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NARRABRI SHIRE COUNCIL WASTE STRATEGY



Waste Strategy Review

A Submission to Narrabri Shire Council (ABN 95 717 801 656) Job No. 223-1013188

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Disclaimer

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In the spirit of reconciliation MRA Consulting Group acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to Elders past, present and emerging.

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Glossary

Terminology	Definition
BAU	Business as usual
C&D	Construction and demolition
C&I	Commercial and industrial
CAGR	Compound annual growth rate
CDS	Container Deposit Scheme
CRC	Community Recycling Centre
ENM	Excavated natural materials
FY	Financial year
LGA	Local government area
MRF	Material recovery facility
MSW	Municipal solid waste
NIRW	Northern Inland Regional Waste
NSC	Narrabri Shire Council
NWMF	Narrabri Waste Management Facility
TS	Transfer station
VENM	Virgin excavated natural materials
YoY	Year-on-year

Purpose

This document outlines Narrabri Shire Council's strategic direction for waste management and resource recovery for the Narrabri local government area. The Narrabri Waste Management Strategy seeks to realise a 20-year vision by detailing the actions that Council will implement over this time period.

Narrabri Shire Council's Vision is:

A sustainable, reliable, and affordable waste management system that maximises resource recovery opportunities, for a cleaner and healthier Narrabri Shire.

The Strategy is also designed to support the National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019, the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041, and the Northern Inland Regional Waste Strategy 2022-2027.

1 Where we are today

Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) is committed to delivering waste management services which are aligned with the needs and expectations of the community, as well as with the relevant environmental and regulatory obligations. The Waste Strategy supports the Community Strategic Plan 2017/2027, which provides a foundation for social, environmental, economic, and civic leadership Strategic Directions for the Shire.

1.1 Current Services and Infrastructure

NSC offers a range of waste management services across the local communities of Narrabri, Boggabri, Wee Waa, and other smaller population centres. The service delivery is supported by a network of nine (9) waste management facilities across the local government area (LGA).

Additionally, Narrabri is a member of the Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) Group, a collaboration of Councils from the New England and Northwest Region of NSW who are focused on delivering cost-effective and sustainable waste management.

1.1.1 Municipal Solid Waste Services

Municipal solid waste (MSW) is managed through kerbside collections, permanent drop-off facilities, and periodic special event waste collection.

Kerbside collections, summarised in Table 1, are outsourced to a waste service provider who also supplies mobile garbage bins to residential and commercial premises in the townships of Narrabri, Wee Waa, and Boggabri.

Table 1: Kerbside services provided by Narrabri Shire Council

Collection Serv	vice	Bin Size Options	Service Frequency
	General waste	140L and 240L	Weekly
	Comingled recycling	140L and 240L	Fortnightly
	Green waste	240L	Fortnightly
	Kerbside bulky waste Including mattresses, garden organics, general household items, metals, and whitegoods	3m³	Biannually

1.1.2 Narrabri Waste Management Facility



Figure 1: Narrabri Waste Management Facility, located at 73 Dump Road, Narrabri (source: Nearmap)

Narrabri Waste Management Facility (NWMF) is the region's primary active landfill, where non-recyclable waste is buried onsite under the provisions of an environmental licence issued by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The facility is licensed to landfill up to 20,000t p.a. of waste.

The NWMF is open to the public daily, from 8:00am to 5:00pm, and provides residents with disposal, receival, handling, and processing areas for:

- General solid waste from residents, businesses, and commercial waste transporters (small vehicle transfer station (TS) "front end");
- Comingled recycling;
- Community Recycling Centre (CRC); and
- Resource recovery for garden organics, un-treated timber, concrete, scrap metal, tyres, items containing refrigerant gas etc.

The landfill is fitted with a weighbridge and an electronic data collection system that has been operational for the past three (3) years. The accuracy of the waste collection data has improved significantly from December 2018 because data was previously collected manually by waste attendants.

1.1.3 Permanent Drop-Off Facilities

Council also operates eight (8) rural waste TS, located at Baan Baa, Bellata, Boggabri, Edgeroi, Gwabegar, Maules Creek, Pilliga, and Wee Waa townships.

Materials accepted at NWMF and the TS are shown in Table 2. Scheduled drumMuster receival days are performed at the Wee Waa TS every two (2) months to allow users to return eligible chemical containers, such as herbicides and pesticides, under the national scheme.

Table 2: Material accepted across Council's waste management facilities

Waste Type	Narrabri	Baan Baa	Bellata	Boggabri	Edgeroi	Gwabegar	Maules Creek	Pilliga	Wee Waa
General waste	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√	√	✓
Comingled recycling	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Scrap metal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bulk household waste	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organics	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√
Motor oil	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√
drumMuster	√								
CRC	√								

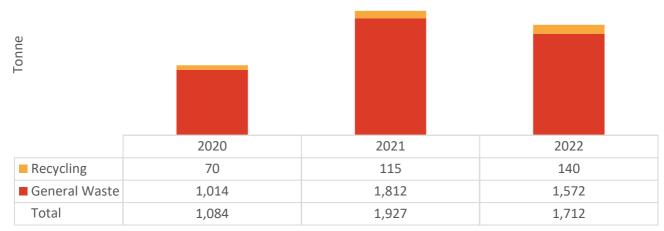
Non-recyclable waste from these sites is transported to the Narrabri Landfill for disposal by Council's MSW collection contractor.

These rural waste TS are open to the public at select times, but all have "personnel gates" that permit 24/7 walk-in access for users to deposit small amounts of household waste at any time.

This unrestricted access has been provided for user convenience and to avoid illegal dumping at facility gates at times when sites are not open to the public. However, Council recognises the potential issues associated with unsupervised deposition of wastes and public safety risks (such as injury and theft,) and maintains this access with some reluctance.

The current Municipal Waste Contract also provides a general and comingled waste collection service at the eight (8) Shire satellite TS.

Figure 2 demonstrates the historical performance across Council's TS, or 1,574t p.a. on average, comprising predominantly (93%) of general waste. As seen in Figure 3, almost half (49%) of the total tonnes received came from Narrabri, followed by Wee Waa (16%), and Boggabri (13%). The other six (6) TS saw similar incoming volumes, which is around 3-4% of the total tonnes (Figure 3).



Financial Year

Figure 2: Annual waste tonnage received across all transfer stations



Figure 3: Waste tonnage received across all transfer stations in FY22

1.2 Waste Trend and Forecast

- Narrabri Shire Council sees an annual waste generation rate of 1.7t per capita
- The waste generation rate has grown by 9% per annum over the past five (5) years
- Council diverts around half of their waste from landfill
- The landfilling rate has grown by 7% per annum over the past five (5) years

1.2.1 Current Performance

Not only does Council manage waste originating from within the LGA, the NWMF also accepts materials from surrounding shire communities. The waste tonnage received at the landfill has increased by 10.3% over the past five (5) years. This can be attributed to the regional development of industry, including coal mining and the extraction of natural gas, along with improved data collection using a weighbridge.

Data collected over the past seven (7) years since FY16¹ (Figure 4) shows that the amount of waste received at the NWMF has grown by 85%. The waste generation rate has been steadily increasing at 9% per annum over the past five (5) years.²



Financial Year

Figure 4: Annual waste tonnage by treatment

In financial year (FY) 2022, Narrabri Landfill received 21,750t of materials, more than half (56%) of which originated from commercial and industrial (C&I) sources (Figure 5). This is equivalent to the waste generation rate of 1.7t per capita per annum (p.a.)³

Narrabri Shire Council - Waste Strategy

¹ NSW EPA Annual Return data

² Compound annual growth rate (CAGR)

³ Based on regional population of 13,049, from Narrabri 2021 Census All persons QuickStats, ABS (2021)

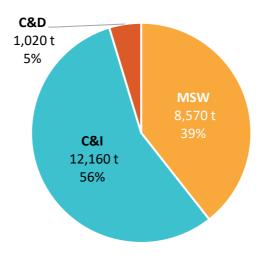


Figure 5: Breakdown of waste generated within Council area in FY22

Though the amount landfilled is growing by 7% p.a., the landfilling rate has seen an overall improvement over the years, decreasing from 70% in FY16, to 46% in FY22. In the last five (5) years, Council landfills at least 49% of their waste on average. In FY22, 42% of the materials received at NWMF were reused, and a small fraction (12%) of total materials collected are sent to Challenge Recycling for processing/recovery (Figure 4).

1.2.2 Forecast

The following commercial developments are planned for the shire over the coming five (5) years:

- Inland Transport Hub;
- Santos Development; and
- Whitehaven/NCO Expansion.

It is anticipated that the development of the Inland Transport Hub alone will provide an excess of 1,500 new jobs over the next five (5) years. Following the construction phase of this project, the regional population will increase by 1,000 new jobs across the shire.

Figure 6 demonstrates the forecast of waste landfilled based on three (3) scenarios, as summarised in Table 3.

Table 3: Scenario modelling

Scenario	Abbreviation	Description
1	BAU	Business-as-usual, using the historical year-on-year (YoY) growth rate of 7.2% over the past five (5) years
2	-2.5%	BAU less 2.5% waste generation rate (Theme 1 target), equating to 4.7% YoY growth rate
3	-5%	BAU less 5% waste generation rate (Theme 1 stretch target), equating to 2.2% YoY growth rate

The landfill is expected to reach capacity in 30 years at the current utilisation rate. However, Council is investigating expanding the airspace by acquiring adjacent land as part of Council's Landfill Strategy.

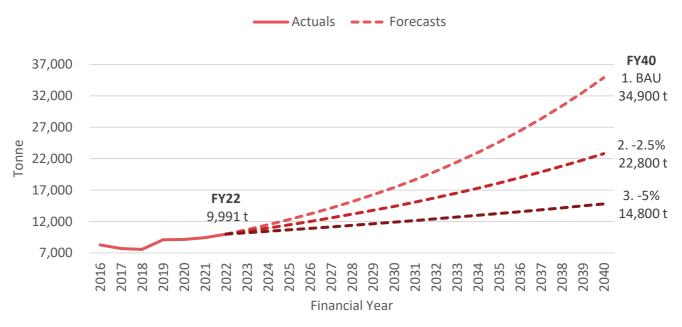


Figure 6: Historical and forecasted volume of waste landfilled

1.3 Community Expectations

Community engagement has been identified by Council as a core aspect of the development of the Shire Waste Strategy, in order to allow community input and to ensure services delivered by Council match the community's expectations. It is seen as particularly important to ensure that the input from the key waste generators (the community) is obtained and utilised to help form future actions and recommendations.

The *Tell us if we are on the right track in managing your Waste* survey received 299 responses in December 2022. The key findings are grouped and summarised by topic in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of community survey responses

Topic	Feedback
Kerbside services	 >80% have used kerbside waste collection services 51% are satisfied with the service Improvement suggestions include addressing the small size of red bins, increasing the frequency of bulk kerbside collection, providing more return-and-earn options in the Shire, greater care by collection trucks when emptying the bins
Waste facilities	 Most have used the Narrabri Waste Depot, Boggabri, and Wee Waa waste facilities 80% find them easy to use 77% find the layout to be conducive to recycling
Awareness	 ~80% are aware of the Narrabri CRC A significant proportion are not aware of the recycling options available at the NWMF >90% know what items can and cannot be placed in the recycling bin

Торіс	Feedback
Education	 Social media, schools and early learning centres, local newspapers, local radio stations, and the Council in Focus flyer were identified as the top five (5) areas for promoting waste education in the community
New resource recovery initiatives	 >96% are in favour of establishing a buy-back centre to reduce waste and landfilling >94% strongly support exploring economic options for utilising e-waste >95% are in favour of exploring local options for processing plastics, paper, and glass waste >96% are in favour of exploring the opportunity to process green waste in Narrabri Shire instead of transporting it to Moree >96% are in favour of exploring options for tyre recycling

2 Where we want to get to

NSC has developed a strategic Vision for the future management of waste and resources in the region. This Waste Strategy lays the groundwork for innovation, collaboration, and transition towards a more circular economy.

Vision

Sustainable, reliable, and affordable waste management system that maximises resource recovery opportunities, for a cleaner and healthier Narrabri Shire.

Priority Themes



Generate Less Waste



Improve Collections & Sorting



Protect Human Health & Environment



Develop Sustainable Opportunities



Community
Values &
Collaboration

Targets and Success Measures

The targets set out in this Waste Strategy support regional, State, and Federal targets.

The success measures, used to help track progress, will leverage NWMF weighbridge records and internal Council reporting.

Actions

Several actions have been identified to meet the targets under each priority theme.

Delivery

Council plans to implement the actions and realise the Vision by 2040.

3 How we will get there

Five (5) priority themes were defined based on the Vision. Each theme is affiliated with their own success measures and targets (Table 5).

Table 5: Strategic framework

Priority Theme How will we be successful in achieving our Vision?	1. Generate Less Waste	2. Improve Collections and Sorting	3. Protect Human Health and Environment	4. Develop Sustainable Opportunities	5. Community Values and Collaboration
Success Measures How do we measure success?	Waste generated per person	 Tonnes of waste landfilled Recycling rate by waste stream Reusing rate by waste stream 	 Number of illegal dumping incidents Tonnes of illegal dumping collected Number of legacy landfill sites closed in 12 years Regulatory compliance 	 Number of regional contracts/resource sharing opportunities investigated between Councils Number of new businesses supported that are linked to waste management and resource recovery established in the NIRW region Number of new local recycling enterprises supported across NIRW region 	 Number of waste services user meetings Number of community education campaigns

Priority Theme

How will we be successful in achieving our Vision?



1. Generate Less Waste



2. Improve Collections and Sorting



3. Protect Human Health and Environment



4. Develop Sustainable Opportunities



5. Community Values and Collaboration

TargetsWhat does success look

like?

Reduce waste generation per capita by 2.5% by 2025

Stretch target:5%

- Establish a baseline
- Achieve recycling rates of 40% for MSW, 50% for C&I, and 85% for C&D by FY31
 - > Stretch target: 45%, 55%, and 85%, respectively

- Zero notices from NSW EPA
- Reduce illegal dumping incidents by 30% of FY20 levels by FY26
- Reduce tonnage of litter and illegal dumping by 30% of FY20 levels by FY26
- Reduce litter volumes by 30% for plastics and 60% for all litter by FY26 (NIRW target)
- Provide regional facilities for the management of three (3) key problem waste streams by FY24

- Assist 100% of waste and resource recovery projects/enterprises in Northwest NSW who approaches Council
- Investigate three (3)
 opportunities for
 regional
 contracts/resource
 sharing between
 Councils by FY25
- Carry out a biennial user survey of waste services provided to understand community satisfaction
- Achieve a YoY reduction in levels of total waste generated (kg/capita)
- Achieve a YoY increase in the recycling rate to reach 40% recycling rate for MSW, 50% C&I, and 80% C&D by FY31

3.1 Success Measures

Relevant performance metrics have been identified in Table 6 to allow Council to monitor their progress on delivering the outcomes of the Strategy and the community's response to the changes made. This will be done on an annual basis, with Year 1 performance being used as a baseline for all measures.

Table 6: Key metrics for tracking progress

Priority Theme	Metric	Unit of Measurement	Data Source	
1. Generate less waste	Waste generated per person	kg per capita p.a.	NWMF weighbridge records	
2	Tonnes of waste landfilled	t p.a.	NWMF weighbridge records	
2. Improve collections and	Recycling rate by waste stream	% of waste recycled p.a.	NWMF weighbridge records	
sorting	Reusing rate by waste stream	% of waste reused p.a.	NWMF weighbridge records	
	Number of illegal dumping incidents	Incidents p.a.	Internal Council reporting	
3. Protect human health and	Tonnes of illegal dumping collected	t p.a.	Internal Council reporting	
environment	Number of legacy landfill sites closed over 12 years	Closure plans achieved in 12 years	Internal Council reporting	
	Regulatory compliance	EPL breaches p.a.	Internal Council reporting	
	Number of regional contracts/resource sharing opportunities investigated between Councils	Number of opportunities investigated p.a.	Internal Council reporting	
4. Develop sustainable opportunities	Number of new businesses supported that are linked to waste management and resource recovery established in the NIRW region	Number of new businesses p.a.	Internal Council reporting	
	Number of new local recycling enterprises supported across NIRW region	Number of new enterprises p.a.	Internal Council reporting	
5. Community values and	Number of waste services user meetings	number of meetings p.a.	Internal Council reporting	
collaboration	Number of community education campaigns	Number of campaigns p.a.	Internal Council reporting	

3.2 Action Plan

Table 7 identifies the actions planned to achieve the outcome of this Strategy. The expected timeline to complete the actions is as follows: short – up to five (5) years, medium – up to 10 years, and long – up to 20 years.

Table 7: Actions to achieve targets

A setting.		Correspor	nding Prio		Responsible	Expected Time to	
Action	1	2	3	4	5	Parties	Complete
NWMF							
Implement Circular Economy principles	✓	√	✓	√	✓	NSC	Medium
Construction Piggyback Cell 1			✓			MWS	Short
Update data collection system at the NWMF	√	√				MWS	Short
Construction Piggyback Cells 2-3			✓			MWS	Medium
Community garden business case and implementation (Plant, infrastructure & funding)	√	√		√	√	MWS	Medium
Buy back centre business case and implementation (Plant, infrastructure & funding)	√	√		√	√	MWS	Medium
Men's shed business case and implementation (Plant, infrastructure & funding)	√	√		√	√	MWS	Medium
Green waste processing business case and implementation (Plant, infrastructure & funding)		√		✓	√	MWS	Medium

		Correspo	nding Prio	rity Theme		Responsible	Expected Time to
Action	1	2	3	4	5	Parties	Complete
Seek funding for concrete processing business case and implementation		✓		√	✓	MWS	Medium
Wash bay			√			MWS	Short
Standardise signage (across NWMF and TS)		✓			✓		
Construction Piggyback Cell 4-8 (Optional)			√			MWS	Long
Transfer Stations		,				•	·
CCTV and electronic gates		√	✓			MWS	Short
Standardise signage (across NWMF and TS)		√			✓	MWS	Short
Compactor truck for skip bin collections		√				MWS	Short
TS redesign and modernisation to encourage greater material reuse and separation, and minimise contamination	✓	√	√	√	√	MWS	Short
Collections hook bins and truck for the collection of stockpiles		✓				MWS	Medium
Urban and Rural Waste Management		•				•	•
Municipal Collection Contracts		√		✓		MWS	Long
EPL and regulatory compliance			✓			MWS	Short and ongoing
Seek funding for priority infrastructure projects to deliver				√	✓	MWS	Long

		Correspor	nding Prio	rity Theme		Responsible Parties	Expected Time to Complete
Action	1	2	3	4	5		
regional-scale plans							
Participate in the creation of end markets				√	✓	NSC	Long
NIRW collaboration				√	✓	NSC	Long
Community education programs to reduce, reuse, and recycle	✓	√			✓	NIRW/MWS	Short and ongoing
Staff training		√	√		✓	MWS	Short and ongoing
Plan for future shire waste infrastructure		√	√	√		MWS	Long
Closure of legacy sites			√			MWS	Medium
Participate in the development of regional waste plans that include infrastructure and circular economy solutions to address the needs of the shire/region				√	√	NSC	Medium
Ensure collection system is adequate to residents' needs to encourage recovery and minimise contamination		√		1		MWS	Long
Advertise best practice methods to avoid and reduce waste, looking at opportunities and outlets across the region for reusing items	√	√		√	√	NIRW	Short
Raise awareness of the issues of managing increased waste through delivery of regional communication campaigns targeting specific material e.g., junk mail and food waste	✓	√			√	NIRW	Short

Author		Correspo	nding Prio		Responsible	Expected Time to	
Action	1	2	3	4	5	Parties	Complete
Garage sale trail	✓	✓			✓	MWS	Short
Home composting program e.g., Compost Revolution		✓			✓	MWS	Short
Review waste organisational structure	✓	✓	✓	√	✓	MWS	Short
Increase procurement of recycled goods made with domestic content		✓		√	√	NSC	Medium
Stakeholders and Businesses	,				'		<u>'</u>
Tyres processing		✓		√		MWS	Long
Investigate local/regional processing opportunities: Drilling mud processing and disposal FOGO processing locally Local plastics processing Local paper and cardboard processing Local glass processing Concrete crushing Solar panel processing		✓		✓		MWS	Short and ongoing
Investigate opportunities for waste to energy		√		✓		MWS	Medium and ongoing
Working with Australian Plastics to increase market availability				√	✓	MWS	Medium
Investigate the feasibility for Challenge Recycling to provide the following services at NWMF:	✓	√		√		MWS	Short

Action		Correspor	nding Prio	rity Theme		Responsible Parties	Expected Time to Complete
Action	1	2	3	4	5		
Operate Buy Back centre							
Process mattresses							
Community garden							
Green/FOGO waste processing							
Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) depot							

Appendix A: Regulatory and Policy Framework

National, State, and regional policies and strategies are among the principal drivers for sustainable waste management. Key reports and information used for this Waste Strategy include:

- NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041: Stage 1 2021-2027;
- NIRW Strategy 2022-2027;
- NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one;
- Premier's Priorities in Action;
- Container Deposit Scheme;
- NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative 2014-2021;
- NSW EPA Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2014-2021 (WARR Strategy);
- NSW EPA Illegal Dumping Strategy 2017-2020;
- NSW EPA Litter Prevention Strategy 2017-2020; and
- NSW EPA Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report 2014-2015.

The Strategy also adheres to the waste hierarchy and the principles of Circular Economy. The waste hierarchy, shown in Figure 7 provides an order of preference for managing waste materials. Without exploring and implementing different ways to manage the growing volume of waste, management will inevitably flow to the cheapest disposal pathway, which may not to be the most preferable for our communities or create value in waste resources.

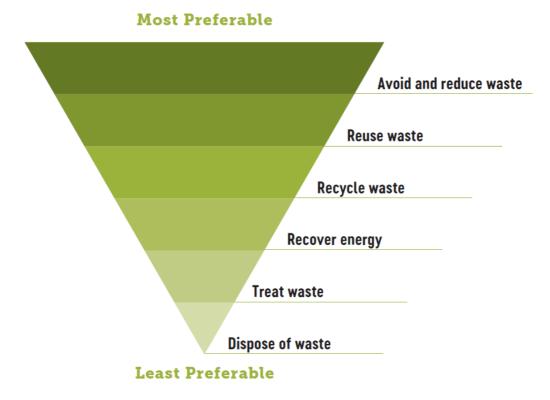


Figure 7: The waste hierarchy (source: NSW EPA)

Along with the waste hierarchy, a Circular Economy system aims to keep products, equipment, and infrastructure in use for longer, thus improving the productivity of these resources. Waste materials and energy should become input for other processes, either a component or recovered resource for another industrial process or as regenerative resources for nature (e.g., compost). This regenerative approach contrasts with the traditional linear economy, which has a take-make-dispose model of production.

A Circular Economy System, illustrated in Figure 8, is based on three (3) key principles:

- 1. Design out waste and pollution.
- 2. Keep products & materials in use.
- 3. Regenerate natural systems.

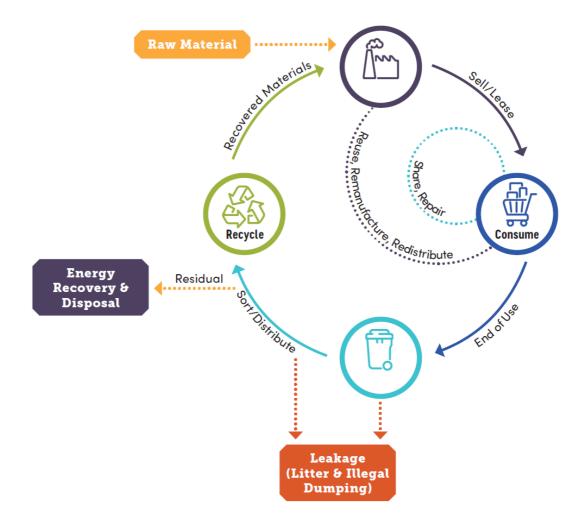


Figure 8: Circular Economy

Appendix B: Waste Generators

Council recognises the importance of working with stakeholders. Table 8 connects the source of waste to those in the community that may be responsible for its disposal for ease of tailoring future education/awareness campaigns to each group of waste generators.

Table 8: Waste materials and generators within the LGA

Material	Likely Generators					
Special Waste						
Asbestos	Residents, builders, construction companies					
Tyres	Residents, businesses					
Hazardous Waste						
Lead paint	Residents, businesses					
Dangerous goods containers	Residents, businesses					
Lead-acid or nickel-cadmium batteries	Residents, businesses					
General Solid Waste						
Putrescible	Businesses, Cleanaway, Council Departments, Namoi WasteCorp, Narrabri Skip Bins, residents, veterinarian clinics/hospitals					
Non-putrescible	Australian Recycled Plastics, Challenge Recycling, builders, businesses, Cleanaway, construction companies, Council Departments, Evos Tree Lopping, Namoi WasteCorp, Narrabri Skip Bins, National Parks and Wildlife Service, residents					



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