

## 7.4 Endorsement of Bin Lid Colour Standardisation

### Executive Summary

#### Purpose

In order to meet new State Government requirements for consistent bin colours throughout Victoria, all LGAs are required to update waste and recycling bins with compliant bin colours by 2030.

The purpose of the report is to seek endorsement for the preferred approach to achieve compliance. The proposed progressive changeover will be undertaken through the current bin repair and renewal program for broken, lost and end of life bins.

#### Background

In February 2020, the Victorian State Government released a 10-year policy and action plan for waste and recycling, called Recycling Victoria. In December 2021, the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Bill 2021 was also enacted. These documents require all LGAs to meet new standards for consistent bin colours by 2030.

#### Key Issues

As described in table 1 below, the required compliant bin colours vary slightly from the current bins used in Boroondara.

Table 1: Current and compliant bin colour options

<b>Waste Stream</b>	<b>Current bin colours</b>	<b>New standard</b>
Waste	Dark green lid, dark green body	Red lid, dark green or black body
Recycling	Yellow lid, blue body	Yellow lid, dark green or black body
FOGO	Lime green lid, dark green body	Lime green lid, dark green or black body (no change required)

Council has two options for updating of bins to achieve compliance:

- Bulk changeover of all bins at a date to be determined or,
- Progressive replacement of bins

Officers recommend a progressive replacement of lids/bins as the preferred approach. A dark green body will be used for all streams.

Replacement and repair of lost, broken or end of life bins is an existing expense and process. Based on Councils current bin lost, repair and replacement rates, a progressive approach would provide estimated savings in the order of \$2.5M, when compared to the alternative approach of a bulk bin changeover.

This approach would also deliver better environmental outcomes, when compared to a bulk changeover, as it would remove the need to dispose of good quality bins prior to their natural end of life. In line with existing processes, all end of life bins are recycled.

### Next Steps

Subject to endorsement of a progressive bin replacement as the preferred approach, all future bin purchases will be in line with the compliant colours. Community education and communications will be delivered to support this progressive change of bin colours.

## **Officers' recommendation**

That Council:

1. Endorse a program of renewal, replacement and distribution of bins progressively to achieve State Government compliance of consistent bin colours in Victoria by 2030.
2. Endorse progressive replacement of bin lids with compliant colours and a consistent dark green body for all streams (waste, recycling and FOGO).

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**Responsible director: Daniel Freer, Director Places and Spaces**

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## 1. Purpose

In order to meet new state government requirements for consistent bin colours throughout Victoria, all LGAs are required to update waste and recycling bins with compliant bins by 2030.

The purpose of the report is to seek endorsement for the preferred approach to achieve compliance. The proposed progressive changeover will be undertaken through the current bin repair and renewal program for broken, lost and end of life bins.

## 2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

The matters presented in this report respond to recent changes in waste industry policy at a Victorian State Government level, as well as the new legislation, which support the policy.

Delivery of waste, recycling, and circular economy services to the Boroondara community aligns with multiple themes of the renewed Boroondara Community Plan (2021-2031).

Key alignments include:

- Theme 3: The Environment
  - Strategy 3.3 Municipal and household waste is reduced through initiatives to prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- Theme 7: Leadership and Governance
  - Strategy 7.1 Decision making is transparent and accountable through open governance processes with timely communication and reporting.

Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and the recently adopted Climate Action Plan both align to the Victorian Government policy objectives outlined in this report.

## 3. Background

In February 2020, the Victorian State Government released a 10-year policy and action plan for waste and recycling called Recycling Victoria. A key policy focus of Recycling Victoria is a reform of kerbside waste and recycling services, which are primarily operated by local governments.

To support the new policy position and kerbside reform, a new Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Bill 2021, was recently progressed through State Parliament. This new bill provides the legislated mechanism under which all Victorian local governments will be required to comply with the reform of kerbside services, including the requirement for standardised bin colours by 2030.

#### 4. Outline of key issues/options

As part of Recycling Victoria and the supporting Circular Economy Bill, all LGAs must achieve consistent bin lid colours throughout Victoria by the end of 2030. (As pictured in **Attachment 1**)

The following table 2, sets out the new colour requirements compared with Boroondara's current bin colour and compliance status.

Table 2: Current bin colour compliance status

Waste Stream	Current bin colours	New bin standard required
Waste	Dark green lid, dark green body	Red lid, dark green or black body  <u>Change required:</u> Replacement of dark green lid with red lid
Recycling	Yellow lid, blue body	Yellow lid, dark green or black body  <u>Change required:</u> Replacement of blue body with dark green or black body
FOGO	Lime green lid, dark green body	Lime green lid, dark green or black body  <u>No change required.</u>

Council currently manages approximately 64,000 recycling bins, 64,000 waste bins and 56,500 FOGO bins.

Council has two options for to achieve compliance with new bin colours:

##### ***Bulk changeover***

All waste/recycling bins will be replaced with bins meeting the new bin standard colours at the same time. No change is required to FOGO bins. This will be required prior to 2030.

##### ***Progressive replacement***

Compliant coloured bins and/or lids will be used for ongoing renewal and replacement of bins that are broken, lost or otherwise require replacement in a progressive roll out program.

Prior to 2030, a reduced scale bulk changeover will be undertaken of any remaining bins. This approach will result in a substantial cost saving and reduce waste by maximising life span of exiting bins.

The down side of this approach is that there is a mixture of bin colours in the municipality until full replacement is undertaken. Provision of new bins and progressive program will be supported by community education.

The Recycling Victoria Policy foreshadows a future requirement for glass bins. The details of these requirement are not yet known. As further details are released by the Victorian Government, these matters will be subject of future reports to Council.

## 5. Consultation/communication

In developing the Recycling Victoria Policy, the Victorian Government conducted community engagement, including hosting 15 public workshops, and considering more than 350 submissions on their supporting issues paper: *A circular economy for Victoria: creating more value and less waste*. Feedback was sought from businesses, peak bodies, councils, academic institutions, non-government organisations, community groups and individuals.

Boroondara officers participated in this engagement process and continue to engage on a range of key policy requirements.

## 6. Financial and resource implications

Two approaches are presented for achieving bin colour compliance.

### *Bulk changeover*

On current pricing, an allowance of \$1.5M (lids only) to \$5.8M (bin and lid) is recommended to introduce the colour standards to waste and recycling bins at all properties serviced by council. This is based on the supply of bin stock only. An estimated additional budget in the order of \$700k would be required to physically distribute bins to properties.

### *Progressive replacement*

Council typically replaces 3000 waste and 3000 recycling bins per annum as part of the current bin repair and renewal program. A progressive approach would result in an estimated 24,000 waste and 24,000 recycling bins being updated prior to the need to undertake a bulk changeover in 2030. This calculation ignores the impact of repeated bin replacement at the same property.

Provision for lost, broken and end of life bins is already included in Council's operating budget and changes to the bin colour supplied would have no financial impact to council. The current cost to change a bin over is \$45 (full bin replacement). Bringing forward replacement with compliant bins will result in savings of up to \$2.6M on bin supply costs, plus an estimated bin distribution cost in the order of \$700,000. This is based on a full-scale changeover in 2030. If Council chooses to bring forward a bulk changeover, the savings from progressive replacement will be reduced proportionally.

## 7. Governance issues

There are no known governance issues or conflicts of interest associated with this report.

## 8. Social and environmental issues

The introduction of the requirements of Recycling Victoria is expected to have a significant positive impact on the quality of recyclable materials throughout Victoria. This in turn will provide significant environmental gains, as increased materials are able to be integrated into a local circular economy, reducing waste to landfill and the environmental impacts associated with this.

The recommended progressive approach to achieving compliance will provide better environmental outcomes, when compared to a bulk changeover, by reducing the need to remove good quality bins from service prior to their natural end of life.

## **9. Conclusion**

Officers are seeking endorsement of a recommendation for progressing replacement of bin lids with compliant colours and a consistent dark green body for all waste streams.

**Manager:**                **George Batsakis, Manager Facilities, Waste, and Infrastructure**

**Report officer:**      Lisa Finn, Principal Sustainability Officer Circular Economy

## Attachment 1 - Standard bin lid colours

