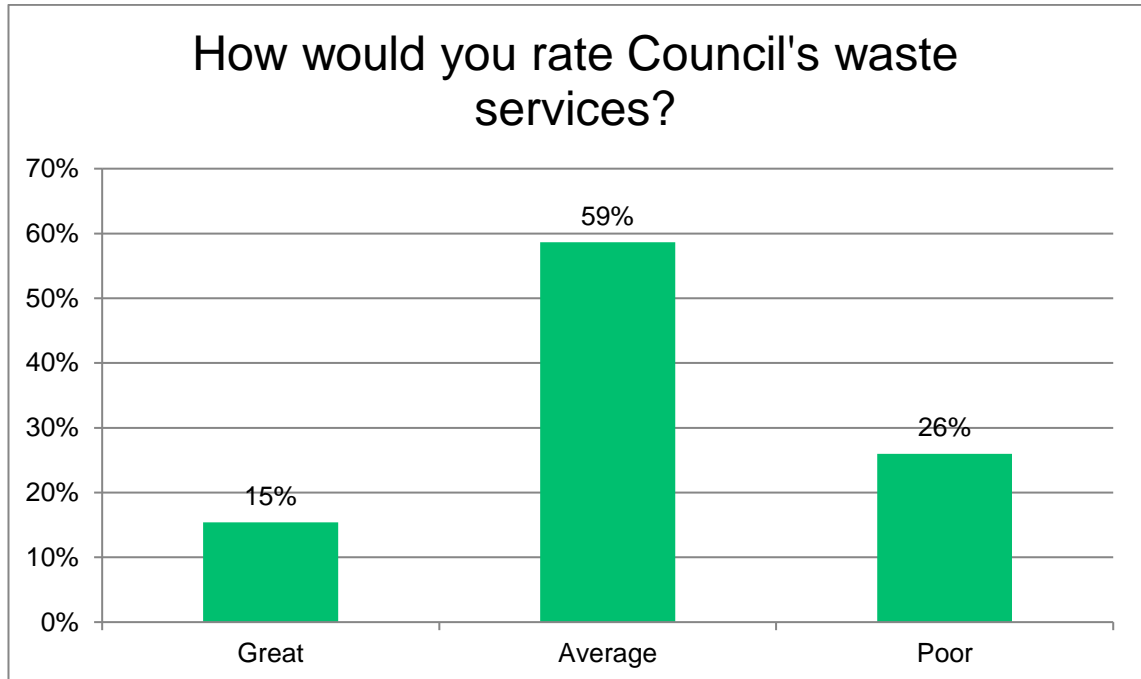
The absence of historic data makes trend analysis, forward planning, and comparisons against other Councils more challenging. Data availability is not an issue for Walgett alone; in most regional Councils the data reported to the NSW EPA heavily relies on estimates and assumptions.

4.4 LITTER AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping occurs throughout the region and can be a source of serious pollution, harm to human health, and degradation of environmental assets and local amenity. Incidents in the Walgett LGA typically range from the dumping of household rubbish outside the gates of landfills, to truckloads of C&I and C&D wastes from outside the Shire illegally using the village landfills.

4.5 COMMUNITY OPINION OF WASTE SERVICES PROVIDED BY COUNCIL

Council and its consultant developed a community survey to gain a greater understanding of the community's use of, and satisfaction with, the currently provided waste services. The survey yielded 107 responses from the 23rd of April to the 28th of May. Fifty three percent came from Lightning Ridge, 28% from Walgett, and the remainder from villages.



The majority of residents thought Council provided average waste management services. This is likely a reflection of the utilitarian nature of Council's waste facilities, and exposure to the higher service level available in more densely populated eastern councils who can offer kerbside food and garden collections, covered tipping areas and reuse shops.

Half of responders visited a Council waste facility no more than monthly – surprisingly, 21% of responders had never visited a waste facility. This will be important when considering improvements to the waste facilities in Walgett and Lightning Ridge, and behavioural change around recycling. Infrequent visits from a large portion of the population will require extra effort to change the perception of the waste facilities towards one of resource recovery.

Over 60% of residents reported that they managed their food and garden waste at home. Council may be able to support residents with composting workshops etc.

5.1 VISION

The Vision for the Waste Strategy is taken from the Council's Adopted Community Strategic Plan as:

To operate an urban waste management system that meets the community needs and environmental standards

The Vision and many of the objectives of the Strategy directly relate to a number of the Community Strategic Objectives, as detailed following:

- Develop and implement a Shire Wide Waste Management strategy that includes recycling services
- Implement initiatives to reduce illegal dumping and provide community education to prevent litter
- Promote and raise community awareness of environmental and biodiversity issues

The Strategy provides the ongoing management framework for delivery of the major waste management activities that Council is required to provide to the community, as included in the Delivery and Operational Plan 2017/18 – 2020/21:

- Effectively manage the domestic waste and landfill management contract.
- Undertake waste avoidance, waste reduction and recycling program.
- Actively respond to complaints and issues identified to ensure appropriate outcomes for illegal development, dumping and other activities such as abandoned vehicles, noise pollution and odour.
- Develop and implement a waste education program.

5.2 THEMES

To assist with categorising and prioritising issues and actions, the Strategy includes objectives across five key theme areas.

Theme	Objective
Waste Infrastructure Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Secure long term waste disposal for residents in Lightning Ridge1.2 Operate the Walgett Waste Facility efficiently1.3 Comply with EPA licence requirements at the Walgett Waste Facility1.4 Contribute annually into closure and remediation fund for landfills.
Improve recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Improve Council's ability to measure waste and recyclables generated in the Shire.2.2 Gain a greater understanding of the waste composition entering the facilities.
Litter & Illegal Dumping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 Prevent large loads of commercial and construction waste from outside the LGS being dumped in village landfills.3.2 Track incidents of illegal dumping reported by the community3.3 Limit the dumping of tyres and household waste in roadside bins3.4 Develop ongoing litter education program
Resourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1 Secure grant funding wherever possible for projects and initiatives that align with this Strategy.
Regional Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1 Participate in regional initiatives that offer either cost savings, or opportunities for residents recycle that would otherwise not be available in Walgett Shire.

PART 6 HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

At first glance, Walgett Shire residents and business lag behind the rest of the state when it comes to recycling. The NSW state average in 2014/2015 was 58% recovery of municipal waste – that means over half of waste collected in NSW's kerbside bins, and self-haul loads does not end up in landfill. Even 23 similar western NSW Councils had an average household waste recycling rate of 32%. Walgett's reported recycling rate to the NSW EPA in 2014/15 was 0%.

The 0% figure for Walgett Shire is misleading. Scrap steel, batteries, paper/cardboard, and some plastics are currently diverted from landfill – but their weight is not recorded. The challenge for Council is that it has no accurate way of measuring the waste that is generated, let alone recycled. Neighbouring Shires in Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, and Coonamble also face this issue.

To achieve a reasonably high recycling rate – between 30% and 40% of household waste – requires at the bare minimum: a kerbside bin for recycling (paper, glass, plastic etc.), along with a gate fee for waste at the landfill (recycles and organics are free).

With this in mind Council identified the following range of options and activities which would assist in achieving the strategy objectives and targets. These options are focused on activities which Council has the most ability to influence, and primarily relate to the municipal waste streams. The low, medium, and high reflect the changes needed to Councils current practices:

1. Low – no changes to the waste management system apart from ensuring EPA compliance.
2. Medium – meet EPA compliance requirements while building a platform to measure future improvements to recycling
3. High – meet EPA compliance requirements, and invest substantially to increase recycling.

Option	Description	Changes Required	Capital Implication Estimate	Yearly Operational Implication Estimate
Low	Basic compliance	Waste transfer station at Lightning Ridge Waste Facility; or	\$250,000	\$200,000 - \$500,000
		New landfill at Lightning Ridge	\$2,300,000	\$240,000
Medium	Building a platform to measure future improvements to recycling.	Waste transfer station at Lightning Ridge Waste Facility; or	\$250,000	\$500,000
		New landfill at Lightning Ridge	\$2,300,000	\$240,000
		Weighbridge and site upgrades at Walgett Waste Facility	\$250,000	\$80,000
		Remote monitoring of village landfills.	\$15,000	
High	Offering a similar service level to eastern Councils.	Waste transfer station at Lightning Ridge Waste Facility	\$250,000	\$500,000
		Weighbridge and site upgrades at Walgett Waste Facility.	\$250,000	\$250,000
		Kerbside recycling collection.	\$150,000	\$150,000
		Manning village landfills with restricted opening hours.	\$40,000	\$100,000

6.1 HOW WILL THE STRATEGY THEMES BE ADDRESSED?

Theme 1 - Waste Management Infrastructure

During the term of this strategy the existing landfill at Lightning Ridge will run out of airspace. Council has two options – construct a new landfill within a reasonable (15 minutes) drive of Lightning Ridge, or construct a waste transfer station on the existing site. The capital and operational cost of a new landfill is estimated to be, at a minimum, \$70 per tonne assuming land can be found close to Lightning Ridge. The capital and operational cost of a transfer station, with transport of waste to the Walgett Waste Facility will range from \$70-\$150 per tonne and is dependent on bin configuration, the type of truck used, and whether it's performed by a contractor or in house.

A transfer station represents a lower risk; one can be built and operational within 12 months. The new landfill option is higher risk as there are no examples of new small-sized greenfield landfills in NSW. A guide of 7-10 years is likely using recent approvals for larger regional landfills in Armidale Council, Mid-Coast Council and Orange Council. This would likely leave a gap of several years, where the existing landfill is full, but the new one is not yet ready. An interim transfer station may be required in this case.

Efficient use of airspace will help prolong the life of the Walgett Waste Facility. Council estimated it has 40 years of life inside the licenced boundary (which would be halved receiving waste from Lightning Ridge). Council is planning to take over operations of the facility, and needs to prepare an overall masterplan for where stockpiles, roads and infrastructure will be located. Step-by-step drawings of how the waste burial area will be filled will ensure that the machine operators are working towards the final landform.

Many Council's across NSW have converted their village landfills to transfer stations in recent years. This would not be feasible in Walgett shire due to the long transport distances. A filling-capacity-assessment found the village landfills have minimum life of 70 years, with most well over 150 years - this due to the large area available for landfilling. Although their closure is far over the horizon, Council will need to diligently set aside a small amount each year to cover this future cost.

Theme	Objective	Target
Waste Management Infrastructure	1.1 Secure long term waste disposal for residents in Lightning Ridge	Develop closure plan for Lightning Ridge landfill. Identify parcel of land suitable for transfer station and/or a new landfill.
	1.2 Operate the Walgett Waste Facility efficiently	Prepare a filling plan, and overall masterplan of the Walgett site.
	1.3 Comply with EPA licence requirements at Walgett Waste Facility	Annual review of PIRMP at Walgett Waste Facility
	1.4 Contribute annually into closure and remediation fund for landfills	Ongoing.

Theme 2 - Improve recycling

Before Walgett Shire can commit to increasing recycling, it must first have in place a way of measuring the amount and type of waste generated in the Shire. The GIS department has been able to successfully monitor the volume of waste buried at the Walgett and Lightning ridge landfill using drone aerial surveys. Drones represent a highly cost-effective tool for landfill operations, but they cannot shed light on the tonnage of scrap metal or tyres that are being recycled.

With the installation and staffing of a weighbridge at the Walgett Waste Facility Council will have records of all wastes entering and recyclables exiting the facility. This would substantially improve reporting to the NSW EPA, and in addition provide a strong starting point for the business case/cost benefit analysis needed before substantial investment in recycling. There will also be compliance benefits of staffing the entrance, with each load able to be screened, and charges made for loads of tyres.

Community consultation revealed that the majority of residents were not willing to pay the likely cost of a kerbside recycling collection (>\$80 per household per year). This limits Council ability to pursue a 'high level' service. Kerbside recycling will remain expensive into the future due to the long collection route, the distances to recyclers in Brisbane and Sydney, and difficulties educating the population.

Council is best placed to focus on recycling at the waste depots – to encourage users of the landfill to separate their loads into cardboard, metals, glass, greenwaste etc. The challenge is incentivising this practice. It is not enough to have a row of recycling skip bins, as residents will still chose the easiest option which is to drive straight to the tipping face. With several decades of landfill life remaining at Walgett, Council should consider upgrading the layout to a best practice one way loop road: vehicles enter and drive past the drop-off area for recyclables before lastly reaching the waste disposal area.



Theme	Objective	Action
Improve recycling	2.1 Improve Council's ability to measure waste generated in the Shire.	Install weighbridge at Walgett Waste facility
	2.2 Gain a greater understanding of the waste composition	Conduct a waste audit for loads entering Walgett and Lightning Ridge Waste Facilities
	2.3 Easy access for source-separated recyclables drop-off.	Provide drop off for recyclables at landfills

Theme 3 – Litter and Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping occurs throughout the region and can be a source of serious pollution, harm to human health and degradation of environmental assets and local amenity. Council will focus its limited staff resources on the prevention of truckloads of waste from outside the shire disposing waste in village landfills.

Community consultation indicated a general reluctance for Council to restrict access by installing locked gates and issuing keys to residents, or to have local staff open the landfill of a morning and shut of a night. Council will initially trial the installation of a remote 3G cameras on a pole at the entrance to a selected site. In the event it is damaged, or vandalised, or proves ineffective, Council will select one facility to trial restricted access.

Considering that Council does not charge for disposal of most waste at the landfills, offering the yellow bin roadside skips is in effect *doubling up* on the disposal options. The bins are large in size which enables convenient disposal of tyres and other wastes that would attract either a charge, or attention, at the landfill. Council will trial row of 240l bins, which still the ability for travellers to dispose a garbage bag. Council's kerbside truck would be able to empty them on the run out to Lightning Ridge.

Limited staff resources has meant that Council is unable to have staff develop and implement an education program around littering.

Theme	Objective	Action
Litter and Illegal Dumping	3.1 Prevent large loads of commercial and construction waste from outside the LGS being dumped in village landfills.	Trial remote cameras or closure of gates (with key issued to residents).
	3.2 Track incidents of illegal dumping reported by the community	Continue monitoring EPA's RID Online portal
	3.3 Limit the dumping of tyres and household waste in roadside bins	Trial bank of 240l bins for roadside waste disposal
	3.4 Develop ongoing litter education program	Allocate staff resources towards litter education

Theme 4 - Resourcing

Council has a small rate base with which to fund waste related projects. Works such as landfill closures and transfer station construction are costly when the small number of users are considered.

For several years there has been a large amount of funding available through the NSW EPA's Waste Less, Recycle More program. NetWaste has helped Council complete grant documentation, and win several grants. Council will continue to apply for grants that can help with environmental improvements to the Shire's waste infrastructure.

Council will also seek to assist community groups that apply for Waste Less, Recycle More funding.

Theme	Objective	Action
Resourcing	4.1 Secure grant funding wherever possible for projects and initiatives that align with this Strategy.	Apply for EPA Waste Less, Recycle More Grant Funding.
	4.2 Support community groups	Provide assistance as required.

Theme 5

Given the relatively small rate-base but large geographical area Walgett Shire Council has to provide waste management infrastructure and services to support, there are numerous constraints to the feasibility of increased services. Council participates in several joint contracts that have been arranged through NetWaste – namely scrap metal collection, greenwaste mulching and environmental monitoring of landfills.

Nearby examples of greater collaboration include Narrabri and Moree, 180 and 240 km from Walgett respectively, who share a kerbside collection contract.

Key regional projects that will directly benefit Walgett Shire, through staff resource efficiencies, access to technical specialists, and resource provision include:

- Access to funding support to develop waste service contracts
- Delivery of a regional waste education

Theme	Objective	Action
Regional Collaboration	5.1 Participate in regional initiatives that offer either cost savings, or opportunities for residents recycle that would otherwise not be available in Walgett Shire	Continue supporting NetWaste

PART 7 HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

Over the lifetime of this strategy Council will implement the relevant elements of the Action Plan and work with the community, businesses and industry to help them achieve the Strategy's vision and objectives.

This 5-year strategy is about enabling Council to accurately monitor waste streams; to be responsive to changes in waste generation, and to ensure effective capture of recoverable wastes. Opportunities for monitoring will be initially be limited while the following take place:

- Design of masterplan and filling plan for Walgett Waste Management Facility
- Construction of weighbridge at Walgett Waste Management Facility

Waste Management Objective	Indicator	Unit/metric
Operate the Walgett Waste Facility efficiently	Volume disposed in the last 12 months Volume remaining at facility	Drone survey by Council GIS Officer
Improve recycling	Tonnes/volume of recycling leaving the WWMF each year.	Tonnes/volume
Illegal Dumping	Incidents logged in the RID Online portal..	Number of incidents



Walgett Shire Council

Waste Strategy

September 2018

Impact Environmental

PO Box 5057
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
Tel: 02 6583 8112
Fax: 02 6583 8065
impact@impactenviro.com.au

www.impactenviro.com.au