

FLEURIEU REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY

Annual Report 2019-20



FLEURIEU REGIONAL
WASTE AUTHORITY



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Message

From the Independent Chairperson

It is with great pleasure that I present the Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority Annual Report for 2019-20.

Despite a devastating period for our region, with significant bushfires on Kangaroo Island and the COVID-19 pandemic, the FRWA has assisted it's communities recover from and endure during these events. We provided first response assistance to the Bushfire Relief Centre at Parndarna and then, during the clean-up, established a new site to dispose of over 30,000 tonne of waste and recovered 5,000 of metal. Our Waste Education Officer spent several weeks helping KI residents deal with waste and clean up issues and then worked with renowned gardener, Sophie Thomson, to establish a community garden at Parndarna Primary School.

Financially the Authority has exceeded expectations. We returned a significant benefit to the Kangaroo Island Council while carrying forward \$330,000 for Alexandrina Council, City of Victor Harbor and District Council of Yankalilla, to fund an increase in recycling processing costs in 2020-21.

All waste and recycling depots produced a positive end of year result due to increased activity and efficiency gains. The performance of our kerbside collection service improved significantly over the year and even with tonnages collected increasing by 8%, we were still able to provide a positive year end result.

Green Industries SA which is driving the State Government's circular economy priorities, provided FRWA with over \$230,000 in funding for our ongoing and new initiatives, such as the transport subsidy for the transport of recyclables, installation of waste tracking software and the printing of new waste education material. These initiatives and projects ensure that our communities have the best practice waste management infrastructure and publications.

FRWA has continued to engage and support its community in waste management, with over 38 charities benefiting from our donation program, 26 presentations made to community groups and over 1000 people participating in our waste education program.

Michael Kelleedy
Independent Chairperson
Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority



We have also supported community projects such as the Port Elliot Dog Park – Dog Waste Project and the collection of food organics from commercial businesses on Kangaroo Island.

These initiatives and the implementation of fortnightly collection of kerbside waste in all Councils have significantly increased the region's diversion of waste from landfill - our total waste diversion rate is 69%.

This is an outstanding result that exceeds the State Government's 2022 targets for metropolitan areas.

To ensure that the FRWA continues to achieve the objectives of its owner Councils, the Board has reviewed the 10-year Strategic Plan. An extensive engagement process with Council Elected Members and staff was undertaken and a plan was developed that has a vision of *"FRWA will provide diverse and flexible resource management services that are affordable, improve environmental outcomes and promote a circular economy that our community are proud of."* This plan will build on the achievements of the councils and FRWA and will modernise the way in which our communities manages their waste and resources.

The collaborative spirit that FRWA and its Councils demonstrates was recognised by the Local Government Professional SA at their 2020 Leadership Excellence Awards when we were awarded the *Excellence in Cross Council Collaboration Award*.

In closing, I thank the management team led by our Executive Officer, Simon Grenfell and all our employees for their ongoing commitment to FRWA in providing diverse, efficient and flexible resource management services that our communities are proud of. I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their wise counsel and support over the past twelve months and in doing so make special mention of the commitment of and the contribution from Glenn Sanford who, at the end of the financial year, retired from the Board.



FRWA Governance

FRWA is administered by a Board in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority Charter. The membership of the Board comprises nine members including an Independent Chairperson, to govern and lead the Authority. The eight other members, comprise an elected member and an officer from each Constituent Council.

Board Members: John Fernandez, Alistair Christie, Andy Baker, Michael Kelledy (Independent Chairperson), Elizabeth Williams, Tim Glazbrook, Peter Denholm, Simon Grenfell (EO), Michael Scott. Absent: Glenn Sanford.



The Board held six meetings during the 2019-2020 financial year. Given the wide area that the Authority covers, it holds Board meetings in each Council area during the year. The table below details the Board Member attendance.

Board Member	Meetings
Mr Michael Kelledey (Independent Chairperson)	4 of 6
Mr Andy Baker (District Council of Yankalilla)	5 of 6
Cr Alistair Christie (District Council of Yankalilla)	5 of 6
Cr Peter Denholm (Kangaroo Island Council)	6 of 6
Mr John Fernandez (Kangaroo Island Council)	6 of 6
Cr Tim Glazbrook (City of Victor Harbor)	4 of 6
Mr Glenn Sanford (City of Victor Harbor)	4 of 6
Cr Michael Scott (Alexandrina Council)	4 of 6
Ms Elizabeth Williams (Alexandrina Council)	6 of 6

Deputy Board Member	Meetings
Mr Brian Doman (City of Victor Harbor)	1 of 6

Schedule 2 to the *Local Government Act 1999*, requires local government subsidiaries to establish an Audit Committee to ensure that the Authority meets its legislative and probity requirements as required by the Act and other relevant legislation, standards and codes.

FRWA was been granted an exemption from this provision by the Minister of Local Government until June 2021 from this requirement. A condition of this exemption is that FRWA establish an Internal Audit Committee to provide oversight or it's risk and audit functions.

The Internal Audit committee held six meetings during the 2019-2020 financial year. The table below details the Internal Audit Committee Member attendance

Internal Audit Committee Member	Meetings
Mr Peter Fairlie-Jones (Independent Chairperson)	6 of 6
Cr Alistair Christie (District Council of Yankalilla)	6 of 6
Cr Tim Glazbrook (City of Victor Harbor)	4 of 6
Mr Glenn Sanford (City of Victor Harbor)	1 of 6
Ms Elizabeth Williams (Alexandrina Council)	5 of 6

Executive Officer Report

The Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority is recognised as a leader in waste management within South Australia. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead a positive and dynamic organisation that provides essential services for its communities.

FRWA continues to achieve the objectives of its strategic plan through the services it delivers. The strategic objectives of FRWA for the 2019-20 financial year were:

1. Educating and informing the community on recycling, resource recovery and responsible waste management.
2. Providing a sustainable and cost effective kerbside waste collection service for Member Councils.
3. Managing services and infrastructure that will enable efficient and effective waste management for Member Councils.
4. Promoting and researching ecologically sustainable waste management and actively representing Member Councils.
5. Meeting the highest standards for a Local Government Regional Subsidiary in governance, financial and human resource management.

The 2019-20 financial year was full of opportunities, first there was the bushfires on Kangaroo Island, while devastating for the affected community, they provided FRWA with an opportunity to demonstrate what we can do in an emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions also presented us with the opportunity to demonstrate that we can safely adapt and continue to provide essential services to the communities.

The communities have continued to embrace waste management and the diversion of waste from landfill. All Councils increased the amount of waste they divert from landfill with the region, now 58% of kerbside waste from landfill. This is an increase of 8% on last year's result and a credit to the whole community.

The City of Victor Harbor became the fourth and final one of our Councils to change to fortnightly collection of kerbside waste. Thanks to previous Councils' learnings, the transition was seamless and has resulted in City of Victor Harbor now diverting 61% of its waste from landfill.

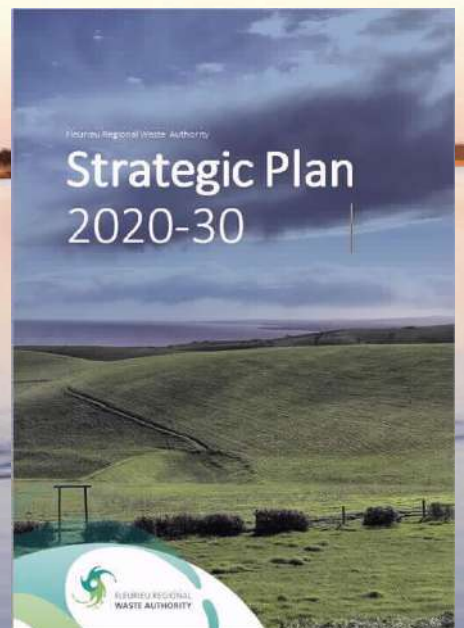
Simon Grenfell
Executive Officer
Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority



The fortnightly collection of waste continues to provide benefits for the communities with this now providing a foundation for FRWA to offer additional services including commercial FOGO, recycling collections for small businesses and on-demand collection services for those residents and businesses that require an urgent pick up. It is planned to implement these services prior to December 2020.

This year FRWA, in conjunction with Green Industries SA, produced a new range of waste education material, including bin stickers, kitchen caddy stickers and kerbside collection calendars. The new calendars are customised for each Council and have significantly reduced printing and postage costs.

The 2019/20 financial year has been a challenging but successful year for the Authority. It has demonstrated our ability to deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes for member Councils and the communities. These achievements would not have been possible without the commitment and hard work of the FRWA Board, the Constituent Councils and, importantly, the staff of FRWA. I look forward to continuing to work with member Councils and the Board to build on these achievements into the future.



About FRWA

Why we exist and our members

The Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA) is a local government regional subsidiary of the Alexandrina Council, City of Victor Harbor, District Council of Yankalilla and Kangaroo Island Council. With a vision of *“FRWA will provide diverse and flexible resource management services that are affordable, improve environmental outcomes and promote a circular economy that our community are proud of”*.

The Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island covers 7,341km² and has a resident population of 54,000, which increases by up to 50% in coastal areas during holiday periods.

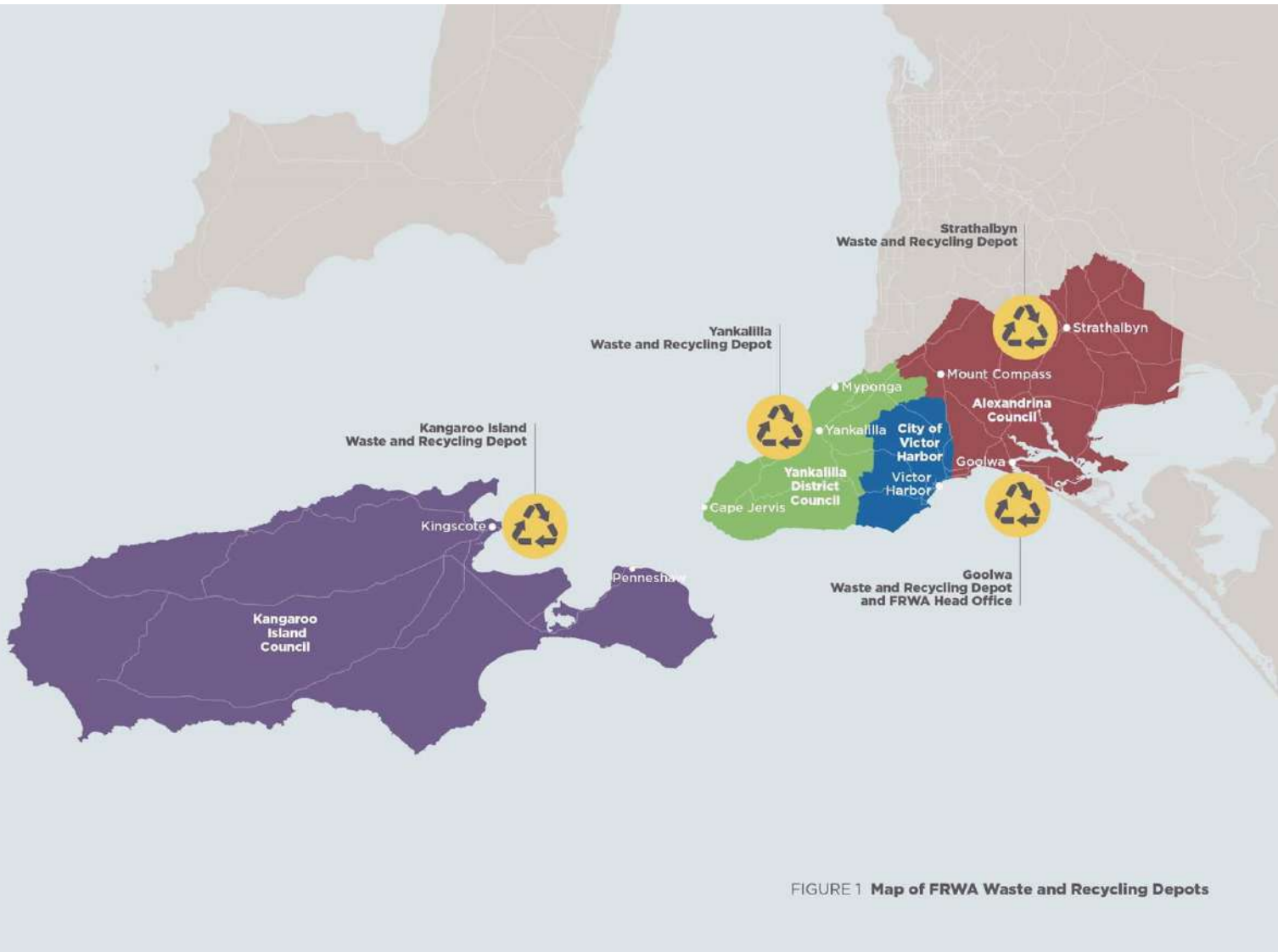
FRWA is a fine example of local governments working together to achieve efficiencies across boundaries.

We are capturing the best practices brought over from the Councils: reducing waste going to landfill, increasing recycling, and promoting a cleaner and healthier environment for today and tomorrow.

We offer a range of services to the communities we serve including:

- 3-bin fortnightly collection of kerbside waste.
- Public Waste and Recycling Depots in Goolwa, Yankalilla, Strathalbyn and Kingscote.
- Public Litter Bin collections
- Event Bins
- Community Waste Education
- Customer Service
- Sale of composting equipment, kitchen caddies, bins and supplies.
- Representation and advocacy on behalf of constituent Councils.





Kerbside Collection Services

FRWA has a fleet of 13 collection vehicles and provides fortnightly collection of waste, recycling and Food Organics Garden Organics to over 32,000 properties. This year, in and with the City of Victor Harbor, FRWA implemented fortnightly collection of kerbside waste. This means that all the FRWA Councils now have their waste collected fortnightly and will allow further efficiency gains, and increase in diversion rates to be made in the future.

Kerbside tonnages increased by 8% this year, mainly due to the continued increase in FOGO which peaked during March and April, when residents stayed at home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, taking the

opportunity to clean up their gardens. Kerbside waste to landfill reduced by 9% (933 tonnes), FOGO increased by 38% (2145 tonnes) and recycling increased by 9% (427 tonnes).

Significantly the Kangaroo Island Council increased the amount of FOGO collected by 68% and the City of Victor Harbor reduced its waste to landfill by 25%. These diversion rates have provided financial, social and environmental benefits to the community.

The kerbside diversion rate for the region is now 58% up from 54% the year before. This is one of the highest kerbside diversion rates in the state.

COUNCIL	WASTE	FOGO	RECYCLING	DIVERSION from landfill
Alexandrina	+1% 4840t	+21% 3977t	2621t -1%	58% +3%
Victor Harbor	2686t -25%	+75% 2613t	1627t +37%	61% +18%
Yankalilla	1115t -2%	+33% 873t	584t +6%	56% +5%
Kangaroo Island	809t -1%	+68% 326t	442t -7%	46% +6%

Kerbside waste statistics for 2019-2020 compared to the previous year.

Reduction in waste to landfill over the past 5 years

30%



Kerbside waste diverted from landfill

58%



To ensure FRWA provides best practice kerbside services this year we have installed a new fleet tracking software which provides full transparency across our activities. The collection trucks are now fitted with six cameras which record all movements and collections.

Collection routes can be programmed and optimised easily with additional collections being seamlessly added to drivers' tasks. Whilst this system is still being commissioned, it has already dramatically improved our customer service and efficiency and will allow FRWA to offer additional services to sectors of the communities that have different waste needs.



Waste and Recycling Depots

The FRWA Waste and Recycling Depots continue to provide an important service to the communities.

The most significant activity this year was the establishment of an emergency landfill cell at Gosse on Kangaroo Island, to facilitate the clean-up from the December 2019 bush fires. FRWA staff met with KI Council and Green Industry SA representatives throughout January and February to establish the site, with EPA approval granted in early March 2020. Additional cells were also established at the Kangaroo Island Resource Recovery Centre at Kingscote.

FRWA recruited local people to operate the site with plant and equipment sourced from across KI and the mainland.

Our staff, in conjunction with Green Industries SA and associated contractors, worked 6-7 days per week to ensure the 87 houses and over 200 properties were cleaned up as quickly as possible.

Between March and the end of June over 30,000 tonnes of burnt material was disposed of and 5,000 tonnes of metal/3,500 tonne of concrete, were recovered and recycled.

The site will now been fenced and will be revegetated by the local Landscape group in 2021.

Our other Waste and Recycling Depots performed above expectations with changes to operating hours and fees and charges during the year providing better than budgeted outcomes.

To ensure we provided a safe environment for our staff and customers, all of our sites transitioned to electronic payments only. As restrictions have eased we are educating and informing our community regarding the benefits of cash payments and, for now, are accepting cash payments as a last resort. We are using this period to transition to card only payments in June 2021. All WRD's performed well and have increased waste diversion from landfill from 79% to 80%.

FRWA will be planning to increase this further with a concentrated focus on increasing the number of materials available to the public for reuse.

The Goolwa WRD has continued to perform well with increased sales of mulch and crushed rock.

Further site works improvements have included:

- Planting of 20 large trees and 800 endemic native species around the site.
- Recovery of 2000 tonne of rock for sale
- Creation of a new steel recycling area
- Wayfinding line marking to direct customers to the right location.

The KIRRC has continued to improve its services with 3 grades of mulch now available to the public. The in-vessel composter installed in 2019 is producing high quality mulch and compost for sale to the community.

Maintenance and upgrades on the site were undertaken once the bulk of the fire waste clean-up was completed. This included:

- Resheeting of the internal roads with gravel.
- New concrete material sales bays,
- Renew of electrical wiring in the office

The **Yankalilla WRD** has continued to provide ongoing services to the community and this year we purchased new material bins to assist the community sort its waste and reduce the handling of materials.

A review of the **Strathalbyn WRD** operating hours found that every second Monday was not popular with the community, with very little patronage. The site is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. The site continues to be popular with locals, in particular the salvage shop where many locals find bargains. Mulch sales from the site have also increased dramatically over the last six months of the year, with mulch purchased by local landscapers for use in Mt Barker.

Images *Pictures of recovered steel at Gosse*



Waste education and projects

Waste Education continues to be an important part of FRWA's activities. The continued increase in waste diversion is a result of FRWA's efforts in this area.

The first half of the year was extremely productive from a waste education perspective with the implementation of fortnightly collection of waste in the City of Victor Harbor going smoothly. The team used its experience from the three previous roll outs and with the community seeing what the surrounding Councils had done, was accepting of the program.

During this time, we provided 26 presentations to community groups and 13 school sessions. These sessions ranged in topics depending on the audience from where does our waste go, to what goes in which bin and Food Organics and Green organics.

FRWA staff also initiated a compostable produce bag trial at Goolwa Foodland. The objectives of the trial were to:

- Encourage phasing out single use plastic produce bags
- Reduce the amount of single use plastic sent to landfill
- Increase awareness of environmental and economic benefits of the project
- Increase the amount of FOGO material into the green organics waste stream through greater community awareness
- Provide an opportunity to promote participating supermarkets, FRWA's FOGO initiative and compostable products

The trial ran from July to December 2019 and found that the majority of customers supported the use of compostable bags, were prepared to pay extra for compostable bags and would shop at a location that provided compostable bags. The trial also received good exposure through the local paper and Goolwa Foodland's social media platforms. Despite this, the trial was not continued due to the ongoing cost of providing the compostable bags.



To increase the penetration of our recycling messages, FRWA has partnered with Green Industries SA in the creation of our waste education infrastructure. Green Industries SA has adopted the “Which Bin” branding that is used as the State waste and recycling message, this style being used by the majority of councils in metropolitan Adelaide. This style was used in the production of new kerbside collection calendars. The new calendars are customised for each Council area and contain waste education messages to help residents place the right materials in the right bin.

By using this style and format, as well as receiving over \$12,000 in grant and in-kind funding, FRWA has been able to leverage the investment GISA makes in advertising.

The recent “Which Bin” campaign had the following reach:

- YouTube ads, were seen by more than 231,000 South Australian YouTube users.
- TV ads reached approximately 414,966 people across SA, aged 25-54
- Facebook ads were seen by more than 325,696 viewers across SA.

As part of the recovery process our Waste Education officer also spent time at the Parndarna Relief Centre, assisting with waste issues and providing services to those impacted by the fires. We also assisted Sophie Thomson in the ReGrowth Garden Recovery project that established a community garden at the Parndarna Primary School.

