

Title:	Community Waste Charge Policy
Type:	Council
Adopted:	TBA
File No:	TBA
Attachments:	

Acknowledgement of Country

Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to acknowledge the Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the traditional owners of the land we now call Murrindindi Shire. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and celebrate and respect their continuing culture and connection to the land. We commit to working in collaboration with traditional owners of this land in a spirit of reconciliation and partnership.

1. Purpose

This policy aims to establish a fair, transparent and administratively efficient framework for the application of the Community Waste Charge. The charge contributes to the cost of providing shire-wide waste services such as landfill management, Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs), street and park litter bin collection, waste education programs, and illegal dumping prevention and clean-up.

2. Objectives

- To ensure all rateable properties that benefit directly or indirectly from waste infrastructure and services contribute equitably.
- To minimise cross-subsidisation between ratepayers.
- To ensure the charge is practical to administer using existing data and rating systems.
- To support responsible environmental behaviour and discourage unlawful waste disposal.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all properties within Murrindindi Shire.

4. Community Waste Charge Levy

- The Community Waste Charge is set annually by Council and will be publicly disclosed in Council's Fees and Charges as part of the Annual Budget.
- The charge will be levied annually on all eligible rateable properties.
- For properties that receive a kerbside waste collection service, the Community Waste Charge is incorporated within their existing kerbside service charge.
- For properties that do not receive a kerbside collection service, the Community Waste Charge will appear as a separate line item on the rates notice.
- Exemptions and waivers may apply for eligible properties as detailed in Section 5 of this policy.

5. Exemptions and Waivers

Exemptions apply as follows:

Category	Description	Exemption / Levying of Charge
Non-Rateable Land	Classified as non-rateable under the Local Government Act 1989	100% exemption (unless the property opts into a kerbside collection)
Single Farm Enterprise	Owners of multiple farm parcels that operate as a single farming enterprise to pay only one fixed charge.	Charged once or as per the number of kerbside services provided

Council may also determine additional temporary discounts or waivers in response to exceptional circumstances.

6. Appeals and Reviews

Property owners may request a review of the charge, or an exemption based on eligibility, hardship, or special circumstances. Applications must be made in writing and will be assessed by Council officers in accordance with the Hardship Policy and this Policy.

7. Administrative Simplicity

Where possible, exemptions and rebates will be applied automatically using existing property data (e.g. municipal charge status, pensioner concession database, land classification).

8. Communication

Council will clearly communicate the purpose and application of the Community Waste Charge in its rating notices, website, and engagement materials.

9. Management and Review

The Manager Sustainability and Assets is responsible for ensuring appropriate and accurate implementation of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed every four years in conjunction with each new Council term. The amounts chargeable will be reviewed annually as part of the preparation of the Fees and Charges and the Annual Budget process.

10. Related Documents

- Revenue and Rating Plan
- Annual Budget
- Council's Waste Strategy
- Financial Hardship Policy
- Local Government Act 2020

11. Council Plan

This Policy is consistent with the Council Plan 2025-2029.

12. Consultation

Extensive community consultation was undertaken during November and December 2022 and again between April and June 2024.

13. Legislative and Equity Considerations

This policy has been developed with regard to:

- The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, ensuring that all policy elements respect and promote human rights; and
- The Gender Equality Act 2020, with consideration of criteria that inspire equality, fairness, and inclusion for all genders.