circularnorth

nothing goes to waste

Circular North

Strategic Plan

2025 → 2030

Acknowledgment of Country

Circular North pays respect to the Traditional Owners of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, and acknowledge they are the ongoing custodians of land, sea and sky Country.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and strive to respect and honour the deep knowledge that Tasmanian Aboriginal people have held for thousands of years in sustainably managing the land.

As a program operating in the waste management sector, we commit to engage and work collaboratively with governments, industry and community groups, to promote the responsible use of our shared resources in alignment with enduring cultural practices.

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Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Circular North's 5-year strategic plan is aimed at supporting the region's transition to a Circular Economy. The plan introduces a vision, goals, targets, and actions to drive progress, focusing on landfill diversion and increasing resource recovery, all of which emphasise facilitating collaboration, supporting strategic alignment, and improving waste management data and reporting.

The Circular North Strategic Plan 2025-2030 identifies goals, targets and actions to align with existing national, state and local waste management strategies.

The goals are:

Goal 1 - Working towards a Circular Economy.

Goal 2 - Improve data and reporting on waste management in the region.

Goal 3 - Facilitate and improve collaboration between members, industry, community, and government across Tasmania.

Goal 4 - Support strategic alignment across all levels of waste management, including local, regional, state, and national strategies.

Goal 1

Working towards a Circular Economy

Key actions to achieve Goal 1 include:

- Reduce waste generation per capita by 9% by 2030.
- Increase capture rates for various waste streams:
  - 69% rise for Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO)
  - 80% increase for garden organics
  - 36% boost for plastics
  - 29% increase in construction and demolition (C&I) waste capture
  - 15% rise for textiles
  - 31% increase for paper and cardboard
  - 80% boost for other organics
  - 80% increase for timber
  - 9% rise for hazardous waste capture
- Encourage and support regulatory landfill compliance to reach 100%.
- Support member councils in having emergency waste management plans in place.
- Increase material recovery by 23%, necessitating sufficient recovery capacity within infrastructure and markets for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Commercial and Industrial (C&I), and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste.
- Identify priority materials for increased capture and recovery, including FOGO, hazardous waste, plastics, cardboard and paper, building and demolition waste, and textiles.
- Additional processing capacity of 90,000 tonnes and viable end-use markets are required by 2030 to achieve Goal 1.

Goal 2

Improve data and reporting on waste management in the region

Key actions to achieve Goal 2 include:

- Ensure regional understanding of data collection and reporting compliance requirements to enhance transparency and accountability in waste management practices.
- Develop data dashboards and regional carbon modelling of waste management options to generate new datasets to facilitate informed decision making.
- Implement weighbridges or other infrastructure to ensure accurate waste measurement and recording.
- Establish reliable data reporting mechanisms to streamline data collection processes.
- Leverage regional shared resources to enable effective data collation and auditing to monitor progress and identify areas for improvement.

Goal 3

Facilitate and improve collaboration between members, industry, community, and government across Tasmania

Key actions to achieve Goal 3 include:

- Enhance stakeholder awareness of material flows in the region and a greater understanding of priority materials for a Circular Economy.
- Conduct feasibility studies for market development of priority materials and establish industry standards for material reuse to guide private investment.
- Develop a procurement policy to streamline processes and facilitate business engagement.
- Promote collaboration through the formation of an industry working group and formalisation of information sharing mechanisms.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange through ongoing technical committee meetings.
- Foster public involvement in waste management initiatives through community engagement programmes.

Goal 4

Support strategic alignment across all levels of waste management, including local, regional, state, and national strategies

Key actions to achieve Goal 4 include:

- Support a regionally cohesive approach to waste management.
- Facilitate the alignment of member council waste management strategies with the regional strategy.
- Establish consistent waste operations and bin standards and advocate on behalf of the group.
- Develop procurement specifications for efficiency amongst councils.
- Support a region-wide Circular Economy.
- Promote reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging.

Impact of achieving the goals

By implementing these actions, the Circular North Strategic Plan aims to significantly reduce waste generation by 61,000 tonnes and divert an additional 94,000 tonnes of various materials from landfill per annum by 2030.

The plan supports member councils to address environmental risks and impacts of landfill compliance while reducing compliance costs. This will minimise environmental damage, ensure public health and safety, facilitate quicker disaster recovery, improve regional waste management coordination, and reduce economic losses.

The plan proposes the analysis of infrastructure needs is necessary to meet future waste management needs in northern Tasmania. Feasibility studies will identify priority materials that have viable end-markets, therefore ensuring demand for processed material.

In line with the plan, operating standards and processed material outputs will be standardised to boost confidence in waste management processes among regional stakeholders. This, along with upgraded infrastructure, aims to streamline procurement, enhance efficiency, and ensure consistent service and product quality. Adherence to standards will enable transparent reporting practices, while enhancing community engagement and informed decision-making. A consistent framework for data collection and audits will support reliable and timely reporting, ensuring accuracy and efficiency of waste management practices across the northern region.

The plan also focuses on improved communication with the community, industry and government about waste management priorities, impacts, and costs. This will lead to a more consistent and efficient approach to regional waste management that aligns with best practices.

From 2025-2030, the Circular North Strategic Plan will ensure ongoing technical and peer support to enable adaptive and accurate program outcomes and maintain effective member participation.

Implementation and monitoring

The Circular North Strategic Plan includes an action plan which outlines the order and length of activities between 2025 and 2030, with targets designed to be clearly monitored and evaluated by the Circular North Steering Committee.

2

The Circular North Program

The Circular North Program

2.1 Program overview

2.1.1 Program role and function

Circular North serves as a comprehensive resource for northern Tasmanian communities, businesses, and local governments, offering advice, funding, and education to enhance waste management and recycling practices while facilitating collaboration among local councils and industries to improve the region's overall waste management strategies.

Circular North (formerly known as the Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group/Program) was established in 2007 under City of Launceston. The program was funded through a voluntary landfill levy ($7.50/tonne in 2022). This revenue stream, totalling $686,000 for FY21, was the sole funding source for employing staff and providing waste management services.

The introduction of the state-wide landfill levy in 2022 removed Circular North's previous revenue stream. However, the organisation was able to temporarily rely on reserve funding to sustain operations.

In 2023, the role of program host shifted from City of Launceston to NRM North, a regional organisation dedicated to natural resource management in northern Tasmania. NRM North established a new governance structure and secured funding, rebranding to program to Circular North in 2024.

Currently, Circular North is supported by the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board, funded under the Support for Regional Authorities 2022-23 to 2024-25 Grant Deed. Funding for Circular North is determined based on the average tonnage managed by waste facilities in the region over the past three years.

As of 2025, Circular North's partners include NRM North as well as the region's eight local councils of Break O'Day, Dorset, Flinders Island, George Town, Launceston, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands and West Tamar.

2.1.2 Governance structure

Circular North is governed by a partnership agreement between NRM North and the region's eight councils. NRM North and its Management Committee is responsible for program delivery including financial due diligence, operational decisions, delivery of milestones and reporting as specified by the funding agreement.

The Steering Committee is one of two advisory groups for the program, comprising representatives from member councils and NRM North. The Steering Committee's role is to provide overarching guidance, advice, and oversight of Circular North in accordance with the committee's Terms of Reference.

The Technical Committee provides technical advice and input to program design, and ongoing evaluation and improvement of the program, particularly in relation to development and implementation of processes and plans including application and assessment processes, communications, and engagement planning.

The Independent Assessment Panel provides an assessment of project applications and substantial procurements. The panel has an independent Chair and is comprised of one NRM North staff member, one representative from local government, and one industry representative.

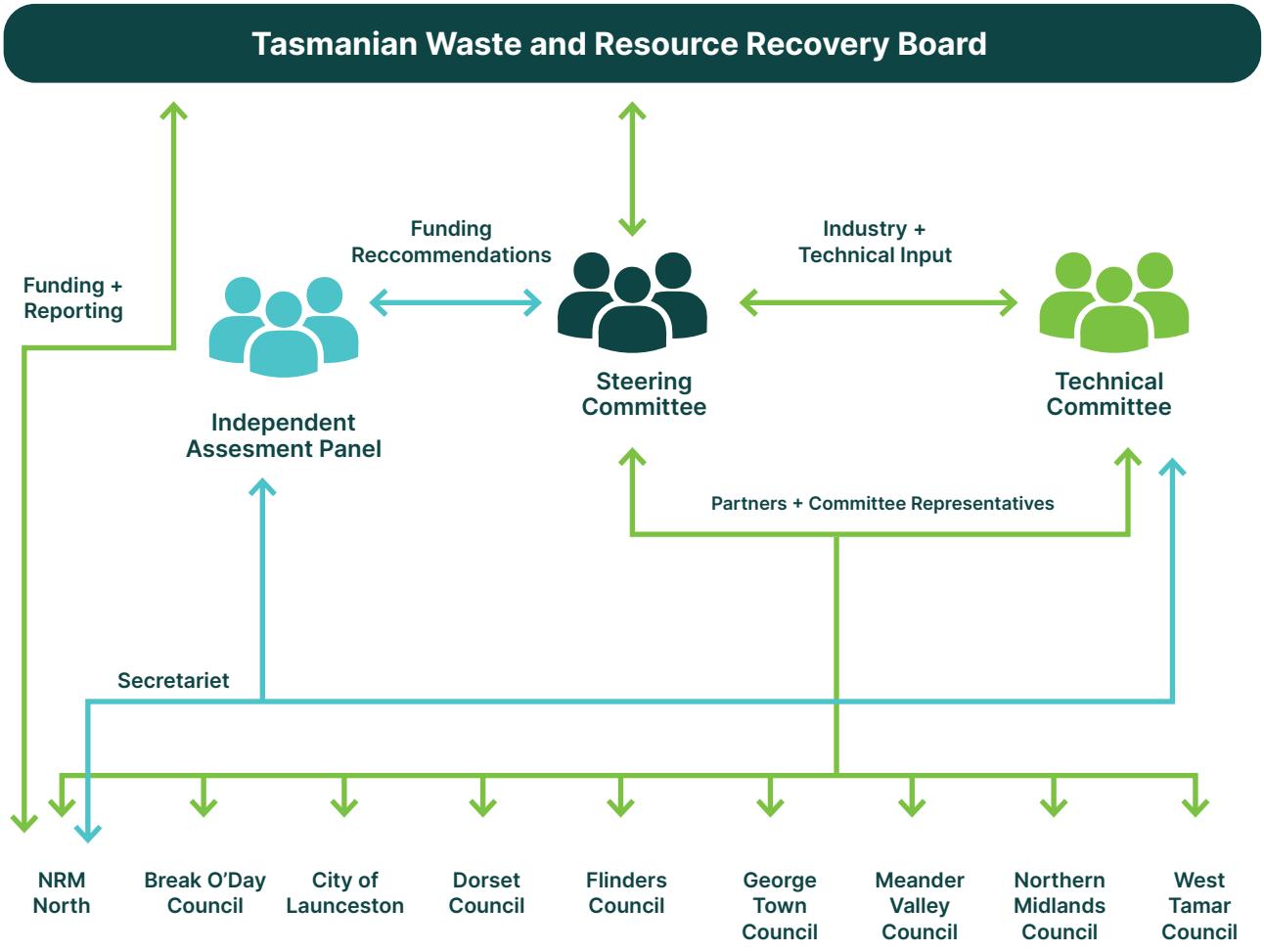


Figure 1 **The governance framework of CIrcular North**

3

The Vision

Vision

The Circular North vision is to:

Support northern Tasmania to transition to a Circular Economy by fostering collaboration and resource-sharing at a regional level, while aligning closely with state and national waste management targets.

Four goals (detailed in Table 2 below) have been developed to guide Circular North towards its vision, enabling a holistic approach to improving waste management in the region. These goals encompass Circular North's role in supporting stakeholders, facilitating improvements in infrastructure, leading strategic direction, and advocating for regional development.

Goal 1

Working towards a Circular Economy

Circular North will achieve this by understanding material flows and identifying materials suited to circularity, improving industry capacity and resilience, increasing landfill diversion and recovery capacity, engaging businesses, reducing waste generation per capita, and enhancing landfill and transfer station design and management practices

Goal 2

Improve data and reporting on waste management in the region

Circular North will achieve this by tracking progress towards strategic targets, ensuring regulatory compliance, providing transparent and interactive community reporting, and calculating and communicating the carbon footprint of waste management operations

Goal 3

Facilitate and improve collaboration between members, industry, community, and government across Tasmania

Circular North will achieve this by sharing resources, facilitating technical knowledge, efficiently using resources for Circular Economy and market development, integrating the industry into governance, fostering good working relationships, executing joint procurement, and engaging communities and businesses

Goal 4

Support strategic alignment across all levels of waste management, including local, regional, state, and national strategies

Circular North will achieve this by supporting regional consistency, aligning closely with the state strategy, maintaining consistent partner operations across regions, advocating and lobbying, and adopting a coherent procurement policy

Table 2 **Circular North's four goals for 2025-2030**

Household hazardous waste collection

4

Development Plan

Developing the 2025 – 2030 Circular North Strategic Plan

The development process of the Circular North Strategic Plan is detailed in Attachment 1 the *Circular North Strategic Plan Development Report*. It includes the following components:

- Review of existing strategies and policies: a detailed analysis of waste management strategies and policies at national, state, and local levels. This review identified common strategic themes and targets and allowed critical assessment of the NTWMP Interim Strategic Plan.
- Gap analysis: an investigation that identified gaps in the Interim Strategic Plan themes, targets, and performance indicators against the review of other strategies and policies. This analysis was crucial in guiding the refinement of the vision for the Circular North Strategic Plan and the development of preliminary objectives and targets.
- Current and future waste management analysis: examination of waste facilities, generation, and treatment for the years 2023 and 2030. This involved collecting data on waste facility throughput, extrapolating waste generation data, and modelling waste management to inform objectives and targets for the Circular North Strategic Plan 2025-2030 by identifying priority materials.
- Consultation: extensive consultation was carried out with councils, government bodies, and industry stakeholders through interviews and workshops. The purpose was to gather insights, and identify priorities, challenges, opportunities for regional infrastructure and development, and to assess previous Circular North activities. This collaborative approach was essential for developing strategic themes and initiatives, while aligning with stakeholder expectations.
- Goals and targets: based on outcomes of reviews, analyses, and consultation, the four goals were developed to guide Circular North towards the vision. Targets and actions were established, along with suggested implementation tasks to achieve these goals. The development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) assist progress assessment.
- Strategy model for 2030: A waste projection model was developed to project waste generation from 2023 to 2030 focusing on priority materials for increased diversion from landfill. This model was instrumental in quantifying actions to achieve the strategic plan targets, including waste generation reduction and increased material recovery rates.

Refer to Attachment 1 the Circular North Strategic Plan Development Report for review of the research, consultation and methodology for development of this Strategic Plan.

5

The northern region

Craig Reucassel with Northern Midlands Council's mobile recycling trailer.

The northern region

5.1 Members

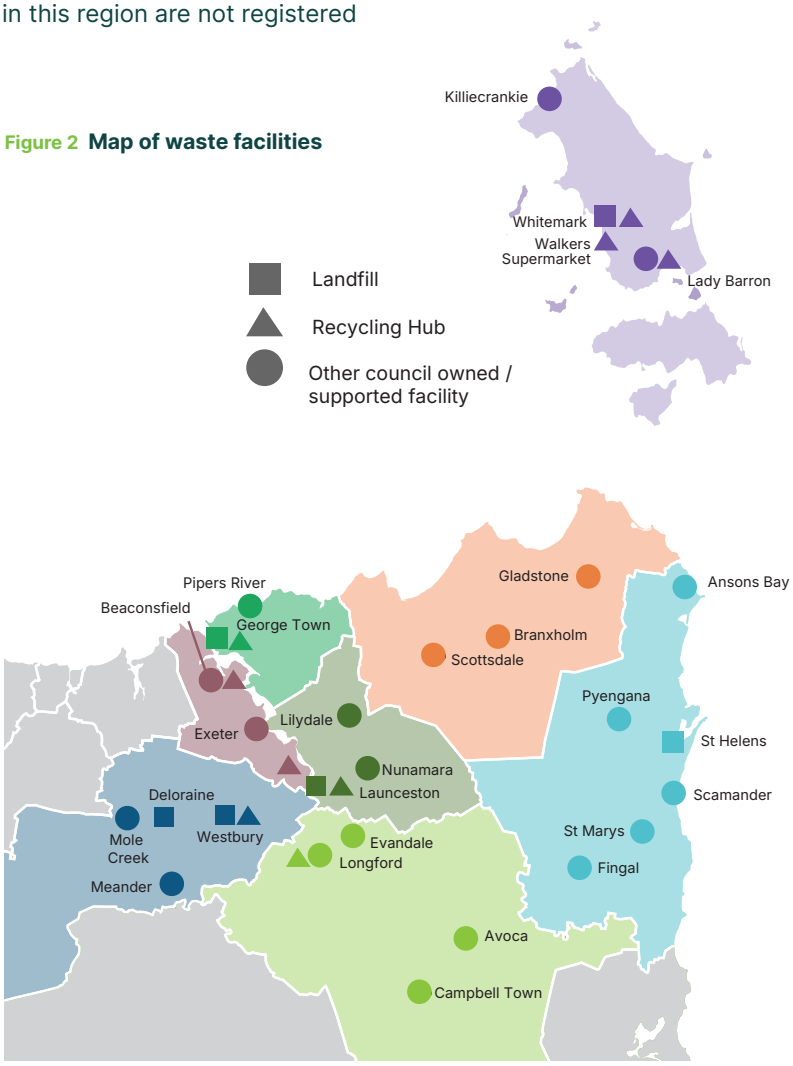
Circular North consists of eight member councils: Break O'Day, Dorset, Flinders, George Town, City of Launceston, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, and West Tamar.

5.2 Facilities

A map of waste facilities located in each of the Circular North municipalities is provided in Figure 2. Waste facilities cover activities such as storage, processing, and landfilling. The only active registered landfill in northern Tasmania is in Launceston. Many waste facilities in this region are not registered and facility data is not adequately and consistently reported on by all councils. There is also a lack of publicly accessible data, therefore Figure 2 is only reflective of a portion of facilities in the region. See section 5.4 (Service Provision) for more information.

Refer to Attachment 1 the *Circular North Strategic Plan Development Report* for more detail on facility data.

Figure 2 **Map of waste facilities**



BREAK O'DAY
- **Anson's Bay** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Fingal** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Pyenganna** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Scammander** - Waste Transfer Station
- **St Helens** - Waste Transfer Station + Inert Landfill
- **St Mary's** - Waste Transfer Station

DORSET
- **Branxholm** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Gladstone** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Scottsdale** - Waste Transfer Station

FLINDERS
- **Walkers Supermarket** - Recycling Hub
- **Whitemark** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Flinders Council Waste Facility** - Recycling Hub
- **Lady Barron** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Lady Barron Store** - Recycling Hub
- **Killiecrankie** - Waste Transfer Station

GEORGE TOWN
- **George Town** - Waste Depot
- **George Town Council office** - Recycling Hub
- **Pipers River** - Transfer Station

LAUNCESTON
- **Launceston** - Waste Centre + Landfill
- **Launceston Town Hall** - Recycling Hub
- **Lilydale** - Transfer Station
- **Nunamara** - Transfer Station

MEANDER VALLEY
- **Deloraine** - Waste Disposal Site
- **Mole Creek** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Westbury** - Waste Disposal Site + Landfill
- **Westbury Primary School** - Recycling Hub
- **Meander** - Waste Transfer Station

NORTHERN MIDLANDS
- **Avoca** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Campbell Town** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Evandale** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Longford** - Waste Transfer Station
- **Northern Midlands Council** - recycling trailer

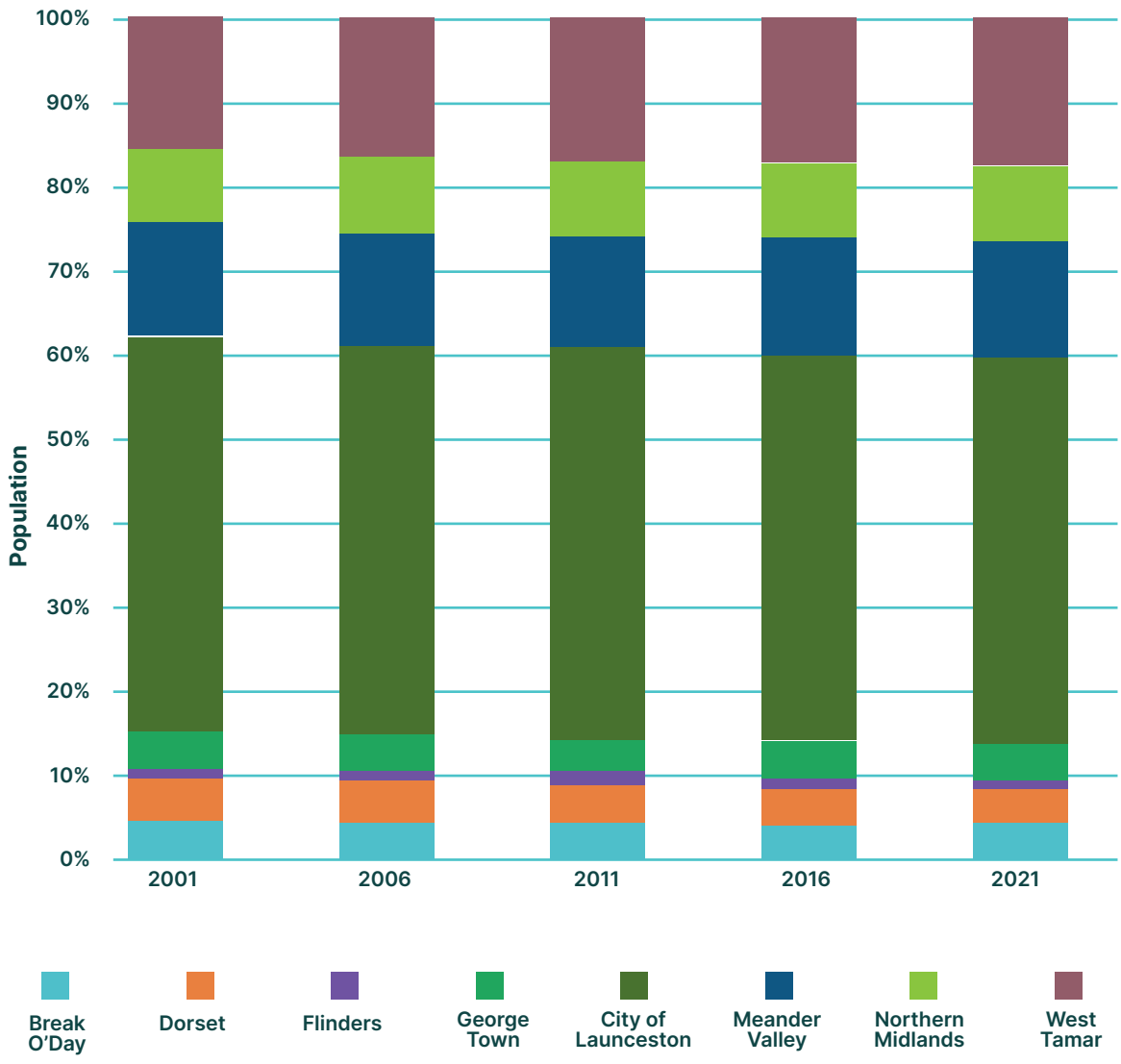
WEST TAMAR
- **Beaconsfield** - Waste Depot
- **Exeter** - Transfer Station
- **West Tamar Council Riverside** - Recycling Hub
- **West Tamar Council Beaconsfield** - Recycling Hub

5.3 Population

Circular North member councils extend over 20,116 km² in the northern Tasmania region, which comprises diverse areas including the urban centre of Launceston, along with various townships, settlements, and rural landscapes. The region's economy is largely driven in rural areas through agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining, viticulture, and fishing.

The region comprises a sparsely distributed population of 150,899 people as of 2023. More than half (54%) of the region's total population lives in the seven council areas of Break O'Day, Dorset, Flinders, George Town, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, and West Tamar. The remaining 46% resides in the City of Launceston. Figure 3 shows historical population data from 2001 to 2021 (ABS[3]). The overall average population growth rate for the northern Tasmania region is 0.69% per annum.

Figure 3 **Population growth of council in the northern Tasmania region**



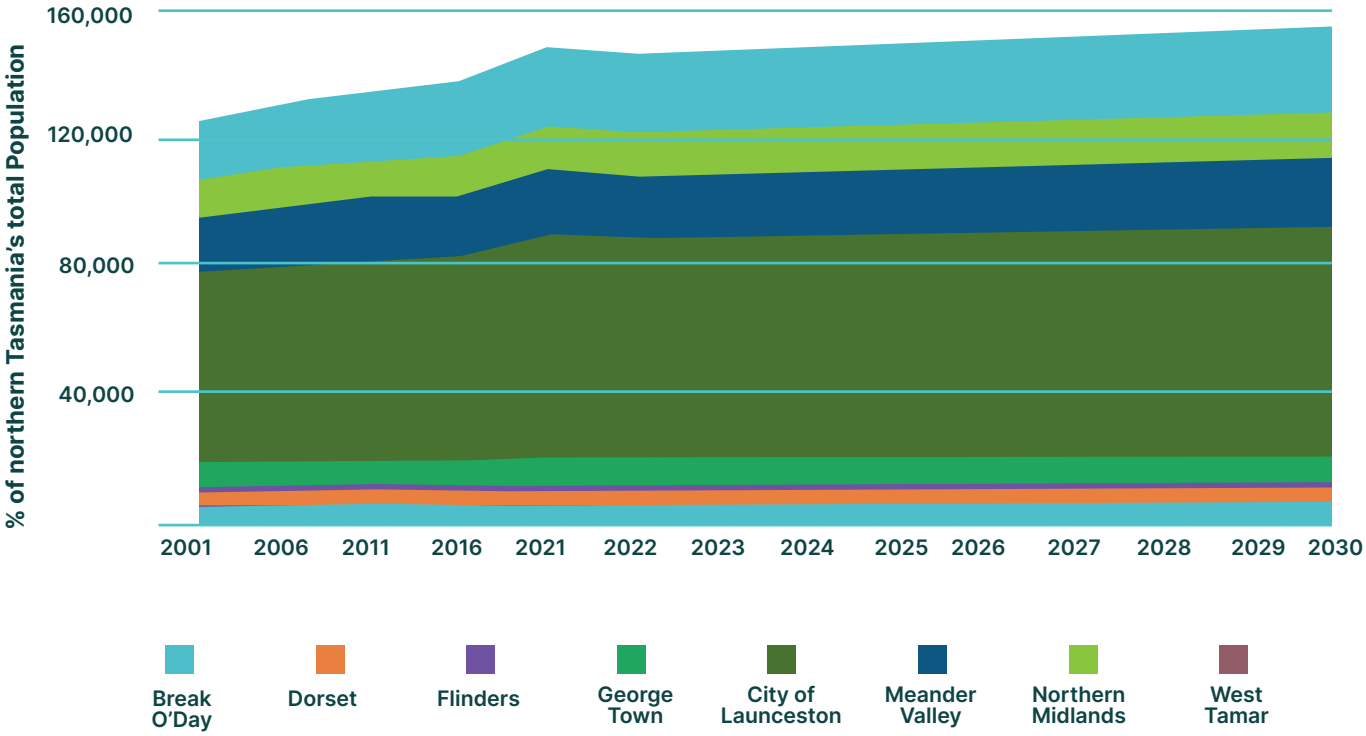
[2]Northern Tasmania Region Community Profile, 'Land area', Profile.id, (2023)

[3]Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Census Data 2001 – 2021, (2021)

5.3.1 Population projections

Figure 4 shows the population in northern Tasmania is forecast to increase from 150,899 in 2023 to 158,262 in 2030, with the council areas of Launceston, West Tamar, Northern Midlands and Meander Valley leading the region's population growth.

Figure 4 **Northern Tasmania population projection 2021 to 2031**



5.4 Service provision

Other than Flinders, all councils provide a kerbside general waste and recycling collection service to a portion of their ratepayers, typically those in more densely populated areas. Four of the eight member councils provide a kerbside FOGO collection service, mostly on an opt-in voluntary basis.

Organics service provision across the region also includes drop-off at waste transfer stations. This approach means the yield of organics for participating councils appears lower than if these services were compulsory.

6

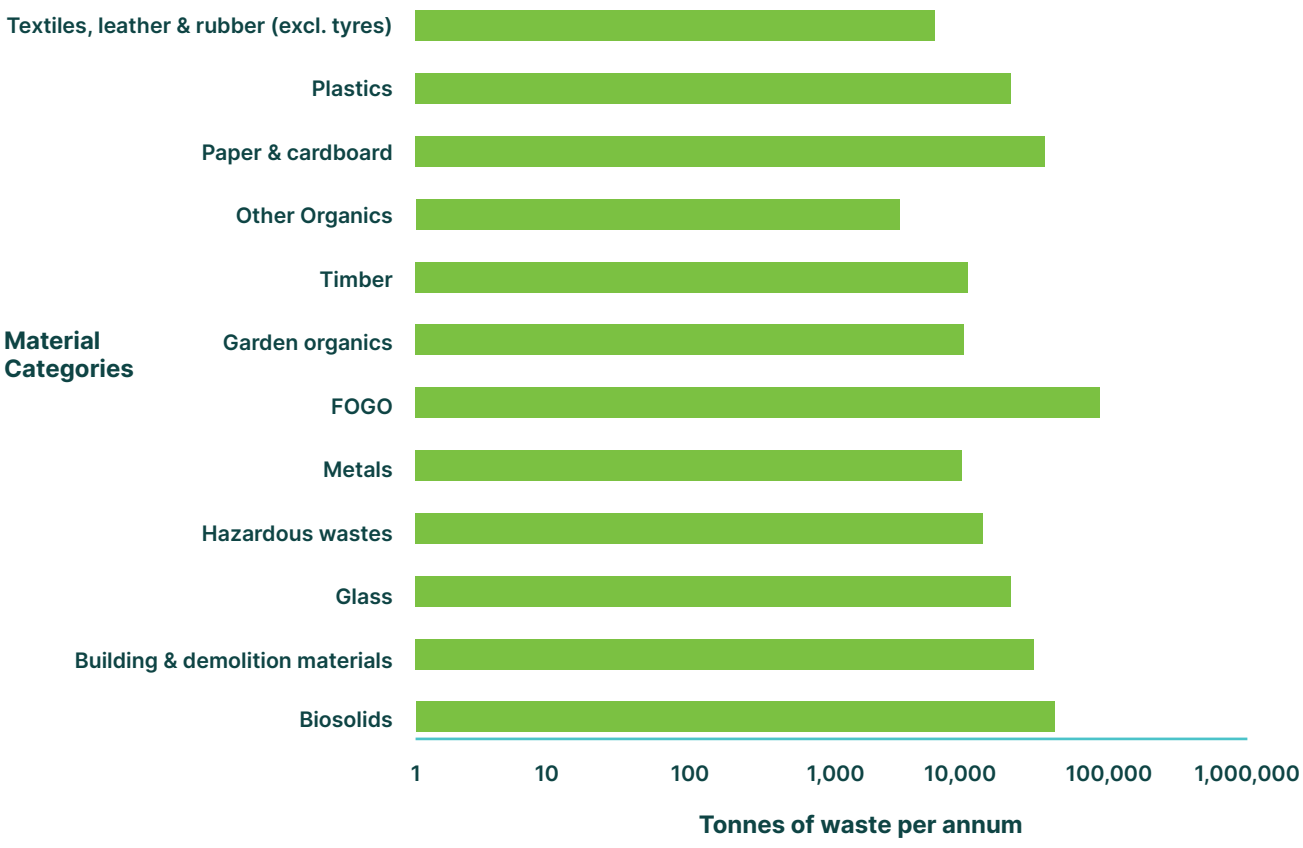
Status of waste and resource recovery

Status of waste and resource recovery in 2023

6.1 Waste generation

Figure 5 shows total waste generation for the northern Tasmanian region in 2023. Total waste generation was approximately 574,000 tonnes. The greatest volume of materials generated in 2023 include hazardous waste (336,000 tonnes), FOGO (84,000 tonnes), paper and cardboard (33,000 tonnes), biosolids (30,000 tonnes), and building and demolition materials (22,000 tonnes). Refer to attachment 1 the ***Circular North Strategic Plan Development Report*** for details on the methodology for waste generation calculations.

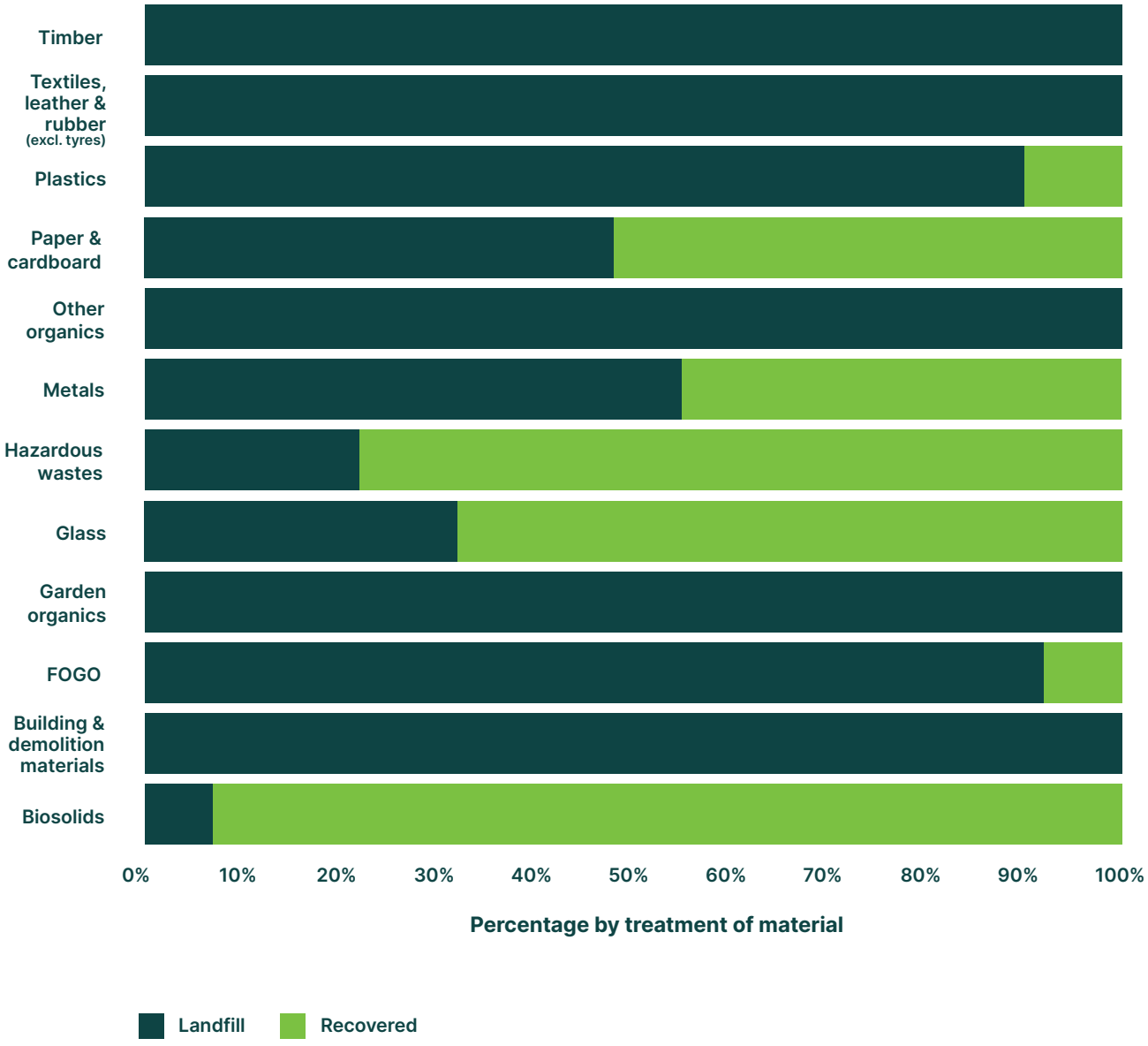
Figure 5 **Waste generated in northern Tasmania in 2023**



6.2 Waste treatment

Figure 6 provides a breakdown of each material category based on whether the material is recovered or landfilled. Overall, half of the total waste materials are recovered (57%), with the remaining 43% landfilled. Materials with the highest rate of landfilling include garden organics (100%), timber (100%), other organics (100%), construction and demolition materials (98%), and textiles, leather and rubber (excluding tyres) (98%), followed by FOGO (92%). Refer to Attachment 1 the ***Circular North Strategic Plan Development Report*** for details on the methodology for calculating of waste treatment

Figure 6 **Current waste treatment pathways in northern Tasmania**



6.3 Waste sources

Figure 7 shows waste generation in northern Tasmania's by source of municipal solid waste (MSW), commercial and industrial (C&I), and construction and demotion (C&D). C&I waste generation amounts to 78% of total generation which is significantly higher than MSW (14%) and C&D (8%).[1]

Figure 8 shows recovery and landfilling of materials from the three waste source streams. The high proportion of C&I waste generation is reflected in elevated rates of both material recovery (58%) and landfill disposal (92%). In contrast, MSW contributes to recovered materials by 25% and landfilling by 6%, and C&D contributes to recovered materials by 17% and landfilling by 2%.

Figure 7 Total waste generation by source of MSW, C&I, and C&D

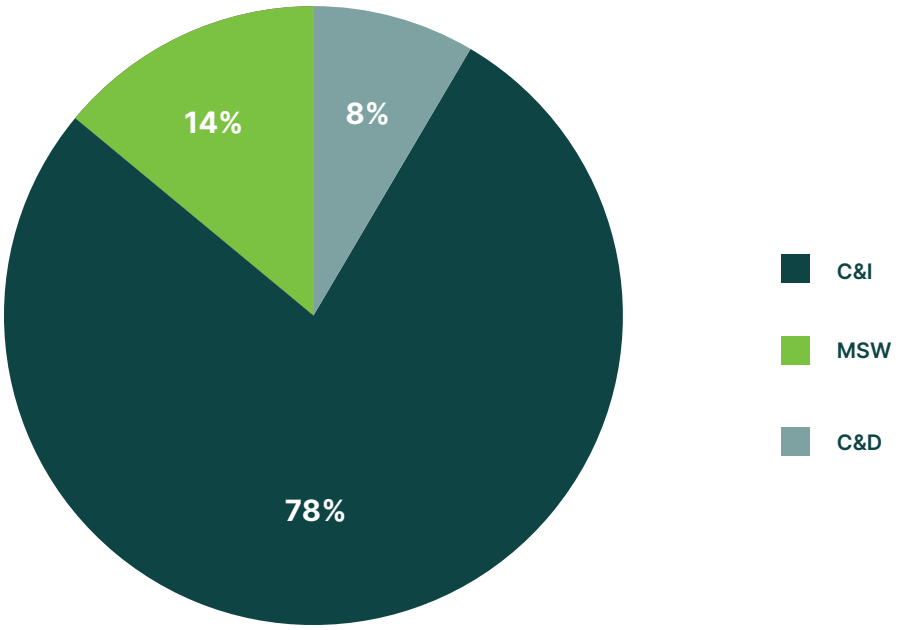
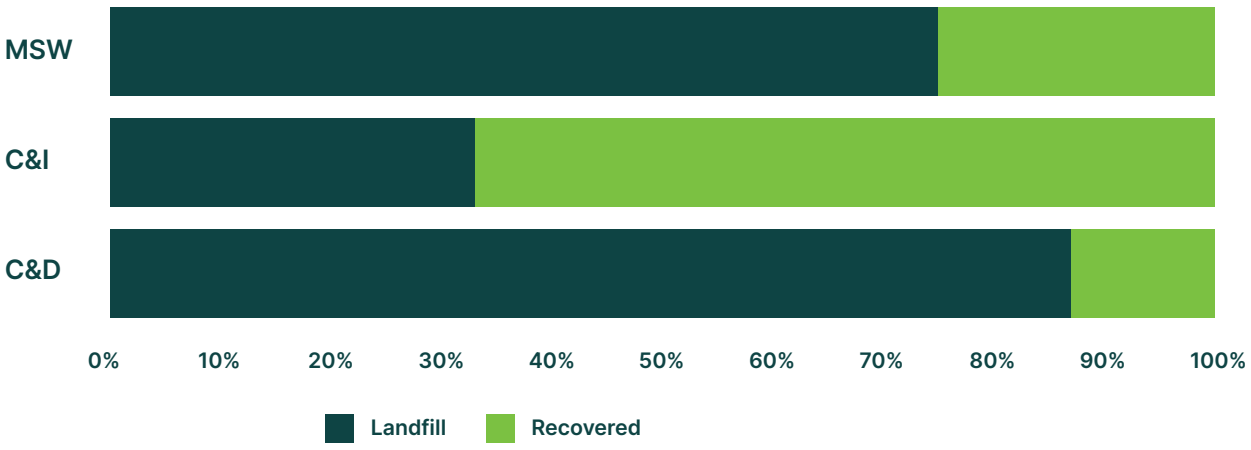


Figure 8 Waste source streams



[1]National waste report 2022, Blue environment, Prepared for Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, (2023)

7

Where do we want to get to?

Household hazardous waste collection

Where do we want to get to?

7.1 Waste generation

A desktop review was conducted on waste management strategies and targets from a national to local scale to identify qualitative and quantitative gaps in the previous NTWMG 2017-2022 Strategy and targets.

Identified gaps informed the development of the vision, targets and actions for this plan to align with all other jurisdictional strategies. Refer to the 'vision' section of this plan and Attachment 1 the ***Circular North Strategic Plan Development Report*** for the full methodology and findings of the desktop review.

7.2 Thematic gap analysis of existing strategies

A desktop review on qualitative targets showed that the previous NTWMG 2017-2022 Strategy broadly aligned with the strategic themes noted in other national and state strategies. However, the thematic review did find there was a gap in targets focusing on waste avoidance, and technology and innovation.

This plan incorporates goals and targets to address these gaps.

7.3 Quantitative targets

Common quantitative targets were also identified in the desktop review. These were mainly a product of strategy and policy alignment with the National Waste Policy[4]. Quantitative targets shared with national and state waste strategies are outlined in Table 3.

Theme	Target
Waste avoidance	Reduce total waste generated in Australia by 10% per person by 2030
Resource recovery	80% average resource recovery rate from all waste streams following the waste hierarchy by 2030
Waste avoidance	Reduce waste generated in Tasmania by 5% per person by 2026, and 10% by 2030
Regulations and market demand	Advocate for 100% of packaging to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2026
Resource recovery	Achieve a 40% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2026 and 80% by 2030
Organics diversion	Reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 25% by 2026 and 50% by 2030
Organics diversion	Reduce food waste by 50% by 2030 and reduce the volume of food waste sent to landfill by 25% by 2026 and 50% by 2030

Table 3 Common qualitative targets identified in the policy and strategy review

[4] National Waste Policy, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2018 National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources, (2018)

8

Waste and resource recovery in 2030

Composting at Tamar Valley Steiner School

Waste and resource recovery in 2030

8.1 Waste modelling

Waste data was collected, collated and analysed for 2023 to set the baseline for the plan and to identify priority materials. Subsequently, waste generation in the region was modelled from 2023 – 2030 to determine future waste management needs and to inform development of goals and targets.

A baseline scenario was developed and assessed to understand annual waste generation, recovery, and landfilling in a business-as-usual scenario with no investment in achieving the targets of this Circular North Strategic Plan. Refer to attachment 1 the ***Circular North Strategic Plan Development Report*** for details on the methodology for modelling.

In comparison, a strategy scenario where the quantitative targets outlined in Section 7.3 are achieved was assessed. The gap for waste generation, landfilling and recovery between these two scenarios was investigated to develop the actions and suggested implementation tasks for the Circular North Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

8.2 Priority materials

Waste modelling identified priority materials with high opportunity for diversion from landfill including FOGO, hazardous waste, plastics, cardboard, and paper, building and demolition material and textiles. High priority materials were the materials with the highest landfilling rate that could be viably captured and recovered to align with national, state and local strategic targets.

8.3 Alignment with other strategies

The additional waste management requirements to align with existing national, regional and local waste management strategies were identified by assessing the gap between the business-as-usual scenario and the strategy scenario.

The requirements to achieve the Circular North Strategic Plan 2025-2030 are shown in Table 4.

Assumption	by 2026	by 2030
FOGO capture rate from putrescible waste	50%	75%
Organic capture rate from putrescible waste	40%	80%
Paper and cardboard capture rate from putrescible waste		65%
Hazardous waste capture rate from putrescible waste		40%
Plastic capture rate from putrescible waste		40%
Construction and demolition capture rate from putrescible waste		30%
Textile capture rate from putrescible waste		15%
Average resource recovery	40%	80%
Waste generation per capita reduction	5%	10%
Reduction of organics to landfill	25%	50%

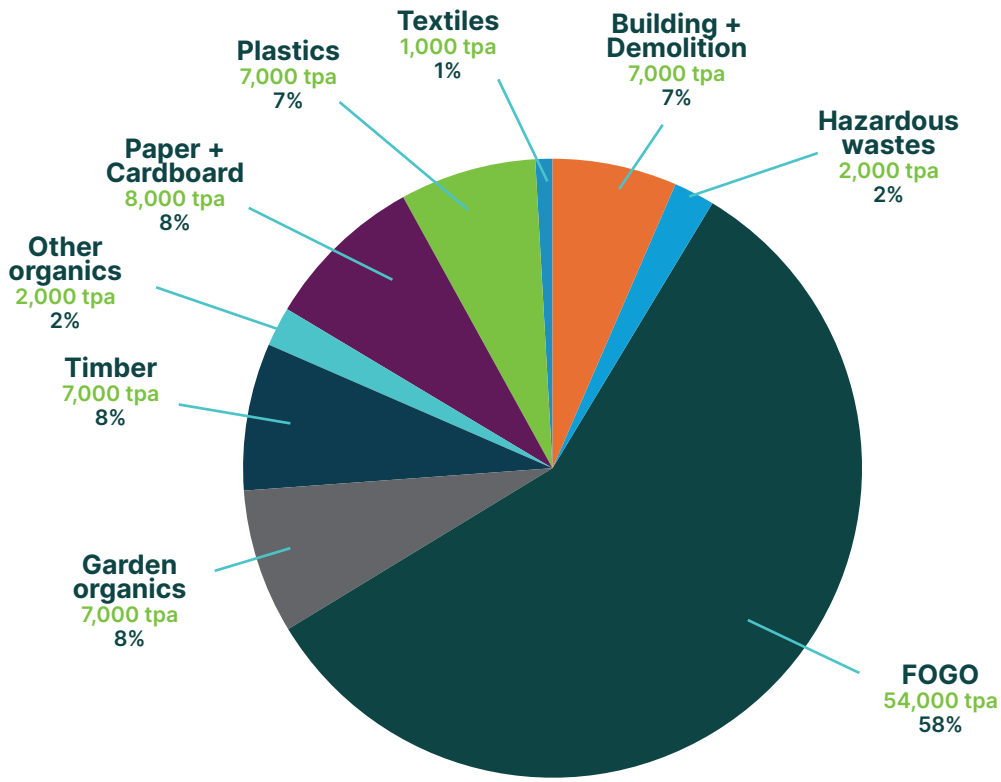
Table 4 Requirements to achieve the Circular North Strategic PLan 2025-2030 targets

Refer to Attachment 1 the ***Circular North Strategic Program Development Report*** for details on the methodology for modelling, as well as waste generation, landfilling, and recovery in 2030.

Regional waste generation is modelled to decrease from 574,000 tonnes in 2023 to 545,000 tonnes in 2030, which is an 11% reduction on business-as-usual (606,000 tonnes) to align with National Waste Targets.

To achieve 2030 targets, recovery must increase from 326,000 tonnes in 2023 to 434,000 tonnes in 2030, which is an additional 90,000 tonnes compared to business-as usual (344,000 tonnes). The top materials modelled to be recovered in 2030 include hazardous waste (275,000 tonnes), FOGO (62,000 tonnes), biosolids (26,000 tonnes), paper and cardboard (26,000 tonnes), and plastics (9,000 tonnes). Under the strategy projection model, Circular North will need to achieve an average material recovery rate of 80% to meet the targets. Additional material recovery required by 2030 to achieve these targets is outlined in Figure 9.

Figure 9 **Additional material recovery required in 2030**



To achieve the targets, landfilling must decrease from 247,000 tonnes in 2023 to 111,000 tonnes in 2030, which is 150,000 tonnes less than business as usual (261,000 tonnes) resulting from reduced waste generation and increased diversion. The top materials modelled to be landfilled in 2030 include hazardous wastes (44,000 tonnes), FOGO (18,000 tonnes), construction and demolition waste (14,000 tonnes), plastics (10,000 tonnes) and paper and cardboard (5,000 tonnes).

The strategic themes, goals and actions in this plan have been designed to achieve the modelled targets.

9

How will we get there?

Household hazardous waste collection

How will we get there?

A series of targets and actions were developed based on the priority materials identified and the strategy waste projection model outputs. These targets aim to increase capture rates, increase resource recovery, and reduce waste generation per capita.

9.1 Goal 1 targets and actions

Targets, actions, and suggested implementation tasks for Goal 1 are provided in Table 5.

Goal 1: Working towards a Circular Economy

Circular North will achieve this by understanding material flows and identifying materials suited to circularity, improving industry capacity and resilience, increasing landfill diversion and recovery capacity, engaging businesses, and enhancing landfill and transfer station design and management practices.

Key actions to achieve the targets include:

- Reducing waste generation per capita by a total of 9% by 2030
- Increasing capture rates across various waste streams including:
  - 69% for FOGO
  - 80% for garden organics
  - 36% for plastics
  - 29% for construction and demolition waste
  - 15% for textiles
  - 31% for paper and cardboard
  - 80% for other organics
  - 80% for timber
  - 9% for hazardous waste
- Supporting improvements to regulatory compliance of landfills to 100%
- Supporting member councils in maintaining emergency waste management plans.
- Enabling a 23% increase in material recovery
- Ensuring sufficient recovery capacity infrastructure and markets for MSW, C&I and C&D.

Table 5 Targets and actions

Target	Action	Impact if achieved
Increase landfill diversion by 23% by 2030	**1.1 Reduce waste generation per capita by a total of 9% by 2030**	Total waste generation in the region is reduced by 61,000 tonnes in 2030
	1.2 Increase FOGO capture rate by 69%	An additional 54,000 tonnes of FOGO is captured in 2030. This represents 57% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target
	1.3 Increase garden organics capture rate by 80%	An additional 7,000 tonnes of garden organics is captured in 2030. This represents 7.5% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target
	1.4 Increase plastics capture rate by 36%	An additional 7,000 tonnes of plastics is captured in 2030. This represents 7.5% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target

Target	Action	Impact if achieved
Increase landfill diversion by 23% by 2030	**1.5 Increase construction and demolition capture rate by 29%**	An additional 6,000 tonnes of construction and demolition material is captured in 2030. This represents 6% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target
	1.6 Increase textiles capture rate by 15%	An additional 1,000 tonnes of textile material is captured in 2030. This represents 1% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target
	1.7 Increase paper and cardboard capture rate by 31%	An additional 8,000 tonnes of paper and cardboard material is captured in 2030. This represents 8.5% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target
	1.8 Increase other organics capture rate by 80%	An additional 2,000 tonnes of other organics is captured in 2030. This represents 2% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target
	1.9 Increase timber capture rate by 80%	An additional 7,000 tonnes of timber is captured in 2030. This represents 7.5% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target
	1.10 Increase hazardous waste capture rate by 9%	An additional 2,000 tonnes of hazardous waste is captured in 2030. This represents 2.5% of the capture requirement to meet the landfill diversion target
Improve landfill operations and management	**1.11 Increase regulatory compliance of landfills to 100%**	Reduced environmental risk and impact, enhanced public health and safety, and reduced compliance costs in the long-term.
	1.12 100% of member councils have emergency waste management plans	Minimises environmental damage, ensures public health and safety, facilitates quick recovery from disasters, reduces economic losses, enhances resilience and preparedness, and improves coordination and response times
Increase material recovery rate to 80% by 2030	**1.13 Increase material recovery by 23%**	An additional 94,000 tonnes of material is recovered in 2030
Ensure recovery capacity pipeline is sufficient to 2050	**1.14 Ensure recovery capacity pipeline for MSW is sufficient to 2050**	Ensures infrastructure meets future demand, optimises resource allocation, enhances service reliability, supports economic development, improves investor confidence, and improves industry preparedness for emerging trends
	1.15 Ensure recovery capacity pipeline for C&I is sufficient to 2050	
	1.16 Ensure recovery capacity pipeline for C&D is sufficient to 2050	

9.2 Goal 2 targets and actions

Targets, actions, and suggested implementation tasks for Goal 2 are provided in Table 6.

Goal 2: Improve data and reporting on waste management in the region.

Circular North will achieve this by collecting and reporting relevant data for tracking progress towards strategic targets, ensuring regulatory compliance, providing transparent and interactive community reporting, including communicating the carbon footprint of waste.

Key actions to achieve the targets include ensuring regional understanding of data collection and reporting compliance requirements to enhance transparency and accountability in waste management practices. This involves the development of data dashboards and regional carbon modelling of waste management activities. Additionally, implementing weighbridges or other measurement infrastructure will ensure accurate waste data is recorded. Reliable data reporting mechanisms will be established to streamline data collection processes. Furthermore, leveraging regional shared resources will enable effective auditing to monitor progress and identify areas for improvement.

Table 6 **Targets and actions**

Target	Action	Impact if implemented
Facilitate consistent regulatory compliance for waste data reporting	**2.1 Support, where necessary, regional understanding of data collection and reporting compliance requirements**	Region-wide adherence to standards will enable accurate and reliable reporting practices. This also ensures timely and consistent reporting of data
Develop transparent and interactive waste data reporting available to the community	**2.2 Develop an appropriate waste data dashboard to inform the community (including carbon footprint of waste)**	Data will be transparent and easily available to the community, facilitating community engagement and awareness
Ensure carbon footprint of waste management options are understood and considered in business cases	**2.3 Conduct regional carbon modelling of waste management activities and future options**	Stakeholders can gain insights into the environmental impact of various waste management strategies, thereby enabling informed decision-making and fostering sustainable practices
Establish infrastructure for data collection and reporting	**2.4 Implement weighbridges or other accurate measurement infrastructure where waste is received or recovered**	This will ensure regional measurement and reporting infrastructure are in place. This initiative aims to support data collection and reporting in a reliable and timely manner, enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of waste management practices in the region
Implement a consistent framework for data collection and reporting	**2.5 Ensure reliable data reporting mechanisms are in place**	A consistent framework will streamline the process of data collection and reporting, ensuring consistency and efficiency across the region's waste data reporting
Implement a hazardous waste collection program	**2.6 Identify hazardous material generation (types, generators and material flows) in the region**	Hazardous waste generation is understood in the region. Programs can be built to target prevention and capture of hazardous waste
	2.7 Identify a better practice prevention and collection program for hazardous waste	The program maximises recovery and cease landfilling of hazardous waste, improving human and environment health and safety while preserving valuable landfill airspace
	2.8 Identify appropriate lawful consolidation, transport and processing of hazardous waste	
	2.9 Implement a hazardous waste collection program	
Implement a C&I audit program	**2.10 Use regional shared resources to undertake audits on a regular basis to inform decision making and materials flow analyses**	Regular audits will provide up-to-date data on current waste management, informing decision making and progress towards targets

9.3 Goal 3 targets and actions

Targets, actions, and suggested implementation tasks for Goal 3 are provided in Table 7

Goal 3: Facilitate and improve collaboration between members, industry, community, and government across Tasmania.

Circular North will achieve this by sharing resources, facilitating and sharing technical knowledge, efficiently using resources for Circular Economy and priority material market development, integrating the industry into governance, fostering good working relationships, executing joint procurement, and engaging communities and businesses.

Key actions to achieve the targets include:

- Enhancing stakeholder awareness of material flows in the region
- Fostering a deeper understanding of priority materials for a Circular Economy among public and private stakeholders
- Guiding private investment by conducting feasibility studies for market development of priority materials
- Advocating to establish industry standards for material reuse
- Developing procurement policy to streamline processes and facilitate business engagement
- Promoting collaboration through the formation of an industry working group
- Formalising information-sharing mechanisms
- Ensuring ongoing technical committee meetings
- Facilitating knowledge exchange and community engagement programmes to foster public involvement in waste management initiatives.

Table 7 Targets and actions

Target	Action	Impact if achieved
Increase circular materials market access	**3.1 Build public and private stakeholder understanding of material flows via annual material flow reports**	Improved confidence in infrastructure investment and planning, as well as improved resource allocation for waste management infrastructure
	3.2 Guide private investment through annual release of relevant data	Appropriate investment from private industry to respond to the waste management needs in the region
	3.3 Conduct market development feasibility studies for priority circular economy materials identified in the MFA	Feasibility studies boost investor confidence and ensure end-markets for priority materials are feasible and appropriate
	3.4 Ensure development at either regional or state level of industry standards and specifications for material reuse	Ensuring the quality of materials is appropriate to build confidence in end market use, increasing demand for the processed material
	3.5 Develop procurement policy to support the use of priority materials identified in the materials flow analysis	Consistent member council procurement of priority materials identified in the MFA, and recycled and recyclable materials, over alternatives

Target	Action	Impact if achieved
Increase industry participation	**3.6 Facilitate an industry working group that meets on a regular basis**	Industry is provided an appropriate, facilitated, and moderated channel for input into program actions
Facilitate working relationships	**3.7 Formalise information sharing and collaboration mechanisms through an MoU or similar mechanism**	Risk of interruption to governance structure and program function is mitigated
	3.8 Continue technical committee meetings on a regular basis	Members continue to access technical and peer support for waste management queries, while the committee ensures program outcomes are appropriate and accurate. The program and member input remains adaptive and appropriate to maintain member participation
	3.9 Continue Committee meetings on a regular basis	
	3.10 Facilitate technical knowledge sharing sessions on a regular basis	
Provide ongoing education and engagement	**3.11 Ensure an ongoing community engagement program to improve waste management outcomes**	More community members in the region are contacted regarding waste management priorities, impacts and costs
	3.12 Ensure an ongoing business engagement program to improve waste management outcomes	More businesses in the region are contacted regarding waste management priorities, impacts and costs

9.4 Goal 4 targets and actions

Targets, actions, and suggested implementation tasks for Goal 4 are provided in Table 8

Goal 4: Support strategic alignment across all levels of waste management, including local, regional, state, and national strategies.

Circular North will achieve this by ensuring regional consistency, aligning closely with the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2023-2026, maintaining consistent partner operations across regions, advocating and lobbying, and adopting a coherent procurement policy.

To achieve the targets, key actions involve aligning regional, state, and national strategies and fostering a consistent approach to waste management in the region. This involves ensuring member council waste management strategies align with the regional strategy, establishing uniform waste operation and bin standards, and advocating for the Program. Additionally, developing procurement specifications to enhance efficiency among councils, support a Circular Economy, and promote the use of reuseable, recyclable, or compostable packaging is crucial.

Table 8 Targets and actions

Target	Action	Impact if achieved
Facilitate strategic alignment	**4.1. Align this regional strategy with state and national strategies**	Consistent strategic priorities for waste management are adopted
	4.2 Facilitate alignment of member council waste management strategies and plans with this regional strategy	
	4.3 Facilitate member councils working consistently across the region	Enhanced regional waste management consistency, improved waste handling efficiency, increased adoption of best practices and technologies, unified strategic decision-making, better partner collaboration and communication, harmonised waste management approaches, effective monitoring and alignment of practices and supported partner compliance with standards
	4.4 Develop and implement consistent operating standards	Operating standards and processed material outputs are standardised, increasing regional stakeholder confidence in waste management processes
	4.5 Implement consistent bin standards across the region as bins and parts are replaced	Improved recognition and use of the waste management system, as well as likely upgrades of the waste management system infrastructure
Facilitate advocacy	**4.6 Facilitate advocacy on behalf of the group**	Regional waste management needs are communicated with appropriate stakeholders.
	4.7 Ensure use of reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging by 2025	
Standardise procurement specifications	**4.8 Develop standardised procurement specifications across the region to support efficiency and the development of a Circular Economy**	Reduced duplication of effort, streamlined procurement processes, enhanced efficiency in waste management services, cost savings through standardised purchasing, easier comparison and evaluation of services and improved consistency in service quality across the group

How will the strategy be implemented?

10.1 Action plan

An action plan for the Circular North Strategic Plan has been developed and is available to view at nrmnorth.org.au.

The action plan provides an indicative timeline for implementation taking into consideration prioritisation of actions, timing of targets, and dependencies between tasks.

Suggested implementation tasks have been provided for each action. These are expected to be reviewed and determined by the steering committee.

How will progress be measured?

Each target has been designed to be measurable and to support a regular reporting mechanism for strategy progress review. Suggested actions are not designed to form strategy commitments, rather, to guide the implementation and achievement of targets. The strategy progress reviews will the responsibility of the technical committee and reported to the steering committee with summaries communicated to industry, and made available to the community to enhance cooperation and confidence in the program.

Attachments and supplementary resources

The following attachments may be accessed as supplementary resources:

- Circular North Development Report: A report detailing the research, consultation, and methodology for development of the Circular North Strategic Plan.
- Circular North Strategic Plan Action Plan provides an indicative timeline for suggested implementation tasks, provided for each action.

Glossary

Capture rate
The capture rate is the percentage of material that is captured from the residual waste stream for lawful storage, reuse or reprocessing for recovery based on 2018 National Waste Data.

Circular Economy
An economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources through principles of reuse, repair, refurbishing, and recycling.

Circular North
A regional initiative established in 2007, now hosted by NRM North, coordinating waste management efforts among eight local councils to achieve significant improvements in resource recovery.

Commercial and Industrial waste (C&I)
Waste produced through commercial and industrial activities.

Construction and Demolition waste (C&D)
Waste produced through construction and demolition activities.

E-Waste
Electronic waste, including computers, televisions, and other electronic devices that are no longer in use.

Kerbside collection
A service provided by local councils for the collection of household waste, recyclables, and organics.

Landfill
A site for the disposal of waste materials by burial.

Material Flow Analysis (MFA)
A method to track material inputs, outputs, and transformations within a system for resource management.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
Waste produced through municipal activities (i.e. residential or household waste).

Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group (NTWMG)
A previous name of the regional initiative now called Circular North.

Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Program (NTWMP)
A previous name of the regional initiative now called Circular North.

Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Incorporated
(Trading as NRM North)
A Tasmanian regional committee established under the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Act 2002, to advise the minister of and develop strategies for sustainable management of natural resources such as land, water, and biodiversity.

Resource recovery
The process of extracting useful materials or energy from waste.

Waste diversion rate
The percentage of waste materials diverted from landfill through recycling and recovery processes.

Waste levy
A fee, usually imposed by government, on waste disposal to encourage resource recovery and, often, to fund waste management initiatives.

Waste category
A group of similar types of waste categorised for management and recycling purposes, such as paper, glass, plastic, metal, or organics.

Waste stream
A specific type of waste produced by different activities or sources, including MSW, C&I, and C&D.

BREAK O'DAY
DORSET
FLINDERS
GEORGE TOWN
LAUNCESTON
MEANDER VALLEY
NORTHERN MIDLANDS
WEST TAMAR

Circular North is supported by the Tasmanian Government, through the Tasmanian Waste and Resource Recovery Board