

NORTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL WASTE STRATEGY 2014-21 Summary Report



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THE STRATEGY

Purpose

The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) is a voluntary organisation of local councils established to work co-operatively for the benefit of the Northern Sydney region and advocate on agreed regional positions and priorities. NSROC member Councils are: Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby.

Effective municipal solid waste (MSW) management is a crucial responsibility of councils in the NSROC region, as set out in the Local Government Act 1993. Collectively the NSROC councils generate over 250,000 tonnes of domestic waste each year. The Strategy will also bolster the region's bid for support under the programs of the *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative.

The NSROC councils have come together to prepare a Regional Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy (the Strategy) to advance sustainable waste management practices in the NSROC region. The Strategy's preparation was supported by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) with funding from the waste levy.

The Strategy is intended to assist the NSROC councils to develop key actions to deliver the region's vision and objectives for waste management. It is designed to align with the NSROC Regional Priorities, the NSW 2021 Plan and the Draft NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2013 21 (Draft WARR Strategy).

The Strategy was prepared for NSROC by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd in consultation with the waste management staff of the seven Councils in the region.

This vision will be given life by pursuing regional objectives to provide specific improvement goals and assist with identifying those projects suited to the region.

Vision and objectives

The purpose of the Strategy is to create the basis for annual plans for the NSROC region's Councils to work together to manage MSW over 2014 to 2021. In developing the Strategy the NSROC councils used their comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the region to inform the vision and objectives for waste management.

The vision for the Strategy was developed to capture the overarching aspiration shared by the councils.

NORTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

VISION

A community actively engaged in waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery, to protect the environment and enhance community well-being.

NSROC REGIONAL WASTE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

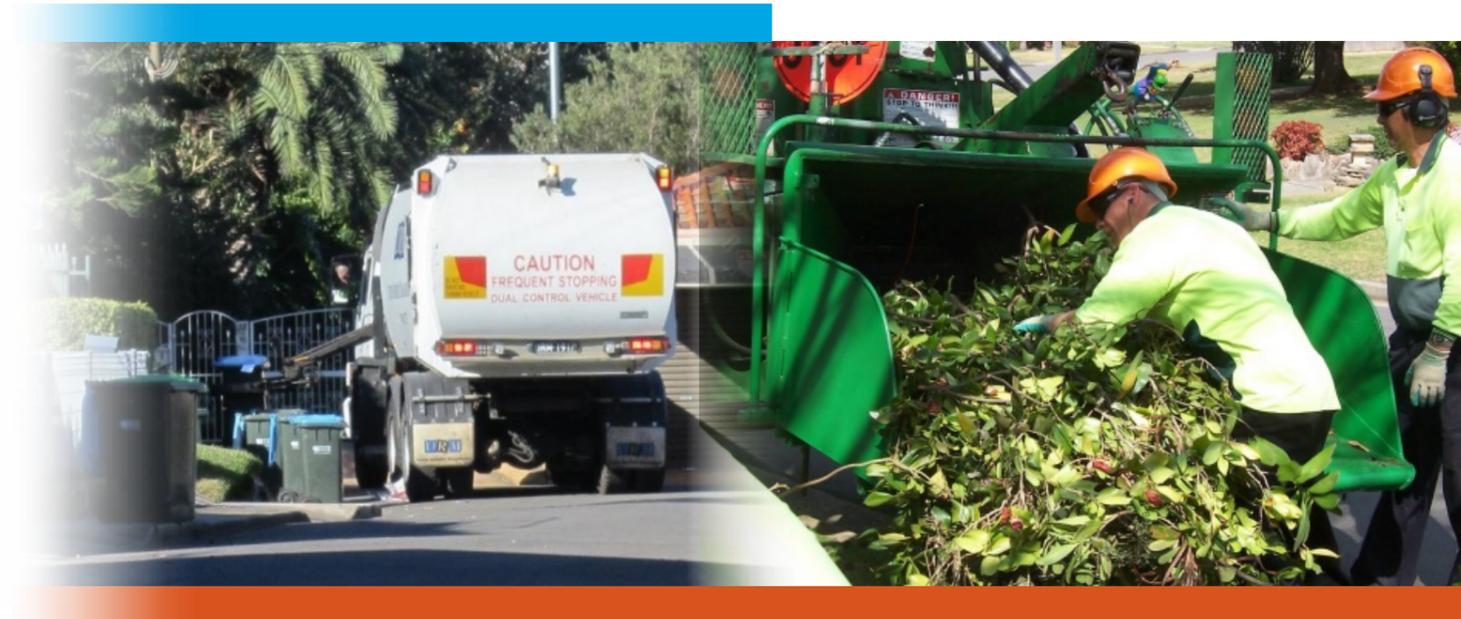
CONCEPT	REGIONAL OBJECTIVE
Service Quality	To continuously improve waste management services for the community.
Responsibility	To better integrate waste management into council policies, plans and processes. To contribute to an improved policy framework with appropriate allocation of roles and responsibilities consistent with statutory powers.
Amenity and Public Health	To improve public amenity and maintain public health and safety through effective waste management.
Community Engagement	To increase the regional community's understanding of and participation in waste reduction, recycling and resource recovery.
Innovation and Sustainability	To increase access to improved waste management services and facilities for the region.
Value for money	To increase the cost effectiveness of waste management services.



Service quality

The quality of services provided by councils is fundamental to ensuring the satisfaction of the local community. In delivering their waste management services, councils will manage both the needs

and expectations of the local residents and the demands for new and better service arising from the legislative and policy aspirations of other jurisdictions.



Responsibility

'Responsibility' refers to the provision of a comprehensive waste management service that meets the needs of the community which appropriately reflects both State and local government roles and responsibilities. The level of service is dependent on the resources available to councils and, at the local level, requires integration of waste management policies into a coherent, whole-of-council approach.

However, the region's councils do not operate independently of the State government framework and rely on the State Government to address legislative, urban planning and strategic issues affecting waste management.

Fulfilment of this objective will require:

- acceptance by State level agencies of their overarching role in providing an effective legislative and policy framework within which local government can deliver on its waste management objectives;

- clear lines of responsibility within councils for waste management outcomes and recognition of waste management goals in land use and strategic planning;
- adoption of clear and concise minimum waste management standards for new construction and site redevelopment.
- State-wide strategic planning for waste management integrated across planning, environmental, health and transport portfolios; and
- the provision of both State and local government support and funding for long-term maintenance of new sustainable waste management programs.

Amenity and public health

The protection of public health & safety and the environment will underpin all tasks undertaken in implementing the Strategy. Meeting the objective requires employing waste management practices which reduce (or eliminate) adverse risks to public health & safety and the environment.



Community engagement

Public participation is at the heart of sustainable waste management and underpins both regional objectives and State objectives. Successful community engagement includes targeted public education campaigns (such as surveys, workshops and advisory committees) as well as on-going consultation with stakeholders and the local community as new challenges emerge and to keep residents informed and motivated to maintain new behaviours that support sustainable waste management.

Local governments acting individually or as a regional group can foster public awareness of new services and encourage take-up of new approaches to waste separation and collection through its existing channels of communication with residents and its role as a trusted provider of waste services.

While local government can reinforce messages delivered through mass media, social media and other levels of government, large scale behavioural change must be part of a more sophisticated and city-wide communications strategy.

Meeting this objective will require that governments at NSW and local level adopt programs that are part of long-term, consistent communication strategies aligned between levels of government and providing on-going education to reinforce behaviour change in new generations of consumers.

Innovation and sustainability

In delivering waste management services, local councils will strive to maintain an awareness and understanding of industry and policy changes and to keep abreast of innovative and sustainable waste management practices and/or technologies offering potential social, environmental and/or economic benefits to their local community.

Value for money

The community, through the domestic waste charge included in council rates, provides funding for councils to procure appropriate waste management services. Councils seek practical, reliable options with good environmental outcomes

Regional targets

The regional targets were developed during workshops with the NSROC councils and have been used to identify the key areas of focus for the Strategy's Action Plan. Regional targets are informed by the State-wide Draft NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy 2013-21. The targets are presented below.

while at the same time assessing opportunities for cost efficiencies associated with providing different and innovative waste and recycling services to the community.

NSROC REGIONAL WASTE STRATEGY TARGETS

REGIONAL TARGET	RELEVANCE TO WARR THEMES	
70% landfill diversion by 2021-22 (based on regional 2010-11 data)	✓	Increase recycling
	✓	Divert more waste from landfill
1% per capita reduction in waste generation by 2021-22 (based on regional 2013 14 data)	✓	Avoid and reduce waste generation
Access to waste drop-off centre for all NSROC LGA residents on the basis of 1 per 50,000 households by 2021-22 OR within 11 km¹ of home	✓	Manage problem wastes better. Divert more waste from landfill
	✓	Reduce illegal dumping
20% reduction in reported illegal dumping incidents by 2021-22 (based on regional 2012 13 data)²	✓	Reduce illegal dumping
	✓	Manage problem wastes better
Increased promotion of active community participation in litter control through targeted programs	✓	Litter

Table notes:

¹ Distance inferred from Program Grant guidelines 2013.

² Measurement of WARR target only includes incidents where more than 200m³ of illegal dumped waste is detected.

During the development of the Strategy NSROC councils' waste management operations and data were analysed to ensure that the regional targets and objectives are achievable and realistic.

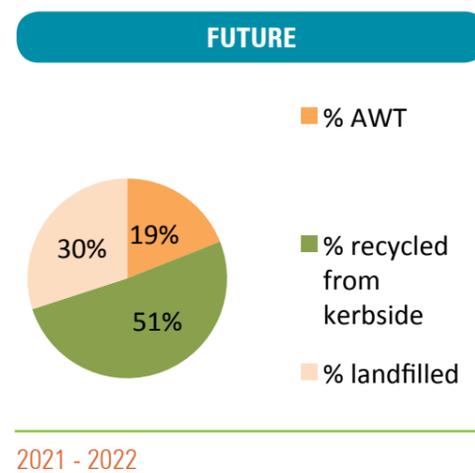
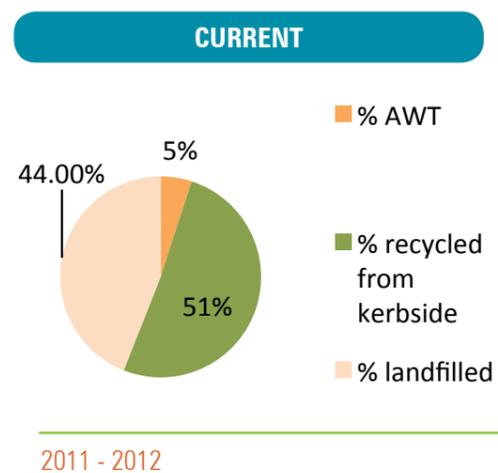
For example, compositional data suggests that up to 22% of the red bin waste could be recycled through better segregation of dry recyclables under existing collection services. As well another 40% of the red bin can be managed through mechanical biological treatment (MBT) process similar to composting to produce a soil improver for land application and rehabilitation. The regional waste tender for disposal and recovery will set this goal. Furthermore, much

of the 16,000 tonnes of clean-up waste can be re-used or recycled. This suggests that the target of 70% landfill diversion will be achievable by 2021-22. Figure 1 shows the current and future destinations of the region's waste based on achieving this target.

Similarly, achieving a 20% reduction in reported illegal dumping over the seven years, even on a regional basis, should be achievable given that one of the councils reported a reduction in illegal dumping incidents of more than 20% in one year following a targeted illegal dumping campaign.

Achievement of the targets will be heavily influenced by external economic and social impacts such as the commercial sector's response to increased service demand and success in influencing behaviour of local residents and businesses. In addition, changes to legislation and State waste management policies and objectives will impact local council waste management services and policies. Project specific targets will be determined as appropriate data is collected and analysed. In response to these external influences the tools for achieving the Strategy targets and objectives the Action Plan will need to incorporate some flexibility.

CURRENT AND TARGET FUTURE DESTINATIONS FOR THE REGION'S WASTE



DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

Waste management is influenced by a complex web of legislative, policy, market, demographic and behavioural factors. In developing the Strategy, these factors have been condensed and taken into account as a set of key drivers, identified and discussed in brief below:

Changes in waste composition

The composition of MSW in urban areas such as the NSROC region changes continuously, albeit generally slowly, as a result of dynamic settlement patterns, new forms of product packaging, and changes in consumer demand, behaviour and attitudes.

Changes in waste composition affect the methods by which waste can be collected, transported and treated. Advances in design, manufacturing and delivery have resulted in the use of more complex products and packaging materials which impact on the local availability of opportunities for re-use, recycling and recovery.

There is often a lag time between the release of significant volumes of new waste materials into the market and the ability of the recycling and recovery industry to respond with treatment technologies and suitable markets for these products. As a result, existing waste infrastructure can become obsolete prior to reaching its design life and new waste infrastructure is needed to meet new demands in advance of expected capital investment cycles.

Waste composition also changes in terms of the relative share of the total volume contributed by different waste materials. For example, the share of dry recyclables accounted for by newspapers is reducing as news is increasingly consumed through electronic devices.



Growing population and changing housing mix

The total population for the NSROC region is expected to grow to 700,000 people by 2031. Adding to this challenge is the fact that waste generation has historically grown faster than population, which is increasing at around 1.3% per annum.

In the absence of a major reduction in waste generation per capita or per household, increases in the population and concomitant number of dwellings in the NSROC region will have a direct impact on the demand for waste collection and disposal services, particularly in areas where the increased number of dwellings are coming from more conversion to multi-unit dwellings (MUDs).

An increasing proportion of MUDs compared to single dwellings will result in additional challenges in achieving and maintaining high recycling rates due to reduced space for recycling and storage of waste and a lower volume of garden refuse.

Initiatives to press down on growth in waste generation per household must form part of the national and State-wide response to the region's vision for waste management in the future. Local councils alone or acting in groups are not resourced or enabled by legislation to tackle such major social changes.

Legislation and policy

The Strategy takes into account relevant National and State legislation, policies, and targets in developing waste management options and long-term strategies. While Local Government will

maintain its frontline delivery role, the Strategy's success will rely in large part on supporting policies and funded programs from other levels of government to implement the improved practices developed in the Strategy.

Lack of waste infrastructure

Landfill is the current method of disposal for more than 40% of the region's waste and in order to address the capacity shortfall, NSROC councils recognise that the availability of waste treatment capacity is critical to meeting this demand.

Constrained capacity for the management of residual waste has been highlighted in the Draft WARR Strategy as a key issue, due to the diminishing supply of approved landfill capacity in the Sydney Metropolitan Area and the low likelihood of new or expanded landfills being approved. A study published by NSW Planning in 2009¹ predicted that Sydney's landfills would reach capacity by 2016 based on waste forecast assumptions. In order to address this capacity shortfall, the NSW Government's Draft WARR Strategy identifies the need for increased recycling and recovery of waste to meet growing demands

In 2011, the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) produced a Resource Recovery Infrastructure Needs Analysis report². The report states that existing waste treatment capacity (separated organics and mixed waste processing facilities plus kerbside recyclables material recovery facilities) is in the region of 400,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) (based on 2011 data) and identifies the need for a further 300,000 tpa by 2017 and increasing to 500,000 tpa by 2036. The report recommends three new waste facilities for the Sydney area.

The majority of the NSROC councils do not have ownership or control over waste sites in their LGA and those that do, do not own, manage or control waste transfer, processing or disposal sites for MSW. (See Map page 20) Following the sale of the State-owned waste business WSN Environmental Solutions (WSN) in 2011, there is as a consequence, a complete dependence on privately-owned waste service contractors.

This reality has informed the Strategy's directions and it is expected that the projects under the Strategy will support increased recycling achievements.

However, the Strategy cannot solve the fundamental challenge of inadequate waste infrastructure for northern Sydney. Advocating for action by other players to make decisions that result in change to this situation will continue to be a policy advocacy position of NSROC and its member councils.

Waste Hierarchy

The Waste Hierarchy is an internationally recognised guideline for prioritising the management of waste to deliver the best overall environmental option. It is generally accepted as the basis for the development of best practice waste management policy in Australia. NSROC councils have all adopted the Waste Hierarchy as the underlying conceptual framework for their waste management practices.



Source: Environmental Protection Act 1970

¹ Public Review Landfill Capacity and Demand, Wright Corporate Strategy Pty Ltd for State Government of New South Wales, March 2009

² GHD, Resource Recovery Infrastructure Needs Analysis, Background Report, November 2011

ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING CHANGE

An annually reviewed Action Plan is the basis for delivering the Strategy. The development of the Strategy included a review of gaps and opportunities in existing waste services across the NSROC region to identify opportunities for collaboration. Options were identified and assessed against objective and policy-based indicators, including:

- Maximising regional access to new services or programs
- Alignment with regional targets and objectives
- Alignment with State targets and objectives
- Prioritising improved management of harmful and problem waste streams
- Maximising landfill diversion and
- Maximising value for money.

Measuring Success

The Action Plan identifies projects and actions for implementing the Strategy. These criteria will be used to develop project specific KPIs against which the progress and success of a project is measured. Where baseline data is not reliable, part of the Action Plan is to review and update the baseline so that improvements can be measured.

- Number of NSROC councils for which the project or initiative is appropriate;
- The anticipated percentage of waste minimised, recycled or diverted from landfill;
- The anticipated cost per tonne of waste managed, minimised, recycled or diverted from landfill;

The top five performing options assessed against the indicators resulted in agreement on five key Focus Areas for the Action Plan.

- Managing Problem Wastes
- Illegal Dumping Program
- Improved Waste Management in MUDs
- Community Education Programs
- Joint Waste Management Contracts.

- Deliverability of objectives and targets within specified timescales;
- Alignment with State targets and objectives;
- Contribution to Regional Strategy objectives;
- Percentage of the region (based on population) anticipated to benefit from the project initiative; and
- Percentage of target waste streams which include priority or problem wastes anticipated to be managed through the project initiative.

FOCUS AREA 1

ACTION PLAN FOCUS AREAS

Managing Problem Wastes

Project: Regional Drop-Off Centres

Aim: To provide accessible and affordable problem waste disposal options to the region.

Core problem wastes to be targeted by councils are:

- paints (oils and water based);
- motor oils;
- cooking, hydraulic and transmission oils;
- household single use batteries;
- car batteries (lead acid);
- fluorescent and compact fluorescent lighting (mercury containing lamps);
- gas cylinders (including fire extinguishers); and
- smoke detectors.

Additional problem wastes include e-waste, household chemicals, mattresses, tyres, and packaging wastes such as polystyrene.

Access to suitable recycling drop-off centres will provide residents with the opportunity to recycle and dispose of difficult waste streams at their convenience.



ACTIONS	
	Establish baseline data on problem wastes in region (collected via clean-up and/or drop-off events)
	Investigate potential community recycling centre locations for the region and seek council support
	Consult with relevant stakeholders such as potential business partners and social enterprises
	Develop business case and apply for Waste Less, Recycle More funding
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL OBJECTIVES	
✓	Service quality
✓	Amenity and public health
✓	Community engagement
✓	Innovation and sustainability
✓	Value for money
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL TARGETS AND WARR THEMES	
✓	70% landfill diversion by 2021-22 (based on regional 2010-11 data)
✓	Access to waste drop-off centre for all NSROC LGA residents on the basis of 1 per 50,000 households by 2021-22 OR within 11 km of home
✓	20% reduction in reported illegal dumping incidences by 2021-22 (based on regional 2012-13 data)

Illegal Dumping Program

Project: Regional Illegal Dumping Program

Aim: To develop and implement a regional illegal dumping program for the proactive prevention and management of illegally dumped wastes.

Illegal dumping of waste is an on-going problem in NSW that presents unwanted health and safety, and amenity impacts on the community.

Illegally dumped wastes in the region often include:

- large domestic items such as mattresses, furniture, white goods and e-waste;
- construction and demolition waste including excavation waste and asbestos;
- garden organic material;
- chemicals and other hazardous waste; and
- abandoned vehicles, car parts and shopping trolleys.

Councils play a crucial role in managing and preventing illegal dumping. A regional program will help to ensure that illegally dumped wastes are managed and reported on in a consistent manner across the region.



Improved Waste Management in Multi-Unit Dwellings

Project: Improved waste management in MUDs

Aim: To manage waste generated in MUDs through regional planning policies, and to develop a supporting education program.

Residential dumping of household goods and wastes around multi-unit dwellings is a growing problem in the region given increasing population densities.

Recycling rates are also impacted by the transient nature of the occupancy of MUDs and the smaller average household size

The effective management of waste in MUDs relies on early consultation by developers with council planners and waste managers regarding specific requirements for waste management systems and collection methods and on shared goals between regulators within Councils.



ACTIONS	
	Establish baseline on illegally dumped waste incidents
	Research and evaluate other regional dumping programs
	Apply best practice to developing a regional dumping program for northern Sydney
	Develop business case and apply for Waste Less, Recycle More funding for a NSROC solution
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL OBJECTIVES	
✓	Service quality
✓	Responsibility
✓	Amenity and public health
✓	Community engagement
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL TARGETS AND WARR THEMES	
✓	70% landfill diversion by 2021-22 (based on regional 2010-11 data)
✓	20% reduction in reported illegal dumping incidences by 2021-22 (based on regional 2012-13 data)

ACTIONS	
	Establish baseline data on waste management in MUDs
	Undertake research on best practice planning tools for integrating waste management into MUD development requirements
	Develop regional approaches to waste management planning for MUD developments
	Conduct workshops to identify pathways for improved planning and communications with strata managers
	Allocate resources and develop educational materials
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL OBJECTIVES	
✓	Service quality
✓	Responsibility
✓	Amenity and public health
✓	Community engagement
✓	Value for money
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL TARGETS AND WARR THEMES	
✓	70% landfill diversion by 2021-22 (based on regional 2010-11 data)
✓	1% per capita reduction in waste generation by 2021-22 (based on regional 2013 14 data)
✓	20% reduction in reported illegal dumping incidences by 2021-22 (based on regional 2012-13 data)
✓	Increased promotion of active community participation in litter control through targeted programs

Community Education Programs

Project: Regional community education programs

Aim: To develop a regional education campaign that provides consistent and relevant messaging to the public and promotes active community participation and behaviour change in waste management.

Joint educational programs ensure the efficient use of resources by Councils across the region.



Education is essential to raising awareness of the importance of social responsibility and changing behaviours in a community.

Targeted waste management campaigns help to educate the community on waste minimisation, litter prevention and environmental sustainability and are necessary to achieve greater participation in recycling and changing behaviours across the region.

ACTIONS	
	Establish information on problem areas to identify target waste streams such as litter and hazardous wastes
	Evaluate best practice models
	Develop business case and apply for Waste Less, Recycle More funding
	Allocate resources and develop educational materials
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL OBJECTIVES	
✓	Service quality
✓	Amenity and public health
✓	Community engagement
✓	Value for money
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL TARGETS AND WARR THEMES	
✓	70% landfill diversion by 2021-22 (based on regional 2010-11 data)
✓	20% reduction in reported illegal dumping incidences by 2021-22 (based on regional 2012-13 data)
✓	1% per capita reduction in waste generation by 2021-22 (based on regional 2013 14 data)
✓	Increased promotion of active community participation in litter control through targeted programs

Joint Waste Management Contracts

Project: Regional waste processing and disposal contracts

Aim: To achieve council participation in a regional tender for the processing and disposal of waste to stimulate development of increased recycling processing and residual treatment capacity for the region

The NSROC councils are currently pursuing the regional procurement of processing and disposal of residual waste. A tender is anticipated to be called by mid-2014 and has been framed to assist the region meet with the recycling target for landfill diversion.



The drivers for a regional approach to joint waste services procurement identified by the NSROC councils include:

- an opportunity for better waste outcomes such as increased recycling and diversion of waste from landfill;
- an opportunity to encourage innovation and influence commercial activity by providing sufficient volume and duration of supply to the market; and
- the uncertainty about landfill capacity and the security of longer term disposal arrangement/ options

ACTIONS	
	Establish delivery mechanism for managing the contract payment and reporting requirements for the regional disposal and processing and other shared waste management services.)
	Issue tender and execute contract for regional waste service for disposal and processing
	Evaluate actions and learnings for application to future contracts
	Identify further regional procurement opportunities and develop business case for councils
	Develop business case and apply for Waste Less, Recycle More funding
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL OBJECTIVES	
✓	Service quality
✓	Innovation and sustainability
✓	Value for money
ALIGNMENT WITH REGIONAL TARGETS AND WARR THEMES	
✓	70% landfill diversion by 2021-22 (based on regional 2010-11 data)

CURRENT SERVICES

The seven NSROC councils each offer their residents kerbside collection services for the following waste streams:

- residual waste (garbage);
- dry recyclables
- garden organics (as an additional charge in some LGAs); and
- bulky waste (as a clean-up service).

All NSROC Councils contract private sector companies for the core residential waste collection and disposal services.

The exact configuration of the waste and recycling services offered in each LGA is influenced by a number of factors, many of which also serve to distinguish them from the other councils in the Sydney region. Some notable differences include:

- The proportion of MUDs and SUDs in each LGA (for example, Hornsby, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove have less than 35% MUDs as a proportion of total residences compared to North Sydney with 70% MUDs); and

- The wide range in population density (for example, Hornsby has 357 residents per square kilometre whereas North Sydney has nearly 6,500 residents per square kilometre).

These differences mean that some residents in the region with larger properties have a higher demand for garden waste collections, while residents living in MUDs have a much lower requirement for green waste collection but a higher demand for bulky waste collection due to restrictions on waste storage space and the propensity for increased turnover in occupancy.

An essential element of this Strategy is to continue to improve and expand upon current waste minimisation and re-use initiatives. Across the NSROC region there are a number of initiatives in which NSROC councils are supporting participants or the responsible providers. These are summarised in the table.



COUNCIL WASTE MINIMISATION INITIATIVES

INITIATIVES	PROVIDER/S	DESCRIPTION
National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme	■	Free drop-off site organised by councils (typically 1 day per year) for residents for up to 15 items including televisions, computers, printers and scanners.
Household Chemical CleanOut	■	Free drop-off site organised by councils (typically 1 day per year) for residents for hazardous household wastes.
The Compost Revolution	■	Online educational resource. Councils offer subsidised bins to the community and organise workshops and information sessions on composting and worm-farming.
Love Food, Hate Waste	■ ■ ■	The Food Lovers' Republic initiative aims to raise awareness about the impact of food waste in NSW and reduce how much 'good' food we waste.
Recyclable Drop-Off (Council buildings)	■ ■	Drop-off of domestic recyclable items such as mobile phones, fluorescent light globes, printer toners and household batteries.
Public Place and Events Waste Management	■	Bins provided in public places such as parks and bus stops, and wastes management for local events.
Christmas Tree Collections	■	Free Christmas tree collections offered in January.
Chipping and Mulching Services	■	Mobile (kerbside) and/or site-based service provided for residents.
Fridge Buyback	■ ■	Rebate provided to residences for a working second fridge.
MobileMuster	■ ■	Product Stewardship Program supported by local councils aimed at keeping mobiles out of landfill.
Garage Sale Days	■	Garage sale events advertised for the region to encourage re-use of unwanted household items.
Clothing Bins	■ ■	Bins provided by charities for old/ unwanted clothing drop-off.
Medical Waste Disposal	■ ■	Councils support pharmacies in the local area providing facilities for needle and sharps disposal.
Public Facility Tours	■ ■	Tours of waste management facility sites offered to the public on a regular basis.
Commercial Waste Services	■	Including residual, paper & cardboard, mixed recycling and garden waste
Better Business Partnership	■ ■	Project designed to improve the sustainability of businesses on Sydney's North Shore including cost saving benefits through reduced energy and water bills and improved environmental performance.
Anti-litter and illegal dumping programs	■ ■	Educational campaigns supported and operated by Councils, involving research, community engagement and development of marketing materials. Also, monitoring and investigation into illegal dumping and problem waste areas.
Recycling Near You	■	Website containing information about the recycling and waste services offered by Councils and local drop-off options.

■ Federal Government
 ■ State Government
 ■ Local Government
■ Regional Council Partnership
 ■ Private Industry
 ■ Not-for-Profit Organisation

Current waste recovery performance

More than 50% of all household waste produced in the NSROC region is recycled from waste separated by residents at the kerbside. An additional 5% of waste is recovered for recycling at an alternative waste treatment (AWT) facility, which means that approximately 56% of waste generated within the NSROC region is currently diverted from landfill. This means approximately 44% of total household waste is disposed of at a landfill facility. The landfill diversion performance of the NSROC councils in 2011-12 was above the average for the SMA and NSW, as shown below.

Despite the good performance of the region, more work by all levels of Government and the local community is required over the coming years to encourage greater landfill diversion and to meet the State target of 70% recycling of MSW.

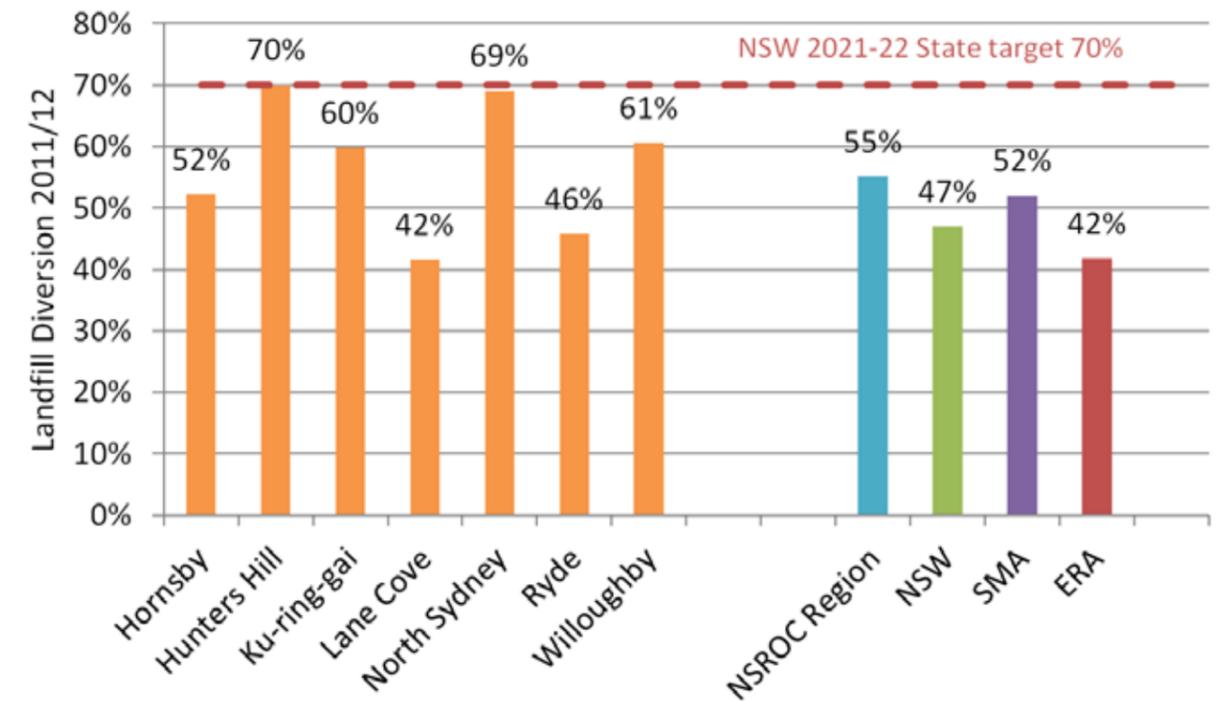
Trends revealed in data³ compiled for the NSROC region from the last five years suggests that further increases in recycling by kerbside collections alone are unlikely to result in major uplift in landfill diversion. While the total diversion figure has been consistently higher than 50% the trend line suggests that this performance has plateaued and is decreasing very slightly.

This means additional options for increasing waste reduction, re-using, recycling and recovering waste currently going to landfill need to be investigated and implemented.

³ NSW EPA Regional Waste Data



The recently introduced Waste Less, Recycle More initiative is offering new incentives and the landfill levy continues as a means to stimulate the waste management market to develop new waste infrastructure, the risks (and significant costs) associated with obtaining sites and planning approvals for new waste facilities has proven to be a significant blockage to private-sector investment in waste management facilities for Sydney.



Regional collaboration for better waste management

In 2012 NSROC Councils agreed to pursue the regional procurement of processing and disposal of residual waste. That process has involved considerable effort and expense by NSROC and its member councils and is now nearing completion. It is anticipated that a tender involving five NSROC councils will be called in 2014.

The tender has been framed to assist the region to meet the recycling target identified in the Draft WARR Strategy. The regional contract and the governance arrangements that underpin it are integral components of the region's strategic waste management.



