

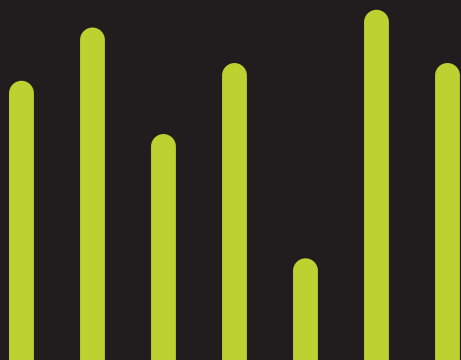


NORTHERN TASMANIAN
Waste Management

2022-23

ANNUAL REPORT

NORTHERN TASMANIAN WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



November 2023

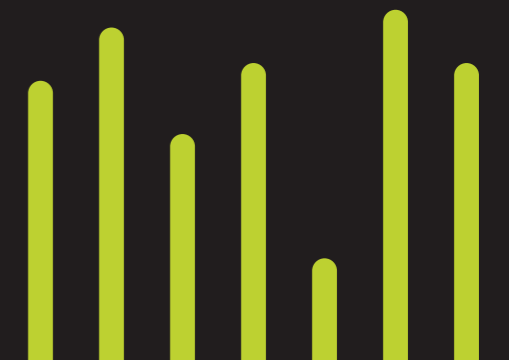
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DISCLAIMER

The Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program’s Annual Report FY23 has been prepared with all due care and diligence using the best available information at the time of publication. The Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program holds no responsibility for any errors or omissions within the document. Any decisions made by other parties based on this report are the responsibility of those parties.



GLOSSARY

Terminology	Definition
C&D	Construction and Demolition
C&I	Commercial and Industrial
CCWVG	Cradle Coast Waste Management Group
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene
FOGO	Food Organics and Garden Organics
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
MRF	Material Recycling Facilities
NTWMP	Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program
STRWA	Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority
tpa	Tonnes per annum
WTS	Waste Transfer Station
WRRB	Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board

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1. CHAIR'S REPORT

The 2022-23 financial year marked significant changes for the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program (NTWMP), with the introduction of the State Landfill Levy and the establishment of the Waste and Resource Recovery Board (WRRB) as the program's primary funding partner.

On behalf of the Steering Committee I acknowledge the great work and leadership of CEO Dr Jo Fearman, and her team, in executing a seamless transition of the program and governance structure now hosted by NRM North. The decision to transition to NRM North wasn't a difficult one, given the strong body of work the organisation has achieved in supporting regional initiatives in northern Tasmania for the betterment of our environment and community.

Despite some program initiatives being temporarily paused during the transition, it is encouraging to see a continued focus on the delivery of actions within the NTWMP Interim Strategic Plan.

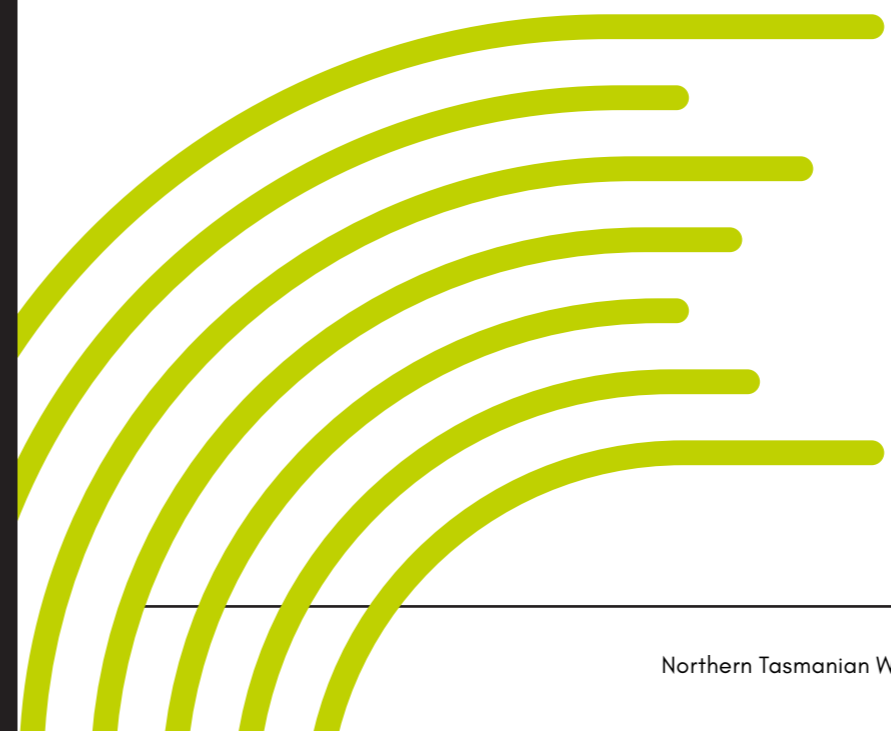
This year has also seen the strengthening of collaboration between the state's regional waste groups: NTWMP, the Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority (STRWA) and the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group (CCWVG). This concerted approach has already proven successful through initiatives such as Rethink Waste, and I look forward to future opportunities to create shared efficiencies and value in waste management for all Tasmanians.

The program is currently developing a five-year strategic plan, in partnership with the WRRB, to advance waste resource recovery in northern Tasmania.

Finally, I would like to express the northern region Council's gratitude to the City of Launceston for hosting the program from 2007 to 2023. The NTWMP has exemplified successful inter-council collaboration, and I thank all involved.

SHANE POWER

CHAIR - NORTHERN TASMANIAN WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 NTWMP FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE

The Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program (NTWMP) was formed to provide advice, funding and education to better manage waste and recycling within the northern Tasmanian region. The NTWMP has provided these services since its formation in 2007, utilising funds generated by a voluntary levy on waste disposed to landfills across participating Council areas. The original member councils comprised: Break O’Day, Dorset, George Town, Launceston, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, and West Tamar. In 2023 the NTWMP welcomed Flinders Council as a member.

Significant changes to the NTWMP occurred during FY23 following the Tasmanian Government’s introduction of the *Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022*. The legislation abolished the existing voluntary levy and required a levy to be paid by landfill operators for each tonne of waste received at the landfill site.

Further, the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board (WRRB) was established under the new legislation to advise the state government on the direction for waste management, resource recovery, and the circular economy in Tasmania. The WRRB distributes levy funding to three regional waste groups, which includes the NTWMP. Through this process the NTWMP also moved to a governance framework hosted by NRM North.

The overarching principles informing NTWMP actions are based on the waste hierarchy (Figure 1), which prioritises waste avoidance and reduction.

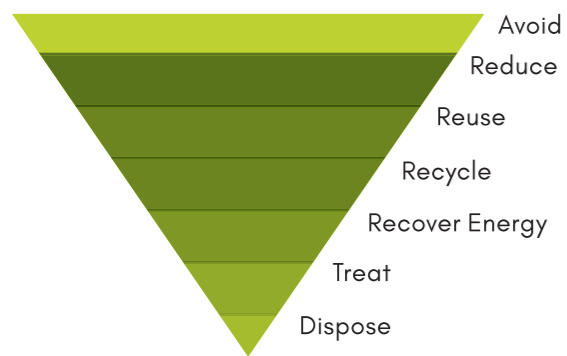


Figure 1: Waste hierarchy



Figure 2: Components of the circular economy model (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2013)

The NTWMP encourages lower waste generation rates through education and facilitates services to divert waste for reuse or recycling, including through actions supporting a circular economy model (Figure 2). These include:

1. Eliminate waste and pollution – encourage product design and strategies that increase waste avoidance and allow reuse, repair and recycling;
2. Circulate products and materials – ensure resources remain in the economy at their highest value (either a product or raw material); and
3. Regenerate natural systems – transition away from a linear take-make-waste economy to one that supports natural regeneration.

3. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2022-23

3.1 REVISED GOVERNANCE MODEL

A significant piece of work for the NTWMP in FY23 has been transitioning the program host organisation from City of Launceston to NRM North. A business case and revised governance model was developed through engagement with program partners and endorsed by local government within the region, enabling transition of the program to the new governance arrangements (see Figure 3). The new governance model retains many of the structures and functions of the previous model, with the addition of an independent assessment panel and new host entity.

Transition of program operations from City of Launceston to NRM North occurred throughout March to May 2023.

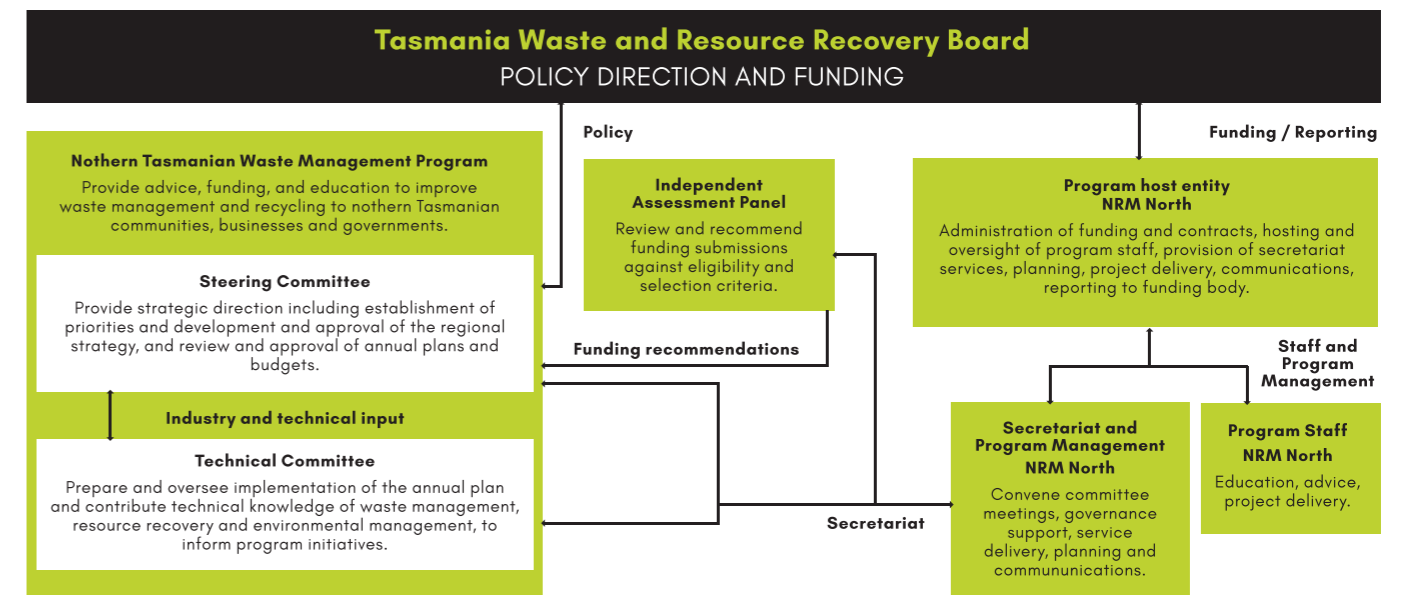


Figure 3: Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program - Governance Arrangements

3.2 FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS AND KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Throughout the transition phase the NTWMP, Cradle Coast Waste Management Group (CCWVG) and Southern Tasmanian Regional Waste Authority (STRWA) fostered collaborative relationships and supported the development of the WRRB Waste Strategy. The alignment of these organisation’s goals will continue to provide increasing opportunities for improved outcomes for Tasmanian resource management and environmental sustainability, through collaborative projects and program delivery.

In May 2023, NRM North was pleased to confirm a three-year funding agreement with WRRB for the NTWMP for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2025. Ongoing funding arrangements are anticipated to be confirmed before the current agreement expires.

3.3 INTERIM STRATEGIC PLAN

To inform program priorities during the transition of program governance, the NTWMP developed an Interim Strategic Plan with a set of targets and actions that support state and national objectives and align with the NTWMP vision. These targets will be achieved by actions that build upon previously successful programs. NTWMP seeks to cooperate with other regional groups, the WRRB, state government and private industry to maximise the impact of interventions.

Progress towards strategic targets will be measured and reported annually by NTWMP. *Table 1* quantifies strategic goals that align with state and national objectives. Additional metrics will be developed following the development of a five-year strategy for the program and as projects are initiated.

Metric	Baseline (2022)	Target (2030)
Waste generation rate	8.53 kg/HH/wk	7.68 kg/HH/wk
Average waste diversion from landfill across all streams	Unknown	80%
FOGO service coverage	3 Councils	5 Councils
Yellow recycling bin contamination rate	12%	<10%
Organic waste composition in red residual bin	51%	30%
Recyclable waste composition in red residual bin	15%	<10%
Number of Councils with mandated recycled content procurement policies	0 Councils	4 Councils

Table 1: Metrics and quantified strategic targets

3.4 STATE-WIDE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The NTWMP continues to collaborate with CCWVG, STRWA and state government to provide consistent state-wide waste communication and education. Programs, such as the Rethink Waste brand, have been funded through resource and cost-sharing across the regional groups. NTWMP makes an annual contribution towards the Rethink Waste education programs and the management of community awareness initiatives through Rethink Waste communications platforms, including the website, social media, and advertising campaigns.

3.5 CIRCULAR ECONOMY GRANTS

The NTWMP Steering Committee endorsed the investment of \$145,000 by means of a circular economy grant round, approving the eligibility criteria and funding guidelines in May 2023. The grant round closed August 2023, providing financial support for eligible project delivery costs associated with:

- circular economy initiatives;
- projects that reduce waste to landfill;
- procuring innovative recycling infrastructure; and
- educational materials necessary to improve waste management practices.

This program has previously supported schools, community groups, Councils, and businesses to deliver entrepreneurial circular economy initiatives and improve resource recovery in the region. NTWMP looks forward to continuing this service, supporting a community-led circular economy.

3.6 RECYCLE COACH

The NTWMP purchases a yearly subscription to the mobile app Recycle Coach for use by member Councils and residents. The app provides a platform for Council's to deliver waste management communications directly to subscribed residents, including details of regular collections, special events, and service interruptions.

The app also contains a searchable index which includes location-based recycling and disposal instructions, and it includes functionality for users to customise reminders for regular kerbside collections.

In addition, Council staff can be contacted directly by users through the app to report issues such as stolen bins, missed pick-ups, or a change of address.

During FY23 app subscribers increased by 1,153 bringing the total number of users to 41,171.



3.7 PROBLEM WASTE MANAGEMENT

Initiatives to improve landfill diversion have focused on waste streams that are considered:

- **Problematic** – expensive or inefficient for recovery through conventional recycling services; or
- **Hazardous** – pose a risk to human health and the environment.

NTWMP supports Councils with the cost of transportation and disposal of e-waste, paint, fluorescent tubes, light globes, household batteries and polystyrene.

In FY23 these programs diverted a total of 202 tonnes of waste from landfill. *Figure 4* shows an evaluation, by percentage, of waste deemed problematic or hazardous.

During FY24 the NTWMP intends to increase the number of sites across the region with collection services for problematic waste and offer a series of household hazardous waste collection events.

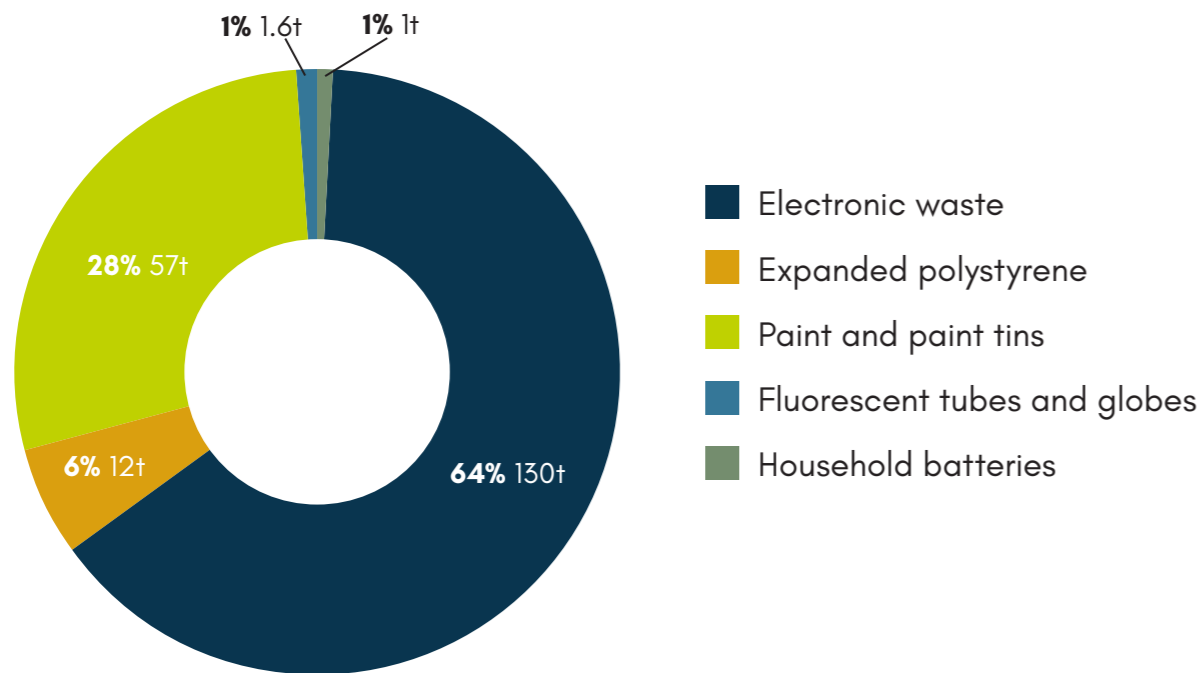


Figure 4: Evaluation of 202 tonnes of waste deemed problematic or hazardous.

4. WASTE DIVERSION RATES

The introduction of the State Landfill Levy from July 2022 initiated the requirement for all Council facilities with a minimum annual throughput of 1,000 tonnes to provide the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, regulation-approved monthly reporting from July 2024. NTWMP is supporting Councils in the selection of data collection software to meet these reporting requirements. Once complete, this data will serve to provide accurate reporting against regional diversion goals.

The following data is not a full representation of Council service provision and efforts in recycling and waste diversion. Accurate waste diversion rates for the region are constrained due to inconsistent data collection.

Flinders Council was not involved with the Program in FY23 and consequently the Council's data is not represented in this report.

4.1 WASTE TO LANDFILL

All waste to landfill is charged a landfill levy which supports regional initiatives such as those delivered through the NTWMP, CCWMP and STRWA.

Landfill waste is categorised as Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Construction and Demolition (C&D) or Commercial and Industrial (C&I). Municipal waste refers to residential and Council services, whilst C&D is from the building and construction industry, and C&I from all other businesses.

4.1.1 TOTAL WASTE TO LANDFILL

According to data received from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, during FY23 a total of 125,299 tonnes was disposed to landfills in the region. *Figure 5* shows the annual tonnages in waste to landfill from 2019 to 2023. Many NTWMP projects for waste diversion are currently focused on the MSW market, which accounts for approximately 35 per cent of all waste to landfill. Significant projects in the C&I and C&D sectors can affect year on year amounts and an increase in landfill tonnes should not be taken as a decrease in the effectiveness of diversion and recycling initiatives. The landfill levy initiative has increased the quality of the data collected from landfills in the region from 1 July 2022. Over the coming years this information will support the measurement of success in achieving NTWMP's goals.

TOTAL WASTE FOR REGION

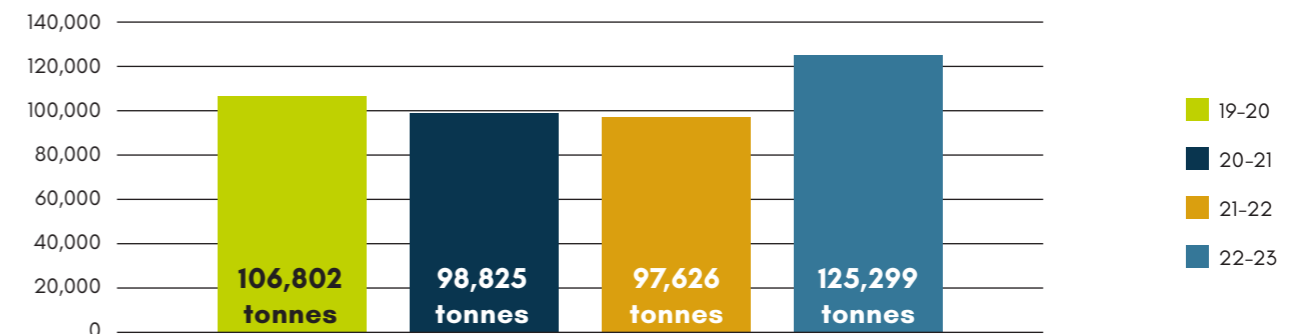


Figure 5: Total Waste to Landfill 2019-2023

4.1.2 MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE TO LANDFILL

Figure 6 displays tonnes of municipal waste collected from kerbside services and waste transfer stations by each Council. With the change of NTWMP governance arrangements, data for previous years was not available at the time of this report. Program staff will focus on data collection for consistent reporting in the coming months.

Councils collected a total of 61,717 tonnes of MSW during FY23. Importantly, not all MSW collected is disposed at landfills located in the northern region due to transportation efficiencies. As a result, the total amount of MSW collected should not be used alongside total waste to landfill figures to determine specific proportions contributed to landfill by each market category (eg. MSW, C&D, C&I).

MSW TO LANDFILL BY COUNCIL

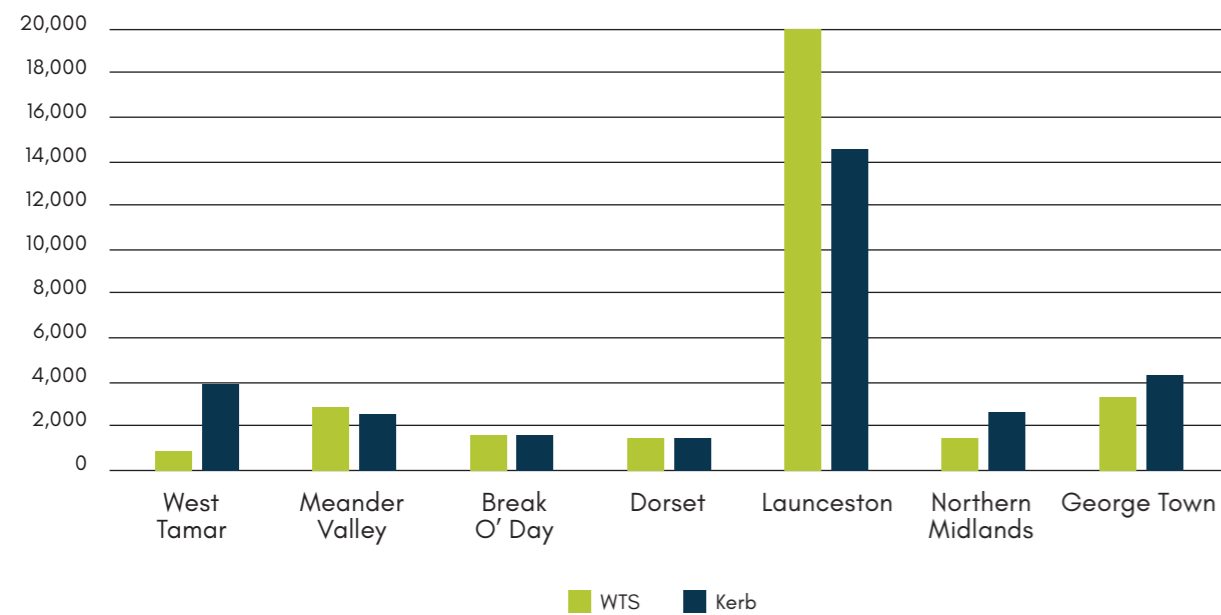


Figure 6: 2022-2023 MSW to Landfill by Council

4.2 COUNCIL DIVERTED WASTE

Council waste diversion includes kerbside collection of commingled recycling, Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO), and separation of waste streams at waste transfer stations and landfills.

NTWMP member Councils are committed to improving resource recovery in the region and offer many kerbside and waste transfer station collection services.

4.2.1 KERBSIDE COMMINGLED COLLECTION

Kerbside recycling services are provided by all Councils and cover most of the region. Councils utilise Tasmania's three Material Recycling Facilities (MRF) for sorting and recovery of commingled recycling collections. A total of 11,343 tonnes was collected across northern Tasmania through kerbside recycling services in 2022-23. Figure 7 shows the percentage of recycling collected by each Council.

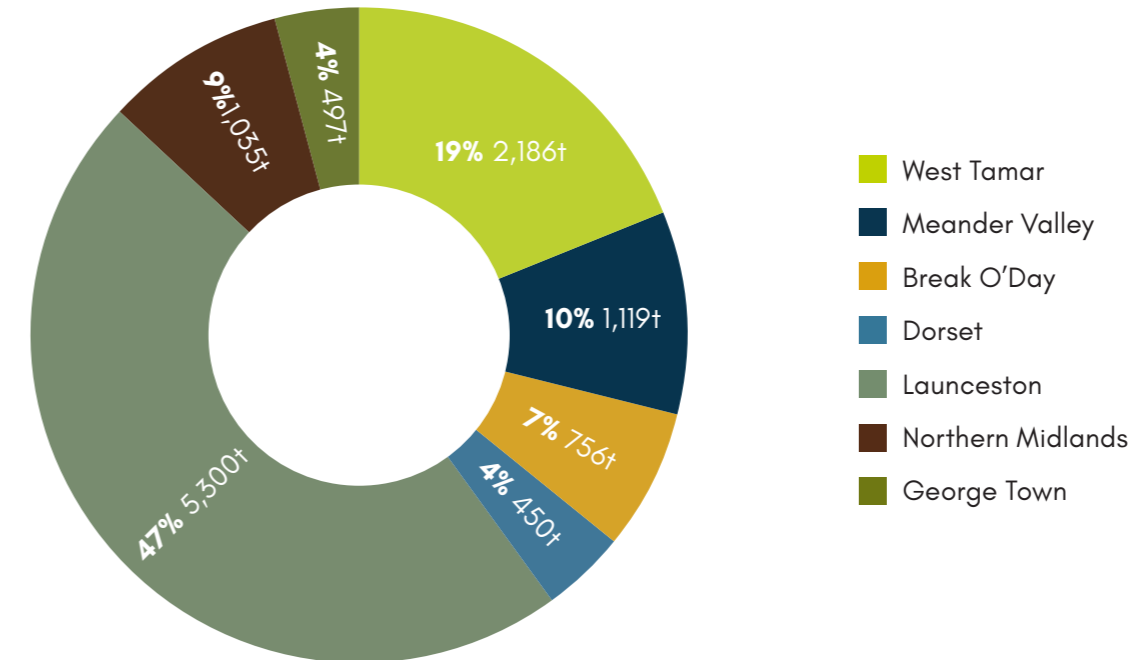
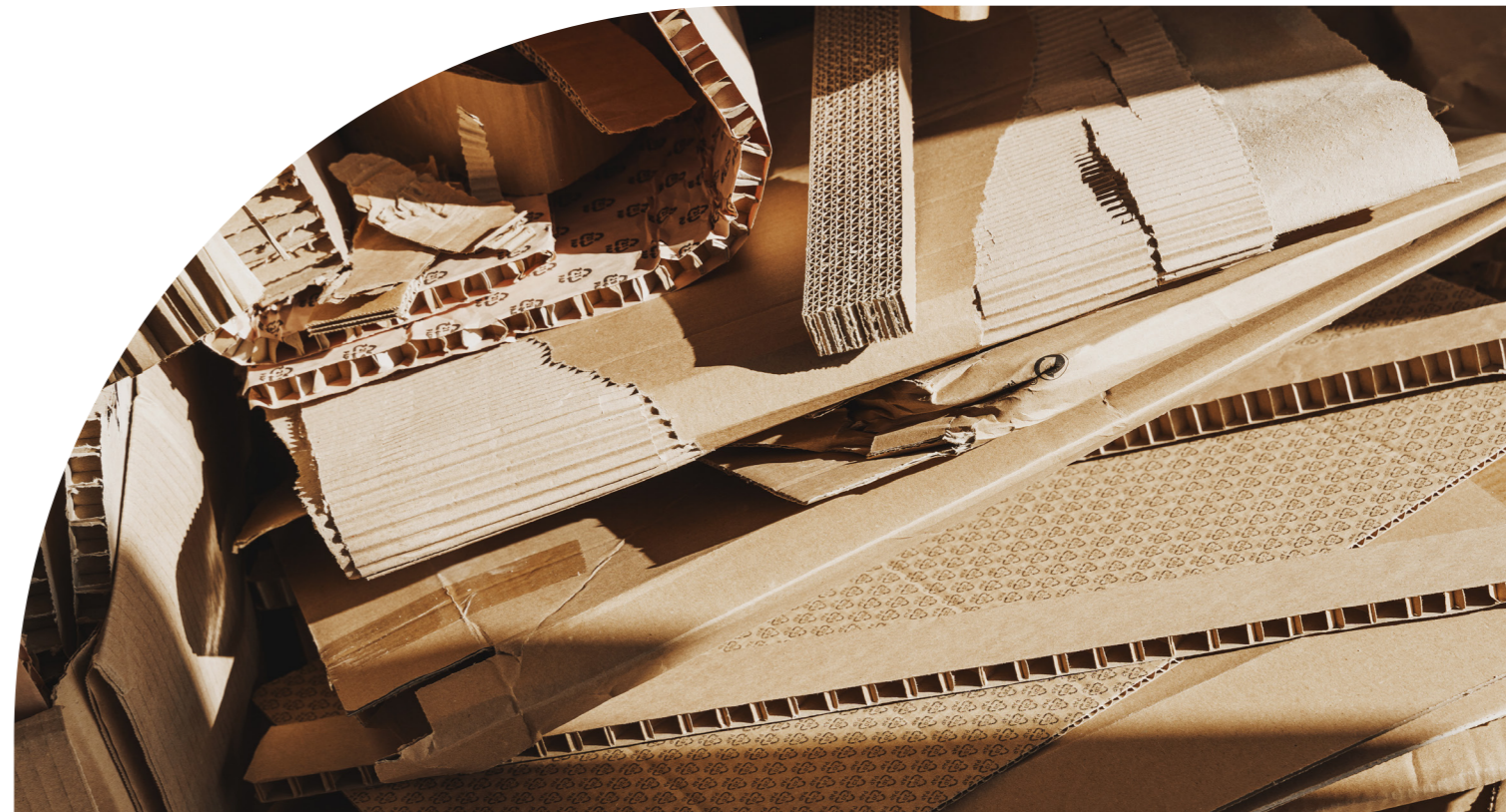


Figure 7: Kerbside commingled recycling collection by Council



4.2.2 KERBSIDE FOGO COLLECTION

Kerbside FOGO collection is offered by City of Launceston, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, and West Tamar Councils. This material is delivered to the City of Launceston composting facility and processed into product used for soil improvement. The facility also collects FOGO products from Councils outside the region and some commercial businesses, including the Launceston General Hospital.

A total of 13,563 tonnes of material was accepted through the facility in FY23. *Figure 8* displays the percentage of material collected by Councils and other sources during this period.

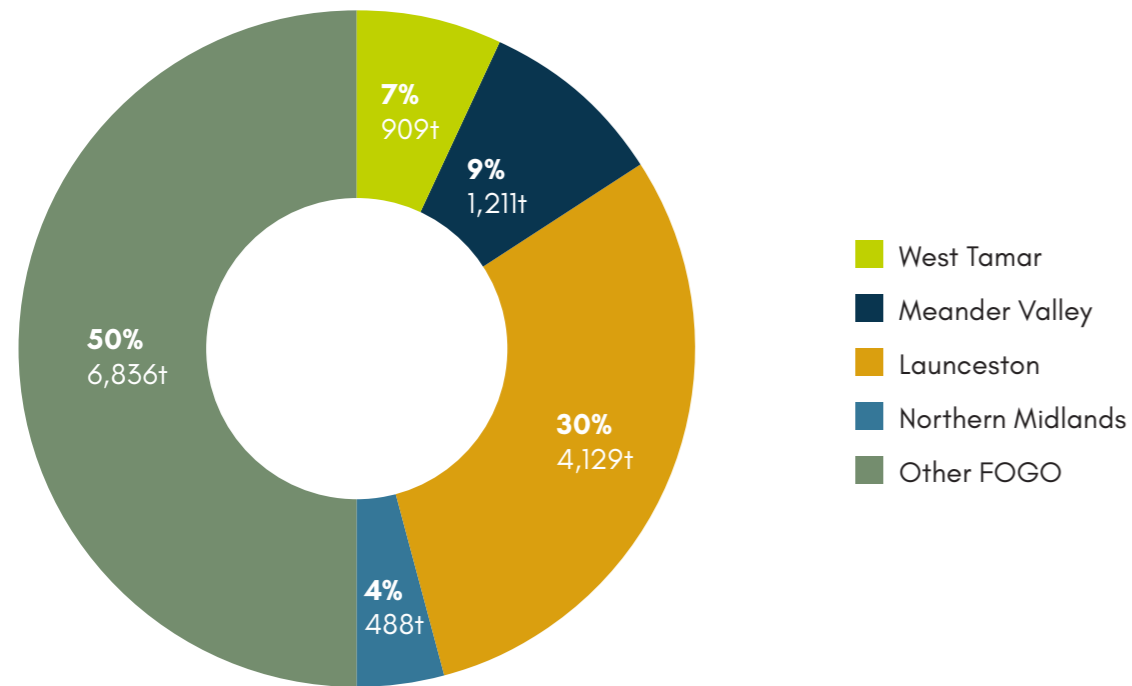


Figure 8: Total FOGO Diversion 2022-23

4.2.3 OTHER WASTE STREAMS

Due to inconsistencies of data collection at waste transfer stations, data was unavailable in FY23 for all Councils in relation to the diversion services for the following:

- Garden waste
- Tyres
- Scrap metals
- Mattresses
- Clean chemical drums
- Motor oil
- Concrete and rubble
- Timber
- Cooking oil
- Gas bottles
- Lead-acid batteries

5. FUTURE PLANS

A key project focus in FY24 is the finalisation of the five-year strategic plan, commencing with the delivery of the Interim Strategic Plan actions as set out below. The strategic plan will set measurable and achievable goals in the form of key performance indicators which will allow the NTWMP and member Councils to track progress over the five-year plan. Progress against these indicators will be measured using data provided by member Councils, or collected during specific project work, and reported on a regular basis.

5.1 STATUS OF IDENTIFIED ACTIONS

The following table details the actions approved in the 2023-24 Annual Plan and Budget.

Specific actions associated with each focus area are identified as 'confirmed' where there is certainty of delivery in FY24, or 'provisional' where actions are contingent on factors such as program staffing or pre-requisite planning and analysis that may impact timing of delivery (*Table 2*). Provisional actions will be reviewed regularly to determine their status for delivery in FY24.

Table 2: NTWMP Actions FY24

Ref	Focus area	Proposed actions	Status
1.1	Decrease waste generated rates	1.1.1 Continue to deliver regional education and engagement programs, with a focus on principles of waste reduction, correct source separation and increased recycling	Confirmed
		1.1.2 Partner with CCWMG/ STRWA to implement cross-regional communication strategy and engagement projects	Confirmed
		1.1.3 Support state programs that aim to reduce waste generation (e.g. single use plastic bans) through engagement with local community and businesses	Confirmed
1.2	Support businesses transitioning to circular economy model	1.2.1 Recognise and reward individuals, businesses and organisations via the Waste Not Awards	Confirmed
		1.2.2 Support organisations and businesses investing in projects to decrease waste generation and increase the recirculation of resources	Confirmed
		1.2.3 Regional circular economy mapping	Confirmed

Ref	Focus area	Proposed actions	Status
2.1	Improve waste diversion through kerbside collection services	2.1.1 Support Councils introducing kerbside FOGO collection services	Confirmed
		2.1.3 Continue to deliver targeted audits of kerbside waste bins and waste disposal facilities	Provisional
		2.1.4 Use kerbside audit results of residual waste bins to inform education messaging that increases the capture of recyclables	Provisional
2.3	Facilitate recycling of problematic and hazardous wastes	2.3.1 Coordinate problematic and hazardous waste collection and transportation services to member Councils (including domestic batteries, paint, fluorescent lights and EPS)	Confirmed
		2.3.2 Coordinate biennial hazardous waste collection events at a regionally central location	Provisional
3.1	Improve waste transfer station and landfill best practice standards	3.1.1 Conduct regional waste facility compliance and best practice standards review	Confirmed
		3.1.2 Invest in waste transfer station best practice upgrades	Provisional
		3.1.3 Provide infrastructure to regional waste facilities in preparation for the Container Refund Scheme	Provisional
3.2	Data management and reporting	3.2.1 Ongoing provision of waste data capture software licenses, hardware, IT support and training to member Councils	Confirmed
4.2	Five-year strategic plan	4.2.1 Develop draft five-year strategy based on principles and actions established by the Interim Strategic Plan	Confirmed
		4.2.2 Consult with member Councils, industry, sector representatives and state government in the development of a five-year strategic plan	Confirmed

APPENDIX A – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Revenue		
Funding revenue	791,655	605,575
Other Income		153,662
	791,655	759,237
Expenses		
Program Delivery	49,183	-
City of Launceston Program Delivery	184,875	392,842
NRM North Wages & Overheads	134,646	-
NRM North Administration	79,000	-
	447,704	392,842
Net surplus/(deficit)	343,951	366,395
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	343,951	366,395

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents - NTWMP	230,943	
Cash and cash equivalents - Regional waste Levy prior years	988,706	857,790
Cash and cash equivalents - NRM North Program Administration	113,008	
Total current assets	1,332,657	857,790
Non-current assets		
Non-current assets	-	-
Total non-current assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	1,332,657	857,790
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities	-	-
Total current liabilities	-	-
Non-current liabilities		
Non-current liabilities	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	-	-
NET ASSETS	1,332,657	857,790
EQUITY		
Committed Program Reserve	230,943	
Regional Waste Levy prior years Reserve	988,706	857,790
NRM North Reserve	113,008	
TOTAL EQUITY	1,332,657	857,790

APPENDIX B

PROGRESS AGAINST KEY ACTIONS IN INTERIM STRATEGIC PLAN FY23

Ref	Focus area	Actions	Delivery Status	Comments
Waste reduction and avoidance				
1.1	Decrease waste generated rates	1.1.1 Continue to deliver regional education and engagement programs, with a focus on principles of waste reduction, correct source separation and increased recycling	Ongoing	Rethink Waste website and Facebook Recycle Coach mobile application
		1.1.2 Partner with CCWMG/ STRWA to implement cross-regional communication strategy and engagement projects	Ongoing	Cross-regional communications planning with WRRB Engagement with WRRB on cross-regional priorities Engagement and review of WRRB Draft Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy
1.2	Support businesses transitioning to CE model	1.2.2 Support organisations and businesses investing in projects to decrease waste generation and increase the recirculation of resources through the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Grants	In progress	Preparation of grant management governance and infrastructure Circular economy grants applications 19 June to 4 August Assessment of applications and award of grants will occur in FY24
Resource recovery and their re-use				
2.1	Improve waste diversion through kerbside collection services	2.1.1 Support Councils introducing kerbside FOGO collection services	Ongoing	Support for communication materials and FOGO kitchen caddies to City of Launceston, Meander Valley, West Tamar and Northern Midlands Councils to implement FOGO collection services
2.3	Facilitate recycling of problematic and hazardous wastes	2.3.1 Coordinate problematic and hazardous waste collection and transportation services to member Councils (including domestic batteries, paint, fluorescent lights and EPS)	Ongoing	Ongoing facilitation and support of product stewardship schemes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint • Fluorescent bulbs and tubes • Household batteries

Improvements to regional waste disposal facilities				
3.1	Improve waste transfer station and landfill best practice standards	3.1.1 Conduct regional waste facility compliance and best practice standards review	Not started	Regional waste facility compliance and best practice standards review to be held over to FY24
3.2	Data management and reporting	3.2.1 Ongoing provision of waste data capture software licenses, hardware, IT support and training to member Councils	Ongoing	Ongoing support for waste data collection including provision of software licence for data capture
Governance and organisation				
4.1	NTWMP Transition Plan	4.1.1 Finalise Regional Waste Management Agreement with endorsement from member Councils	Complete	Regional Partnership Agreement was finalised in February 2023, all LGAs in the region are signatories to the regional agreement
		4.1.2 Develop and review governance Terms of Reference	Complete	Terms of reference have been established for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering Committee • Technical Committee • Independent Assessment Panel
4.2	Develop detailed five-year strategy	4.2.1 Develop draft five-year strategy based on principles and actions established by the Interim Strategic Plan	In progress	Procurement of a consultant to support strategy development Initial research and drafting
		4.2.2 Consult with member Councils, industry, sector representatives and state government in the development of the five-year strategy	In progress	Initial workshops with the Steering Committee and Technical Committee Targeted consultation with industry Consultation with member Councils, sector representatives, and state government to occur in July / August FY24

