MOUNT ISA CITY COUNCIL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

2026 – 2031

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Acknowledgement of Country

Council acknowledges the Traditional owners and custodians of Mount Isa and Camooweal on the lands on which we live, work and play.

We recognise their continuing connection to the land, water and community, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Forward

Mount Isa is a major regional hub in Outback Queensland with the only Materials Recovery Facility in the wider Northwest region. As a hub, it is our responsibility to lead and support community and the region towards a more sustainable and resilient future. Managing our waste recovery and infrastructure is essential to the future of Mount Isa, our community, and the region.

This strategy reflects Council's commitment to managing waste sustainably while creating new economic opportunities. Implementing circular economy objectives will allow council to focus on reducing waste, reusing valuable resources, and rethinking how the region consumes and manages materials in daily life. Shifting away from the traditional waste model, our region can lower resource consumption, minimise waste, and reduce our environmental footprint, while also driving local economic benefits.

This strategy outlines Council's plan to efficiently collect, manage, and process all types of waste. It also identifies opportunities to locally process recyclable and reusable materials through different pathways. Council will collaborate with residents, businesses, and industry partners to support innovation and explore new approaches to resource recovery.

This is a very complex time for the region due to industry, social, and community impacts such as the Mount Isa Copper Operations closure. It is important for Council to pave the way towards a sustainable and resilient outback hub through managing and repurposing waste streams.

Importantly, this strategy is not just about waste, it is about people, partnerships, and creating new possibilities. It builds the foundation for developing a sustainable community, contributing to Mount Isa's long-term resilience and prosperity. Opportunities include collaborating with surrounding councils, education and program initiatives, and infrastructure works.

Together, with the support of residents, businesses, and community partners, we can build a more sustainable and resilient thriving outback hub.

Cr Peta MacRae
Mayor of Mount Isa

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. THE NEED

Australia is undergoing a significant shift in viewing and managing waste streams. There is a movement from waste being rubbish to a valuable resource. Viewing waste as a valuable resource opens the door for innovative solutions that focus on diverting waste from landfill and creating local opportunities that support our residents, economy, and helps deliver waste management services. This work needs to be done in a financially sustainable manner and aim to meet community and societal needs for better resource recovery.

Australia's current progress toward a circular economy remains low, with a circularity rate of just 4%, according to the CSIRO's March 2024 Summary Report on material flows (Alessio Miatto, 2024). While the maximum achievable circularity under the current economic structure is estimated at 32%, Council is challenged from reaching that potential. The report also highlights that transport and housing accounts for over half of the country's material footprint, followed by the food sector.

Australia recycles 39 million tonnes annually, yet roughly half of what is collected ends up in landfill. This indicates the need for stronger waste recovery and reuse systems.

The Queensland Government has multiple strategies, policies, and plans that have driven this strategy. The current draft of the Queensland Waste Strategy 2025 – 2030 emphasises the importance of utilising a circular economy approach to future waste management across the state. The Queensland Organics Strategy 2022 – 2032 outlines a plan for Council to implement and support organic waste management through programs such as Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO). The Queensland Government's *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* provides a framework for Council to encourage waste diversion, increase resource recovery, and adapt waste management practices. In 2021, Queensland released Keeping Queensland Clean: the Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan. This plan sets future direction and actions for sustainable and long-term change utilising compliance, enforcement and community awareness and education. These strategies and policies have influenced the Mount Isa Waste Management Strategy 2026-2031.

This strategy sets a clear path for the management of certain waste streams in the Mount Isa LGA over the next five years. Council has not previously developed a waste strategy, as such, this strategy is the foundation for a framework for Council resource management regarding waste management, resource recovery, and community awareness. The new introduction of a new Queensland waste strategy has ensured Council aligned objectives with that of the Queensland Government.

This document satisfies Council's obligation to establish a plan for waste reduction and recycling as required in Part 2 of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

1.2. WASTE STREAMS

This strategy summaries the proposed strategic direction for solid waste management that is generated from residential, commercial and industrial waste. This strategy only considers the current and future waste management of Council. This does not include liquid waste streams other than domestic volumes of waste oils.

Examples of the types of waste managed by Council and addressed in this plan include:

- Kerbside waste
- Garden waste
- Food waste
- Scrap metal
- E-waste (electronic, electrical appliances and whitegoods)
- Recyclables – paper, cardboard, plastic, steel aluminium and glass
- Textile and clothing
- Furniture (including mattresses)
- Gas bottles
- Clean, stackable pallets
- Clean concrete
- HDPE and poly pipe
- Limited regulated waste
- Biosolids
- Mineral and cooking oil
- Conveyer belt rubber
- Tyres

1.3. COUNCIL'S VISION

Lead Mount Isa towards a sustainable and resilient future through circular economy initiatives, community empowerment, and delivering innovative and sustainable waste solutions that protect our environment and support the region.

1.4. STRATEGY PURPOSE

Guide Mount Isa City Council in transforming waste management through improved resource recovery, infrastructure readiness, community engagement, and operational excellence. Aligning with local, regional, state, and national plans and regulations allows this strategy to reduce waste going to landfill, promote circular economy practices, and build partnerships to create environmental, social, and economic value for the region.

1.5. STRATEGY SCOPE

This strategy includes:

- All domestic, commercial, public place, and construction/demolition waste
    - Municipal solid waste (MSW) includes domestic, household waste
    - Waste from council activities such as waste collected from roads, parks and public places, waterways, street, sweeping, and the collection of litter and illegally dumped waste.
    - Commercial and industrial waste (C&I) includes scrap metal, paper and packaging materials, sawmill residues and green waste (including agricultural waste).
    - Construction and demolition (C&D) waste: includes concrete, scrap metal, asphalt, and masonry.
- Recyclable and reusable materials (glass, tyres, cardboard, plastics, organics, etc)
- Engagement with industry for innovation and recovery initiatives

The strategy does not include:

- Medical waste
- Radioactive waste
- Mine waste

1.6. STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Future Ready Economy Roadmap

In 2025, Council adopted and launched the Future Ready Economy Roadmap. This Roadmap identifies 400 potential actions across 28 pathways to create a sustainable and resilient economy and community in Mount Isa. The Roadmap also consists of six dimensions that will support a future ready economy with two of these being essential for future waste management. Dimension two highlights the importance of decarbonisation for Mount Isa to remain competitive and adapt to the changing world. Three principles that support a future ready and circular economy consist of:

- Set decarbonisation targets, monitor progress and report on results
- Design and invest in projects, products, systems and process that avoid and reduce emissions
- Design, upgrade for, and invest in energy efficiency and fuel switching in projects, products, services and supply chains

Dimension five supports the need for a circular economy through the below principles:

- Design out waste through a whole of life cycle approach that incorporates end of life considerations in early conceptualisation for products, projects, systems and processes
- Design / invest in products, equipment and technology to have an extended lifespan, encouraging reuse, repair and remanufacture of products and connecting waste streams to new opportunities to add value
- Design/invest in products with an efficient and integrated post-consumer recovery, reprocessing and marketing cycle
- Regenerate social and natural capital through promoting local and inclusive employment opportunities and integrating reuse, repair and utilisation of existing waste streams into business models (The Next Economy, Mount Isa City Council, 2025)

Corporate Plan 2025 – 2030

Council adopted a new Corporate Plan in 2025 that guides the operational direction of the Council for 2025 to 2030. The Corporate Plan has five clear strategic themes:

- Liveability and Wellbeing
- Economic
- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Our Organisation

This plan identifies strategies to illustrate what Council will deliver on over the five-year period. The Corporate Plan aligns with the Future Ready Economy Roadmap through the below identified strategies:

- 2.13 – Adopt and leverage circularity principles to inform new economic opportunities
- 4.3 – Promote and incentivise best practice in waste reduction and management

Queensland Waste Strategy (QWS)

The Queensland Government has recently undergone consultation for their new 2025-2030 Waste Strategy. As part of this strategy, they identified the below as key strategic areas as essential for their goals outlined:

- Harness economic opportunities
- Improve access to recycling and encourage behaviour change
- Unleash innovation

- Reduce the cost of living
- Reduce impact of waste on the environment

The Government also identified three crucial 2050 targets that will guide Queensland towards a more circular economy. The 2050 targets are:

- 25% reduction in household waste
- 90% of waste is recovered and diverted from landfill
- 75% recycling rate across all waste streams

The QWS also identifies targets to meet for 2025 to 2050. These targets highlight the importance of sustainable practices, programs, and infrastructure to support the changing waste climate.

Waste avoidance targets for households

Year	2030	2040	2050
Household waste reduction	15%	20%	25%

Reduced waste to landfill

	2025	2030	2040	2050
MSW	55%	70%	90%	95%
C&I	65%	80%	90%	95%
C&D	75%	85%	85%	85%
All	65%	80%	85%	>85%

Increased recycling rates

	2025	2030	2040	2050
MSW	50%	60%	65%	70%
C&I	53%	60%	65%	>65%
C&D	75%	80%	>80%	>80%
All	60%	65%	70%	75%

The above areas and targets will guide Mount Isa's waste strategy through the region working to achieve the same benchmark targets.

The Queensland Government introduced a waste disposal levy in July 2019. This levy applies to 39 local governments including Mount Isa. The levy rate varies depending on the waste stream and is set by regulations. For the 25/26 FY, the rate is $97 per tonne in Mount Isa. This levy will increase each year at a determined annual indexation rate. The waste levy impacts Council's waste stream management, volumes, and processing.

National Waste Policy Action Plan

The updated National Waste Policy Action Plan 2024 was prepared to assist all of Australia through seven targets identified below.

1. Ban on export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, commencing in the second half of 2020
2. Reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030
3. 80% average resource recovery rate from all waste streams following the waste hierarchy by 2030
4. Significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry
5. Continued phase out of problematic and unnecessary plastics
6. Halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill for disposal by 2030
7. Make comprehensive, economy-wide and timely data publicly available to support better consumer, investment and policy decisions

Currently, these targets do not translate to specific target or actions for Mount Isa City Council, however Council should integrate these as part of this strategy's direction.

Waste Hierarchy

The waste hierarchy is applied globally as the core conceptual framework that underpins waste policy and strategy. It establishes the priorities in waste management based on environmental impact and broader sustainability principles, promoting efficient use of resources and reduction of disposal of waste to landfill. This hierarchy combines with the circular economy concept to guide the development of actions within this strategy.

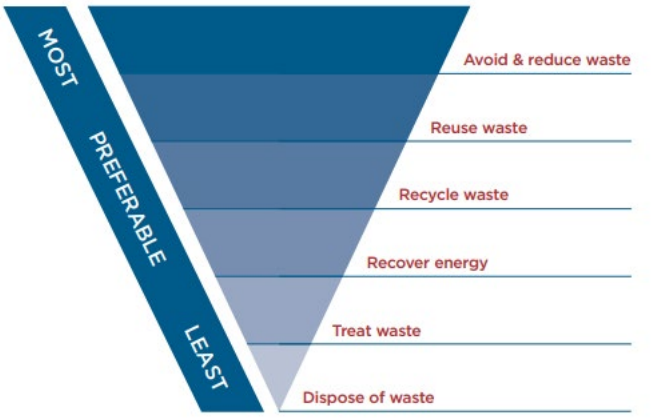

Figure 1: Waste Hierarchy

NWQ Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP)

The North West Queensland Region of Councils (NWQROC) established a regional waste management plan in 2024 that identifies issues and interventions for the participating councils. All councils deal with tyre and scrap-metal stockpiles, in addition to minimal kerbside recycling (Mount Isa is the only one) and no Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) services. There is also an identified gap in community education and awareness around waste. There are other clear gaps across many of the councils with a need for collaborative work done in to help ensure proper waste management and resource recovery in the North West.

The RWMP prioritises councils focus on:

- Litter and illegal dumping
- Legacy waste management
- Recycling and resource recovery
- Organics management
- Residual waste management

This plan identifies the potential infrastructure upgrades required to ensure all participating councils are prepared for landfill operations and waste management with $38.4 million necessary to upgrade all included councils. (NWQROC, 2024)

Development of Mount Isa Waste Management Strategy

Stage	Output
Creation and Development	**March to October 2025**
Research and gather information on current practices, data analysis, policy and opportunities Develop key themes and strategies	Work with Council waste team to identify issues and areas of priority
Delivery	**December 2025**
Involvement and consultation on direction and actions	Draft Waste Strategy prepared and proposed to Council for consultation
Closure	**January 2026**
Preparation of final draft – consultation and adoption	Draft Mount Isa City Council Waste Management Strategy 2026-2031 prepared for public consultation
	February 2026
	Public consultation finishes
	March 2026
	Adoption of final Mount Isa City Council Waste Management Strategy 2026-2031

2. MOUNT ISA CURRENT STATE

Mount Isa is home to just approximately 18,000 residents. The population of the region is primarily within Mount Isa urban area with people residing as far as Camooweal and surrounding stations. The Mount Isa LGA population growth between 2016 and 2021 was an increase of 56 residents (18,671 to 18,727). This highlights how Mount Isa is a transient town with people moving to the region to live and work and then moving away a few years later.

The region offers a unique lifestyle and appeals for growth both for residential and business purposes. This is largely driven by the major sectors in the region such as mining and energy. Mount Isa's distance from other major cities or routes highlights challenges faced by the region such as:

- geographic isolation
- seasonal weather impacts
- budget constraints
- transient staff and population
- diverse waste streams
- expensive freight by road or rail and long of distance to end markets

Key issues identified for Council include:

- accumulated legacy waste at landfill (especially tyres, concrete, and green waste)
- lack of regional processing capacity
- lack of reliable data to inform business case development
- rates of diversion from landfill

Some products are covered under state or federal product stewardship schemes, where the cost of recycling is included in the purchase price. Examples include mobile phones, paint containers, BigBag, drumMUSTER containers and domestic batteries, which typically incur no disposal fees for consumers.

However, for regional councils like Mount Isa, these programs are not always cost-free as there are great distances and costs associated with implementing these programs.

Many product stewardship schemes that operate at no cost in metropolitan areas come with significant logistical and financial challenges in remote locations, due to increased transport distances and a lack of local processing infrastructure.

The Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) and the Federal Government do not currently provide support or compulsory implementation in regional and remote council areas.

2.1. MOUNT ISA WASTE NETWORK

Mount Isa City Council currently manages a waste management network that consists of the Waste Management Facility (WMF) and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) located at 150 Jessop Drive and the Camooweal Waste Transfer Station located on Barkly Highway. These facilities service the entire Mount Isa region with most residents able to reach these locations in 20 minutes.

All kerbside collection is taken to the Waste Management Facility in Mount Isa City.

2.2. WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

Council is responsible for the waste and recycling services, contracting kerbside collection to JJ Richards and Cleanaway. Recyclables collected during kerbside pickup are delivered to the MRF operated by Council. The kerbside collection service is delivered to all eligible properties across the Mount Isa region.

Mount Isa household waste services consist of 8,165 red general waste bins and 7,975 yellow recycling bins.

Landfill Capacity

Mount Isa's WMF consists of 126 hectares with 20 hectares utilised for landfill activities. The facility accepts around 40,000 ton of waste per year under the Environmental Authority EPPR00788713. At a current rate, the landfill is expected to reach capacity in 2080. It is essential that Council mitigates the longevity of the landfill and supports the region through diverting waste from landfill. (ATC Williams, 2024)

3. MOUNT ISA FUTURE STATE

3.1. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Mount Isa's Waste Strategy 2026 – 2031 responds to the previously stated challenges by setting a clear vision: to become a circular economy by 2050. The strategy outlines actions to overcome specific local barriers such as isolation, high transport costs, and low recycling rates. Initiatives include supporting home composting (self-FOGO), using recycled glass in infrastructure, and building partnerships for plastic recovery. It aligns with broader sustainability policies and encourages strong community involvement, clear accountability, and continuous monitoring to ensure lasting impact and resilience.

For Mount Isa, implementing circular economy initiatives will:

- Save money long-term by using fewer raw materials and growing local businesses in recycling and repair
- Create local jobs and attract funding in new industries focused on waste recovery and reuse
- Support innovations that are sustainable
- Protect our environment by reducing waste and pollution in our land and water

3.2. WASTE GROWTH

The Mount Isa region has a complex future in relation to waste and population growth. It is forecasted Mount Isa's population could reduce to under 18,000 due to the mine closure in July 2025. There are potential projects that can positively impact the population, and it is essential that the waste infrastructure and network is able to support this.

3.3. BENEFITS

This strategy will guide Mount Isa towards a sustainable and resilient circular economy. This work will bring benefits of:

- Increase job opportunities
- Enhance waste diversion goals
- Support economic development and growth through design, reuse, remanufacturing and materials innovation
- Reduce residential and commercial food waste
- Develop and maintain collaboration with NWQROC to identify waste recycling and reuse opportunities
- Embed sustainable design and increase recycled content in construction materials and achieve reductions in finite materials use

3.4. WASTE ISSUES FOR MOUNT ISA

The issues this strategy seeks to address are detailed below:

- National and Statewide approach to waste
- Resource recovery expectations
- Understanding industry needs
- Increasing costs
- Compliance
- Local solutions

This strategy will put forward actions and strategic areas that combat the identified issues. The actions in this strategy will ensure Council is able to build on these founding actions and strategic areas for a future ready waste management.

4. STRATEGIC OUTCOME AREAS

4.1. OBJECTIVES

The key objectives that Council will seek to address during this strategy include:

- Waste avoidance, re-use, recycling and recovery are maximised prior to landfill disposal
- Waste services reflect the community desire for improved resource recovery balanced with affordability
- Council will enable partnerships with industry and government to deliver local re-use solutions and support the development of sustainable markets
- Strategy implementation will adhere to all Local, State and National laws
- Focus on compliance and management of risk through sound operational practices at landfill and transfer stations
- Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by promoting sustainable waste management practices
- Establish a circular economy network that connects local businesses and industries
- Foster education and awareness within the community, empowering residents, schools, and businesses to participate in waste reduction and resource recovery
- Support local businesses in adopting circular practices, creating economic opportunities while reducing environmental impacts
- Enhance the region's resilience and sustainability by embedding circular economy principles in local policies, infrastructure, and decision-making processes

4.2. OUTCOME AREAS

Five strategic areas were developed as guidance to action the objectives of this strategy. These areas will provide a framework for Council to develop actionable items for the duration of the strategy.

1. Improve waste diversion and resource recovery
2. Prepare waste infrastructure for a future ready economy
3. Increase waste education
4. Minimise environmental and public health waste impacts
5. Operational compliance and efficiency

5. THEME 1 – IMPROVE WASTE DIVERSION AND REDUCE WASTE GENERATION

Council supports an approach to resource recovery that aligns with the waste hierarchy. This hierarchy utilises waste education actions through avoidance and reducing components. Reuse, recycling and focusing on developing local re-use solutions will support job creation in the region and extend the life of the Mount Isa landfill.

In the 2024 financial year, Council implemented recycling in Mount Isa and Camooweal. Council saw a total recovery rate of 166 Tonnes for secondary use and diverted the waste from landfill.

The implementation of kerbside recycling has sparked conversation around FOGO and green waste collection. Council intends to explore the pathways for these waste streams to also be considered.

Mount Isa Metal Recyclers is home to the region's Containers for Change centre, enabling community to claim 10c refunds on eligible drink containers from the State Government Container Refund Scheme. This has been utilised by many residents prior to the implementation of kerbside recycling.

5.1. ACTIONS FOR DELIVERY

Action		Detail
1.1	Partner with regional governments and supply waste stream infrastructure	• Create partnerships with surrounding councils to reduce overall regional waste
1.2	Research the potential for a Recycling Enterprise Precinct	• Invest in local-based innovative recycling solutions and sustainable products
1.3	Creation of a Tip Shop	• Implement the Tip Shop as a second-hand shop for residents to purchase items
1.4	Increase Resource Recovery from the Resource Recovery Area (RRA)	• Investigate pathways to use RRA resources in commercial uses
1.5	Implement a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) program	• Develop the initial stages of a FOGO program to reduce organic and green waste • Implement specific education programs for kerbside FOGO to reduce contamination
1.6	Reduce Council's waste through sustainable practices	• Find cost effective and efficient ways to reduce Council's waste • Promote product stewardship schemes in the community

5.2. TARGETS

By 2031, Council will:

- Enable regional use of the Mount Isa MRF and gain buy in from other councils in the region
- Support other communities in the implementation and collection of kerbside recycling
- Understand best practice pathways for reusing RRA resources
- Increase community access to different schemes such as BigBag and drumMUSTER
- Develop and implement a FOGO program
- Implement green waste kerbside collection

6. THEME 2 – PREPARE WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR A FUTURE READY ECONOMY

MOUNT ISA WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Council is the owner and operator of the landfill and waste transfer stations in the region. Council intends to play a leading role in developing waste infrastructure that is prepared to recycle, recover and dispose of waste streams in the region. The Mount Isa landfill is forecast to reach capacity in 2032. There is a need to invest in waste reduction streams and circular economy principles to ensure the longevity and sustainability of our current waste facilities.

The Mount Isa Waste Management Facility is the only landfill in the region. The WMF also consists of the only Materials Recovery Facility in regional Northern Queensland, a Waste Transfer Station (WTS), a Tip Shop and the landfill. There is a WTS in Camooweal (pending closure).

6.1. ACTIONS FOR DELIVERY

Action		Detail
2.1	Ensure infrastructure capacity for future waste stream needs	• Maintain and upgrade waste management infrastructure
2.2	Expand the Waste Transfer Station	• Undertake constructions to improve the Waste Transfer Station to accommodate waste streams
2.3	Improve the landfill equipment	• Maintain and upgrade landfill equipment to ensure minimal environmental impacts
2.4	Investigate collaboration opportunities for landfill across the region	• Collaborate with surrounding Council's and the NWQROC to assess suitability and financial viability of regional landfills
2.5	Equitable service delivery across the region	• Ensure residents in Mount Isa and Camooweal have adequate access to waste management facilities and services through operational plans

6.2. TARGETS

By 2031, Council will:

- Have consistent maintenance routines regarding waste management infrastructure and equipment
- Improve WTS to accommodate additional waste streams
- Identify the preferred long-term approach for the Mount Isa WMF and deliver the necessary waste infrastructure
- Increase the level of resource recovery at the WMF
- Gain an understanding of the potential pathways to be a waste hub for the region
- Develop a waste service network that meets Council's service standards

7. THEME 3 – WASTE EDUCATION

Avoiding and reducing waste generation leads to less waste streams to manage at the WMF. This will lead to reduced costs associated with transporting, sorting, and recycling materials in addition to leading to less waste in landfills. Reducing the amount of waste the region generates is a significant challenge that requires behaviour change from individuals and systematic change from industry. Council can deliver education and communication programs to help community understand how they can reduce their waste and support the region's resource recovery actions.

Areas that are apparent for Council support and education is through proper bin sorting and available resources for other waste streams. Littering and illegal dumping is an area that Council can support through information and education targeting initiatives to raise awareness of the impacts on the region. Council can also support the longevity of bins in the region to educate about washing bins out, especially in summer when it is easy for smells and items to attract flies and maggots.

Council will develop a Circular Economy Learning Centre at the facility. This will support school and community visits to the WMF and MRF in addition to educating the community on circular economy initiatives and programs.

7.1. ACTIONS FOR DELIVERY

Action		Detail
3.1	Behaviour Change and Information Campaign	• Implement a behaviour change and information campaign about recycling habits and circular economy opportunities • Target early learning, schools and industry to identify and reduce waste generation and encourage greater separation of waste streams before reaching landfill
3.2	Development of a Circular Economy Learning Centre	▪ Initiate implementation of educational programs for school and community to promote best practice waste management
3.3	Care for Country Campaign (littering and illegal dumping)	• Create a campaign that informs community of the negative impacts of illegal dumping and littering • Implement Snap Send Solve for illegal dumping and target known dumping locations
3.4	Wash Your Bin Campaign	• Engage with residents and businesses to ensure bin maintenance and proper waste management practices
3.5	Collaborate with surrounding regions to increase waste education and awareness	• Engage with surrounding Councils (NWQROC) to help increase regional waste education and awareness

7.2. TARGETS

By 2031, Council will:

- Educate community on different waste and circular economy initiatives to reduce waste streams and impacts
- Establish regional waste education and awareness through the NWQROC
- Work in partnership with the State Government to educate and promote waste education in the Mount Isa region

8. THEME 4 – MINIMISE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH WASTE IMPACTS

Council's waste management activities have potential to impact the environment and public health. Landfills generate leachate, greenhouse gasses, odour and wind-blown litter. Council will continue to monitor and improve our operational practices to ensure a high standard of environmental performance and protection.

Implementation and establishment of waste management centres such as a Drop-and-Go or Hazardous Materials will ensure there is minimal future impacts on the region's environment. Ensuring proper management of wastewater and runoff will also enable Council to preserve the life of the landfill and surrounding environmental area.

8.1. ACTIONS FOR DELIVERY

Action		Detail
4.1	Establish a Drop-and-Go centre	• Implement a centre that will help ensure proper disaster management measures
4.2	Hazardous Materials Recovery Program	• Develop and implement responsible recovery options for hazardous waste
4.3	Wastewater Maintenance and Management	• Conduct regular monitoring, implement effective collection and treatment methods
4.4	Optimise vehicle fleet to limit impacts on the community	• Ensure collection services limit emissions, noise, and odours

8.2. TARGETS

By 2031, Council will:

- Have minimal material environmental harm events on site
- Establish a waste stream centre that will support disaster management measures
- Explore pathways for the collection, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste
- Ensure wastewater management is continuously monitored and treated as required

9. THEME 5 – OPERATIONAL COMPLIANCE AND EFFICIENCY

Waste management is a significant business activity for council, costing over 8 million per year to collect kerbside waste and recycling, safely operate the landfill, and manage waste transfers that facilitate resource recovery and disposal for the region. In addition to delivering essential kerbside collection, Council's focus is on improving our WMF infrastructure and compliance.

Council has started to use clean fill to cover the landfill berms. This is helping work towards reusing RRA materials that come into the WMF. Council intends to continue this process in addition to focusing on the compliance with the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI).

9.1. ACTIONS FOR DELIVERY

Action		Detail
5.1	Ensure Waste Audit Compliance	• Conduct regular audits to ensure DETSI compliance • Conduct yearly surveys of kerbside
5.2	Develop a Waste Control Diversion Program	• Develop a plan that will include educational initiatives, campaigns, and material prioritisation.
5.3	Review Local Law No.6 and ensure waste works align	• Ensure Council is complying with Local Law No. 6 through proper waste management support
5.4	Environmental Authority Compliance	• Conduct audits and operations in line with the prescribed ERA's for the site
5.4	Review the Mount Isa Waste Strategy 2026-2031	• Review the strategy in 2028
5.5	Prepare for and implement disaster management waste programs	• Allow for extra tip day access or bin day pick up in instances of serious local events or a state declared disaster as defined by the *Disaster Management Act 2003* (Department for Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, 2025)

9.2. TARGETS

By 2031, Council will:

- Improve operational practices at the Mount Isa WMF
- Improve customer experience and transactional interactions
- Develop a consistent approach to reporting on operations
- Ensure compliance and local law regulations are done in accordance with legislation
- Review and prepare for the 2031-2036 Waste Strategy

10. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

10.1. DELIVERY TIMELINE

The actions outlined under each theme will be delivered over the five-year life of the plan and written into Council's Operational Plan to ensure that targets are met and funded in a sustainable manner.

10.2. ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW

This strategy outlines a vision for waste management and resource recovery through to 2010. This strategy will be monitored through key milestone targets set for the next five years. Ensuring this strategy's alignment with future legislation changes and community attitudes, reviews of this strategy will take place in 2029 and every year before strategy renewal.

Updates to each action will be monitored and where possible, quantitative data will be used to assess the effectiveness of work being carried out on an annual basis. Examples of data include resource recovery of household waste, total waste diverted from landfill, and illegal dumping volumes. In accordance with the Act, an annual report will be submitted to the Queensland Government and will be published annually as part of Council's reporting cycle.

10.3. COST OF SERVICE DELIVERY

The actions and targets outlined in this strategy are designed to be achievable in a five-year period. Many larger infrastructure projects will require capital expenditure and to be included in Council's capital works program and long-term financial planning. These plans will be reviewed annually, and Council will consider the financially sound approach to align works with this strategy. Grants will also be sought for to help implement actions identified in this strategy

11. APPENDIXES

APPENDIX A: REFERENCES

Alessio Miatto, H. S. (2024). *Australian material flow analysis to progress to a circular economy.* Canberaa ACT: CSIRO.

ATC Williams. (2024). *Mount Isa Landfill Site Based Management and Operational Plan.* Maroochydore QLD: ATC Williams.

Department for Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation. (2025). *Managing waste in disaster recovery periods.* Brisbane: QLD State Government.

NWQROC. (2024). *NWQ Regional Waste Mangement Plan.* Georgetown, Queensland: NWQROC.

The Next Economy, Mount Isa City Council. (2025). *Mount Isa Future Ready Economy Roadmap.* Mount Isa, QLD: Mount Isa City Council.

APPENDIX B: ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION

Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011
Waste Recycling and Recycling Regulation 2023
Queensland Waste Strategy 2025-2030 (Draft)
National Waste Policy Action Plan

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION RESULTS

In accordance with the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*, Council undertook public consultation through a survey from 8 January to 9 February 2026. The survey was shared through Council social media, website, and sponsored Facebook ads. A total of 70 residents participated in the survey.

Residents indicated they strongly believe waste management is extremely important (64%) or somewhat important (21%) for the future waste management in Mount Isa. This indicates the importance of ensuring proper waste management practices in Mount Isa.

Table 1: Waste management importance

Waste management importance	Responses
Extremely important	45
Somewhat important	15
Extremely not important	5
Somewhat not important	4
Neutral	1

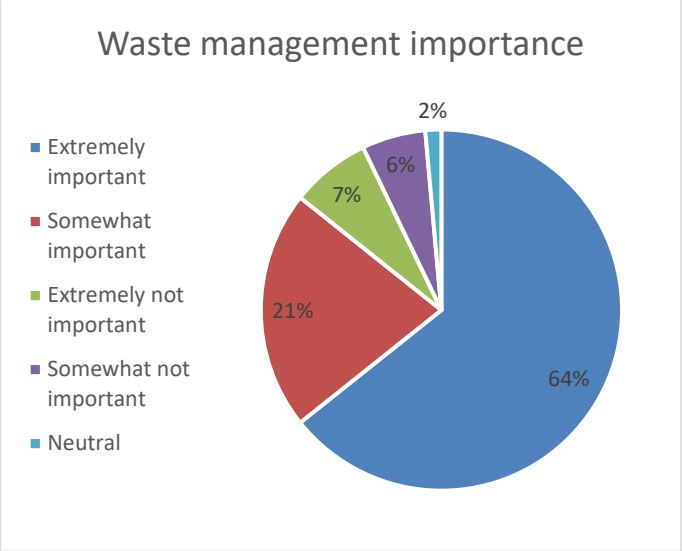

Figure 2: Waste management importance

Residents were asked to indicate which priorities they believed in the strategy should have the highest priority. Residents overwhelmingly indicated improving recycling and resource recovery (48), preparing waste infrastructure for future needs (33), and reducing waste sent to landfill (30) are the highest priority Council should focus on when it comes to waste recovery in the region.

Table 2: Highest priority objectives

Highest priority objectives	Responses
Improve recycling and resource recovery	48
Prepare waste infrastructure for future needs	33
Reduce waste sent to landfill	30
Minimise environmental and health impacts	28
Increase community education and awareness	28
Ensure compliance and efficiency	19

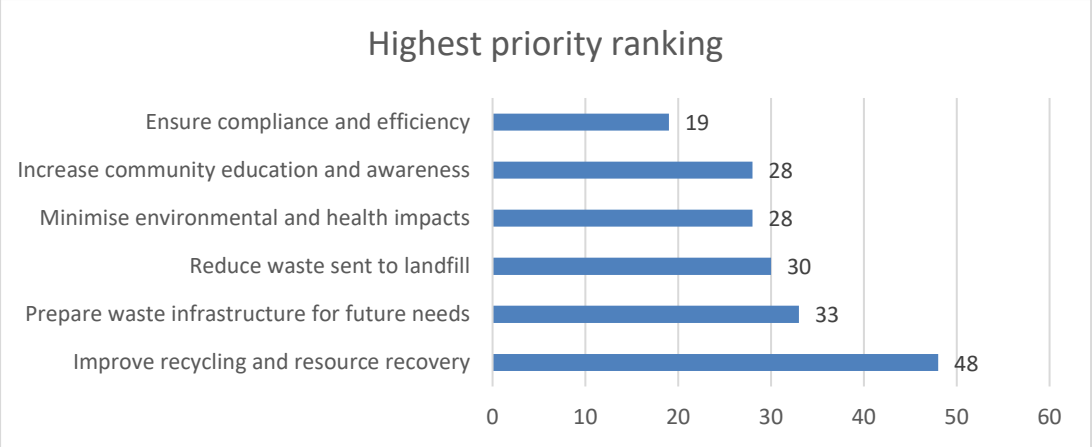

Figure 3: Highest priority objectives

Consultation asked resident satisfaction with the current recycling services (i.e., kerbside bins, MRF) with just under half of respondents being somewhat satisfied (47%). A third of respondents were dissatisfied (34%) while the remaining were very satisfied (13%) or neutral (6%). This shows there is room for improvement regarding Council's current services.

Table 3: Current recycling services satisfaction

Current recycling services satisfaction	Responses
Somewhat satisfied	33
Very dissatisfied	13
Somewhat dissatisfied	11
Very satisfied	9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4

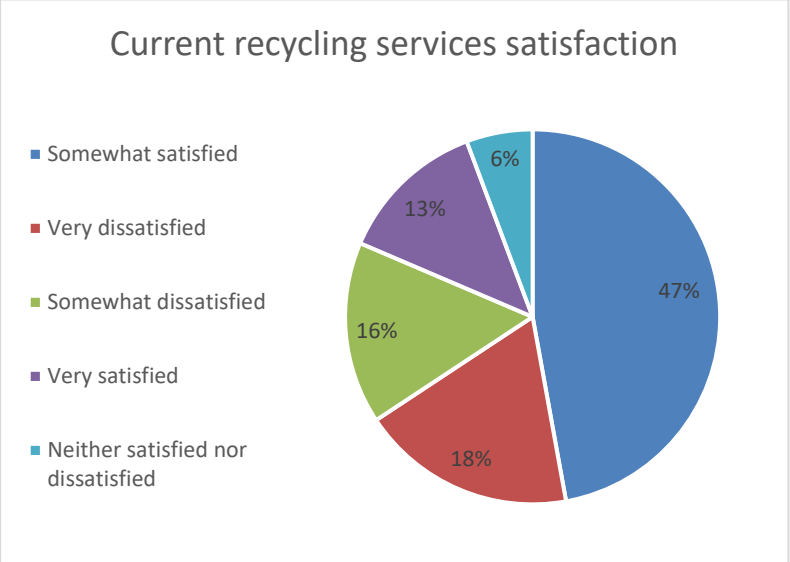

Figure 4: Current recycling services satisfaction

Council's vision in the strategy is:

"Lead Mount Isa towards a sustainable and resilient future through circular economy initiatives, community empowerment, and delivering innovative and sustainable waste solutions."

Residents were asked if they support the vision, with a majority (86%) stating they support it. This will help Council ensure all future waste management practices are in line and support the vision.

Table 4: Council vision support

Council Vision Support	Responses
Yes	60
No	10

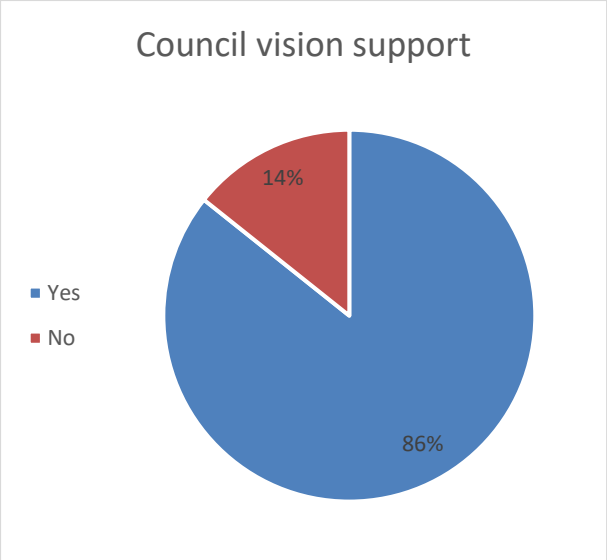

Figure 5: Council vision support

Community was also asked if they would support the implementation of a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) program. Over half (57%) would support the program.

This highlights the importance of researching and looking at opportunities to bring FOGO services to Mount Isa.

Table 5: FOGO program support

FOGO program support	Responses
Yes	40
No	13
Maybe	17

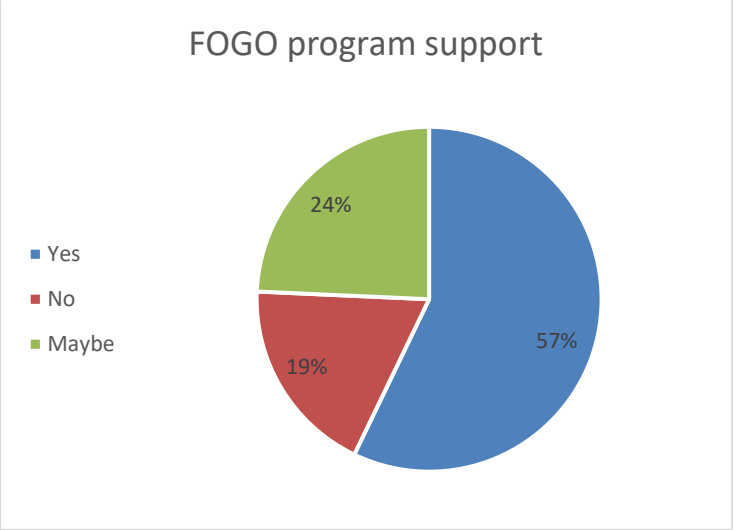

Figure 6: FOGO program support

Community was also asked what additional resource recovery services they would like to see in the region with green waste kerbside (56) being heavily indicated. This further supports the FOGO program implementation across all households in the region.

Almost a third of responses (24) also indicated wanting hazardous waste drop-off such as DrumMuster. Single-use plastic collection was also a point of interest with 19 indicating it would be a service they would like.

Four residents indicated other services they would like to see which consists of more recycle bins in parks and public spaces, bulk kerbside collection, and commercial recycling.

This highlights the importance of pursuing different pathways to support resource recovery and waste collection in the region.

Table 6:Additional resource recovery services

Additional resource recovery services	Responses
Green waste kerbside collection	56
Hazardous waste drop-off	24
Single-use plastic collection	19
Other	4

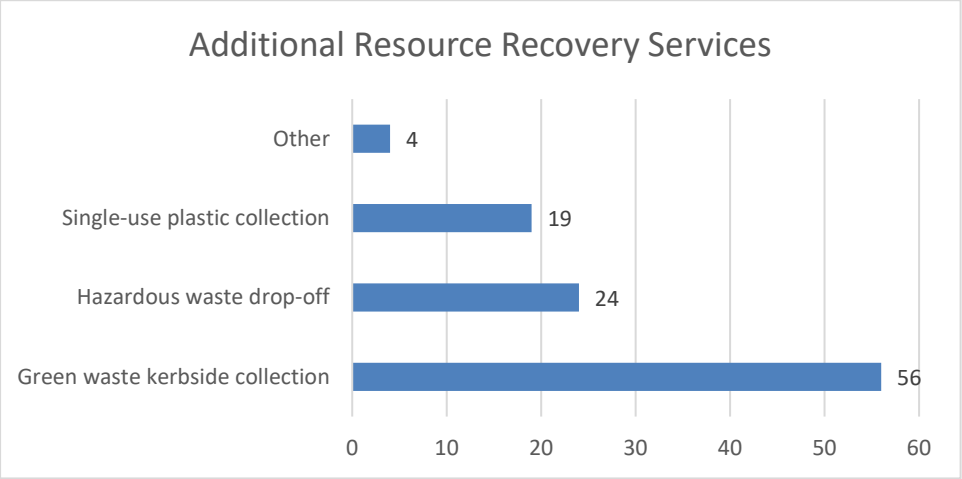

Figure 7:Additional resource recovery services

Residents were asked how effective they believe education campaigns are in reducing waste with over half (54%) indicating campaigns are somewhat effective while 22% believe they are ineffective.

This highlights the need for a multi-level approach when it comes to educating community around waste management.

Table 7: Education campaign effectiveness

Education campaign effectiveness	Responses
Somewhat effective	38
Neither effective nor ineffective	10
Very ineffective	8
Somewhat ineffective	7
Very effective	7

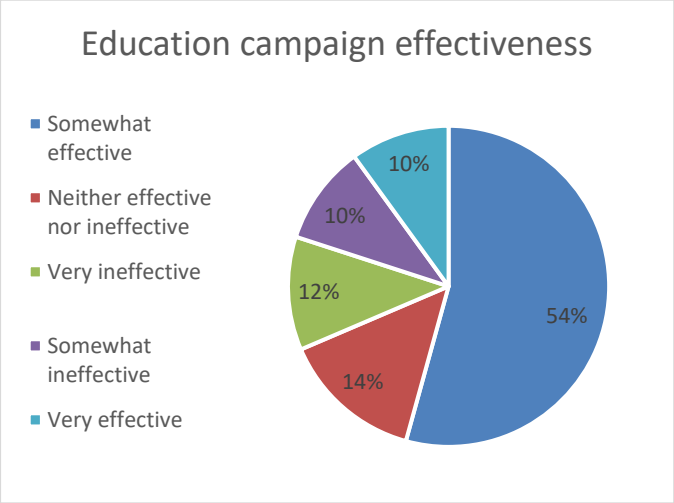

Figure 8: Education campaign effectiveness

Community was asked if they would participate in waste-based programs such as Circular Economy Learning Centre visits, recycling workshops, and utilising Snap Send Solve for reporting illegal dumping. Just under half of residents indicated they would participate (46%) with 30% stating they would participate depending on the program.

This shows that Council should look at investing in community-based programs to help support waste recovery and recycling.

Table 8: Household participation in waste-based programs

Household participation in waste-based programs	Responses
Yes	32
Maybe	21
No	17

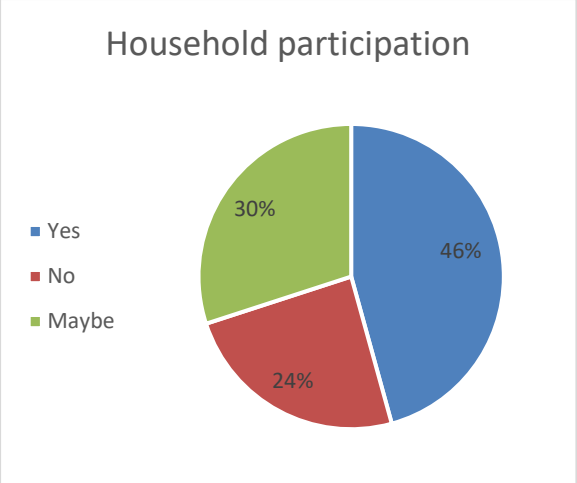

Figure 9: Household participation in waste-based programs

Residents were asked how concerned they are about the environmental impacts of waste with over half of individuals indicating they are somewhat concerned (39%) very concerned (24%).

This shows community is overall worried of the environmental impacts of waste and supports Council in understanding community sentiment regarding waste management.

Table 9: Environmental impacts of waste

Environmental impacts of waste	Responses
Somewhat concerned	27
Very concerned	17
Neutral	13
Somewhat unconcerned	8
Very unconcerned	5

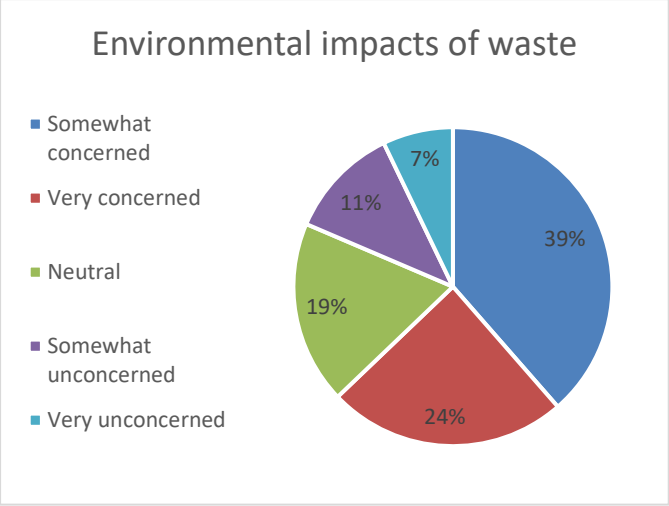

Figure 10: Environmental impacts of waste

Residents were asked if they support Council's intent to invest in hazardous waste recovery and wastewater management with a majority (81%) indicating they support it.

This indicates strong support for any future Council initiatives to support hazardous waste recovery and wastewater management.

Table 10: Hazardous waste recovery and wastewater management support

Hazardous waste recovery and wastewater management support	Responses
Yes	57
No	13

Figure 11: Hazardous waste recovery and wastewater management support

Community was asked what improvements they would like to see at the Waste Management Facility. Drop-and-Go centre (38) and better recycling opportunities (37) are highly desired by community. Community also indicated wanting an expanded Waste Transfer Station (23) and three responses highlighted wanting more hours and advertising for the tip shop and where to drop off items like paint.

This highlights the importance of investing in waste infrastructure at the facility to better support community desires and waste recovery.

Table 11: Waste Management Facility Improvements

Waste Management Facility Improvements	Responses
Drop-and-Go centre	38
Better recycling opportunities	37
Expanded Waste Transfer Station	23
Other	3

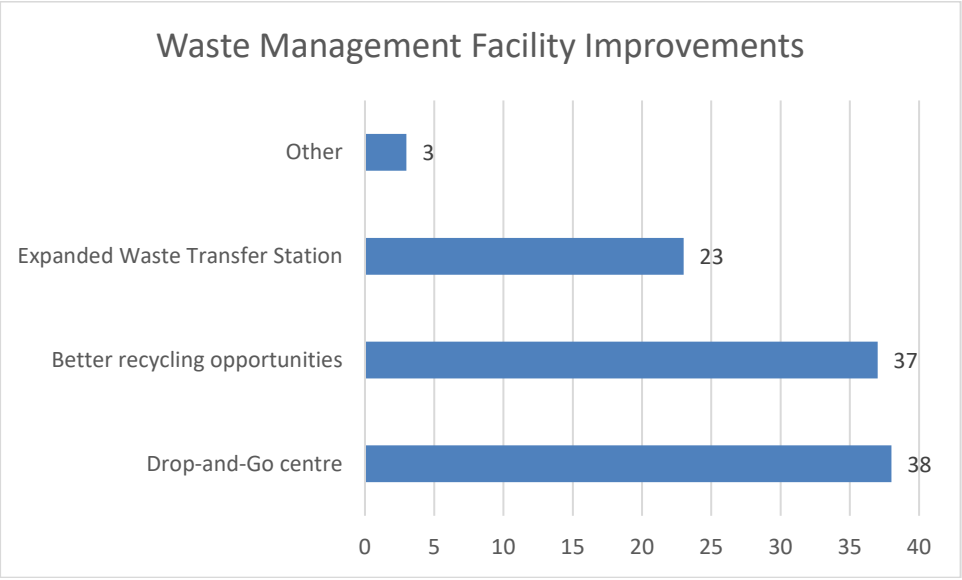

Figure 12: Waste Management Facility Improvements

Residents were asked how they feel about the cost of waste management in Mount Isa with almost an even split of it being too expensive (50%) and costing the right amount (47%).

Table 12: Waste Management Cost

Waste Management Cost	Responses
It is too expensive	35
It costs the right amount	33
It is too cheap	2

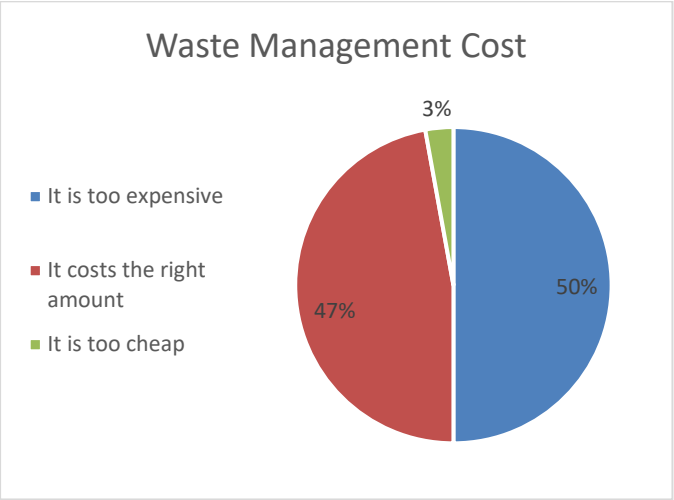

Figure 13: Waste Management Cost

Overall, the community is supportive of this waste management strategy with preferring Council focuses on improving recycling and resource recovery, preparing waste infrastructure for future needs, and reducing waste sent to landfill. Community is also interested in participating in FOGO, hazardous waste, and single-use plastic collection programs. Community would also like to see improvements at the Waste Management Facility that consists of a Drop-and-Go centre and better recycling opportunities.