

2022 – 2032

Resource Recovery
and Residual
Waste Strategy

Snapshot



Sharing the Responsibility towards a Circular
Economy and a Resourceful Community

Key Influences

The Lismore Resource Recovery and Residual Waste Strategy is influenced by a number of regulations, strategies, plans and relationships. These include:

National scale:

Australia Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 and National Plastics Plan

In 2019 COAG approved a ban on the export of some waste products. The plastic ban commences in July 2021 and expands further in July 2022 while the paper and cardboard ban will commence in July 2024. Until new processing facilities are constructed in Australia, supply will outstrip demand in the local market and commodity values for these products generated out of our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) will decline.

State scale:

NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 and NSW Plastics Action Plan

The strategies have the following targets: to 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 and halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030.

Implications for Lismore and the region include the need for a new MRF, processing facilities for pelletising and flaking plastics, to process paper and cardboard, glass and tyres, to repair as well as recycle electronic waste and additional landfill space required or a waste to energy facility. The strategy does have implications for landfilling, where new landfills require gas capture and carbon offsets.

Regional scale:

North-East Waste is developing a new regional strategy over 2022. To date, regional programs have centred on waste avoidance, reuse and recycling education, household problem waste, asbestos, illegal dumping, litter management and business waste management. Some regional contracts have been achieved in the past for the recycling of some materials, however large-scale regional waste, recycling or organics management has not been achieved.

Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) has waste management as a standing agenda item. The intent is to find innovative approaches to improve environmental and service delivery outcomes. To date there has been no success at the NRJO to achieve regional approaches and agreement to waste management and recycling.

Richmond Valley Council lead regional waste investment project consists of Northern Rivers and Mid North Coast councils who have agreed to work together to seek a regional solution for residual waste management. An expression of interest is out on the market, including pursuing a waste to energy facility.

Byron Shire Council proposed biodigester will see electricity produced from food and garden organics. Lismore City Council has expressed in-principal support to work with Byron Shire on this proposal.

Other regional issues impacting Lismore's strategy include the ability for Lismore to provide services for neighbouring Councils (understanding the risks and challenges associated with this), with the links the Tweed Shire has with Queensland and the links Clarence Valley has with the Mid-North Coast. Other associated issues are the capacity for and lower cost of landfilling in Queensland resulting in regional waste being transported interstate.

Vision

By 2032, Lismore will have commenced the deepening of conversation and partnering with all our community, local businesses and organisations towards building a circular economy.

The circular economy model is the key to all this. It shifts attention away from the current Take, Make, Break, Waste model to a circular approach that:

- Recognises waste and pollution as design flaws that shouldn't exist.
- Designs products to be reused, repaired, or remanufactured.
- Knows no waste. Like nature, everything is food for something else.

Key Themes

Although the Strategy has a number of actions, they are centred around three key themes:

1

Transitioning to a Circular Economy:

Lismore City Council will integrate Circular Economy principles into its operations and facilitate the transition of Lismore and its Villages to a Circular Economy, while leveraging regional collaboration.

This transition will assist in providing new jobs and business opportunities for the Lismore City Council area and wider region.

2

Maximising Resource Recovery

Recycling: Lismore will become a leader and a hub for recycling by building a larger MRF in Lismore to service more of the region and seek opportunities to value-add recyclable products. This will include working with Southern Cross University and the Plastics Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) as well as local businesses and community groups to utilise recyclable material locally in manufacturing and production, creating more circular processes. Council will continue to provide community education for recycling and resource recovery.

Organics: Transition away from large scale food and garden organics processing, working regionally to seek a processing solution in another Local Government area through collaboration, while sourcing processed organics for the local community to utilise. In addition, Council will work on facilitating local small-scale organics processing by the community.

3

Determining Solutions for Residual Waste:

Lismore will look towards building a new landfill for disposal of residual waste while seeking out opportunities regionally to not only reduce waste production but explore alternatives to landfilling. The aim is to reduce waste going to landfill and encourage waste to become resources, understanding that for the foreseeable future there will be some material, such as asbestos, requiring disposal.



First year strategy cost

	2022/23
Circular Economy	\$305,000
Resource Recovery	\$95,000
Residual Waste	Nil
Total	\$400,000
Funding Source	
Existing Waste Minimisation budget	\$170,000
New Council funds	\$25,000
New Waste Minimisation funds	\$190,000
New Waste Collection Funds	\$15,000