

Kerbside Waste Contamination Policy

Date Adopted:	8 September 2026
Adopted By:	Council
Review Due:	8 September 2030
Responsible Officer:	Manager Waste and Sustainability
Directorate:	Infrastructure and Sustainability

PURPOSE

This policy provides details and guidance to support the Southern Grampians Shire Council (SGSC) Kerbside Collection – Collection Receptacles Policy and the Community Local Law No.1 of 2022.

Contamination affects the management of waste across the municipality; Council is facing significant cost increases for properly disposing the material. In addition, Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) is a key feedstock to the new organics processing facility, therefore, Council requires a clean product to provide a high-quality commercial compost.

DEFINITIONS

FOGO	means Food Organics, Garden Organics.
SGSC	means Southern Grampians Shire Council
Municipality	means Southern Grampians Shire
MWC	means Mobile Waste Containers
Comingled	means Mixed recycle e.g. paper, plastic, cardboard, glass, cans

APPLICATION AND SCOPE

This Policy details the Council Kerbside collection service through Mobile Waste Containers (MWC) provided to residents and businesses in the Shire.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Mandated Kerbside Collection Service

Kerbside collection services are mandatory for all habitable dwellings located in urban areas and on designated rural collection routes as defined by the current collection zones endorsed by Council.

Occupiers and Owners Responsibilities and Requirements

The residents of each property receiving a Kerbside MWC service must:

- Only use the bin supplied by Council with appropriate colour code lid for waste streams.

- Place only those bins scheduled for collection in the designated area the night before or prior to 6.00am on the collection day, with lids fully closed and spaced at a minimum of 1 metre apart.
- Not place the bins out for collection more than 1 day before collection and remove bins from the kerbside not less than 1 day after collection.
- Only put materials in the yellow lid comingled bin that are accepted in the mixed recycling waste stream.
- Only put materials in the red lid waste bin that are acceptable as domestic waste.
- Only put materials in the green lid FOGO (Food Organics, Green Organics) bin that are accepted for FOGO waste stream.
- Maintain bins in clean and sanitary condition.
- Refer to the Council website if unsure of which materials are acceptable in each different bin and follow Council requests and updates on acceptable materials.
- Remove any material that has spilled onto the nature strip or road as soon as practicable.

The Residents of each property must not:

- Deposit household/domestic waste in public space bins.
- Deposit waste in any other property bins without the resident's consent.
- Deposit any items or materials not approved by the Council in the specified bin.

Council and contractor's responsibilities and requirements

With the supply of Kerbside MWC services, SGSC contractors must:

- Collect only Council supplied and authorised bins.
- Ensure bin collection does not commence before 6.00am on the scheduled day.
- Only empty appropriate waste bins as presented, if they are scheduled for collection.
- Visually inspect each bin that is emptied into the truck using the CCTV system.
- Immediately report any contaminated loads that have been collected and TAG the bin(s).
- Ensure all bins are returned to the kerbside collection point. If a bin falls causing an obstruction across roads or footpaths, it is the contractor's responsibility to remove the hazard and make it safe.
- Complete scheduled routes in a timely manner.
- Report any accidents or near misses immediately to the Council supervisor noting date, time, place and details.
- Respond to Merit or Council request for missed services within the advised timeframe.

The contractor may refuse kerbside MWC service if:

- The bin contains material that will contaminate the load or damage the compaction mechanism.
- The bin lid is not closed, and there is a likelihood the materials will be spilled if emptied.
- Materials have been placed on top of the closed bin and there is a likelihood these items will be spilled if emptied.
- The material in the bin is jammed and remains after attempting to empty.
- The bin is not upright.
- It is the incorrect bin for the scheduled collection.
- It is not an authorised Council bin.
- The weight of the bin exceeds the maximum lifting capacity for the truck.
- A Council supervisor has directed the contractor not to collect.

IMPLEMENTATION

Due to the cost of contamination to Council waste services, and the resulting impact on Council's aim to reduce waste to landfill, Council will take steps to encourage and educate residents to manage behaviors.

Council's rates and charges for waste management are in line with a full cost recovery model and reflect Council's principles of fairness, transparency and equity when adopting budgets.

Council reserves the right to change a collection service where there is repeated contamination of the MWC service.

If a bin is found to be contaminated or contain incorrect material, then an education and an infringement process, as per Council's Community Local Law No.1 of 2022 will be activated.

This will escalate as per the following:

1. First occurrence: The bin will be stickered highlighting which incorrect material has caused the contamination.
2. Second occurrence: The bin will be stickered again, highlighting which incorrect material has caused the contamination. Council will communicate with the resident outlining the issue with contamination and possible next steps if it continues, education material to be included.
3. Third occurrence: A penalty notice will be issued for Contaminated Waste Service in accordance with Part Seven (7) of Council's Community Local Law No.1 of 2022:

Separation of Recyclables and Organic Waste

1. A person must not place anything other than recyclables in any mobile bin provided and designated by Council for the disposal of recyclables.
2. A person must not place anything other than organic (food and garden) waste in any mobile bin provided and designated for the disposal of organic (food and garden) waste.
3. Council is not required to collect any mobile bin provided to any owner, occupier or property if it contains material other than that for which the mobile bin has been provided and designated by Council.

Continued Contamination of Kerbside Service

This policy will ensure the following process takes place independent of the Community Local Law No. 1 of 2022.

1. For continued unacceptable levels of contamination, Council may refuse normal Kerbside services. The resident will be notified that the standard MWC service will be allocated as a "special Kerbside contamination service". All Kerbside bins will be collected as landfill waste when presented for collection for a maximum period of three (3) months from the date of notification.
2. On completion of the "special Kerbside contamination service" period, the standard MWC Kerbside service will resume. At which point, the contamination of kerbside bins education and enforcement process will revert to "first occurrence".
3. Any subsequent MWC contamination occurrences will follow the relevant Council escalation process as outlined above.

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

It is considered that this policy is compatible with the relevant human rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*.

GENDER EQUALITY COMPLIANCE

It is considered that this policy is compatible with the relevant gender equality principles identified in the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Is a Gender Impact Assessment required?

☐ Yes

☒ No

REVIEW

This Policy must be reviewed every four years.

AUTHORISED

Adopted by Council on 8 September 2026.

END