

7.4.2 COUNCIL BRIEFING ON KERBSIDE GLASS SERVICE AND HARD WASTE CONSULTATION

Responsible Manager:	Kristy Green, Manager Sustainable Monash
Responsible Director:	Jarrod Doake, Director City Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. Approves consultation with residents on their preference between annual or at-call hard waste.
2. Approves consultation with residents on their preference between an 80-litre 120-litre monthly glass recycling bin service, in preparation for meeting the currently legislated mandatory state government deadline of 1 July 2027 service commencement.
3. Notes that during the recent Waste charge consultation there was a strong community preference not to introduce a fourth glass bin, but to encourage the expansion of the CDS.
4. Approves continued advocacy to the State Government to delay or further consider the introduction of a mandatory fourth bin specifically for glass recycling, in line with the Council resolution adopted at the council meeting on Tuesday 29th April 2025.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to proceed with community consultation on two key waste and recycling services: the future delivery model for hard waste collection, and the planned introduction of a kerbside glass recycling service by 1 July 2027. It also reaffirms Council's ongoing advocacy to the State Government for a potential delay and reconsideration of the mandated rollout of a separate fourth bin for glass recycling in response to recent community feedback received during the proposed waste charge consultation.

Given both initiatives impact kerbside services, it is both practical and makes sense to the community to consult them on both simultaneously. This approach will provide a clearer understanding of community preferences and ensure a more coordinated and informed response to future service planning.

COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A city that promotes environmental sustainability.

Where neighborhoods are designed and developed along environmentally sustainable development and urban design principles, in sympathy with the natural environment.

A Council with good governance, strong leadership and community involvement in decision making.

A Council that provides governance and leadership for the benefit of our community through community engagement, advocacy, decision making and action.

BACKGROUND

Under the *Circular Economy (Waste and Recycling) Act 2021* (CE Act), all councils must implement a standardised four-bin waste and recycling system for residential households by 2030. This includes the mandatory rollout of a separate glass bin by 1 July 2027.

The estimated cost of implementing the separate glass service is \$20–\$24 million over 10 years (subject to change). Community consultation to determine the bin size we are proceeding with is required to support an application for partial once off grant funding available from the Victorian Government for implementation. Any delays may impact the ability to submit a timely funding application, potentially affecting service rollout by the mandated deadline. It is proposed to test preferences for an 80 litre or 120 litre bin for kerbside glass.

As part of its suite of kerbside services, Monash provides a hard waste collection service to help residents safely dispose of bulky household items such as furniture, white goods, and mattresses. The current hard waste contract is set to expire in 2027. Currently, Monash offers an annual hard waste collection (July–September) with an optional at-call collection available year-round for a fee.

Council regularly receives feedback that some customers would prefer an ‘at call’ service.

Community preferences were last tested in 2017. It is timely to test these preferences again before commencing procurement for the next contract.

Community consultation will help shape the future service by capturing resident preferences and ensuring the new contract reflects local needs.

It is proposed to test preferences for:

Option A: Retain the current service model

- One annual collection of up to 4 cubic metres

Option B: Move to “at-call” model

- Residents can book collections when needed:
 - Two separate collections of 2 cubic metres each, or
 - One collection of 4 cubic metres

Additional collections would still be available for a fee.

Environmental and financial outcomes are similar for both “at call” and annual hard waste collection service models. Both proposed models allow for a collection of 4 cubic metres per household, and costs have already been modelled in to be included in the proposed waste charge.

DISCUSSION

While hard waste provision is relatively straightforward for Council to deliver based on community feedback, introducing a separate glass recycling service is significantly more complex.

Early procurement is advised to avoid supply shortages.

There remains uncertainty around what the State Government expects from a fully operational glass collection service, as DEECA has yet to release the updated service standards. Originally scheduled for release in April 2025, the delay is now approaching 5 months, with no revised timeline provided.

Many councils have expressed a strong preference to wait for the release of these standards before ordering bin infrastructure, to ensure the delivery of an efficient and cost-effective service.

To meet the current deadline of 1 July 2027, and in the absence of guidance from the standards, Monash needs to begin preparing to implement a monthly glass collection service, offering residents either an 80L or 120L glass recycling bin collected monthly. These options are informed by research and the experiences of other councils that have already rolled out similar services, and they align with anticipated requirements of the forthcoming standards.

Whilst the service standards haven't been released council is expected to have discretion about the frequency of collection and bin sizes offered. Council officers commissioned a research report which recommended 120Ltr bins and monthly collection based on projected volumes of recyclable glass. 80Ltr bins scored only slightly lower due to accessibility and community acceptance, so it is recommended to consult on community sentiment on both sizes. It is not recommended to consult the community on frequency. Increasing the frequency would add significant cost of up to \$4M over 10 years and reducing the frequency to less than monthly would result in significant challenges for bin presentation. It is proposed that consultation would be limited to the opportunity for residents to provide feedback on bin size preferences.

Table 3.2: MCA assessment results

Option name	Compliance with Victorian Government policy	Circularity and emissions outcomes	Community acceptance and accessibility	Occupational health and safety risks	Commercial and operational viability	TOTAL MCA
Option 1 – Full Kerbside Service (80L); 2-Weekly Collection.	3	2	2	3	2	0.80
Option 2 – Full Kerbside Service (120L); 2-Weekly Collection	3	2	2	3	2	0.80
Option 3 – Full Kerbside Service (80L); 4-Weekly Collection	3	3	2	3	3	0.93
Option 4 – Full Kerbside Service (120L); 4-Weekly Collection	3	3	3	3	3	1.00
Option 5 – Full Kerbside Service (120L); 8-Weekly Collection	3	2	1	2	3	0.73
Option 6 – Hybrid Kerbside and Communal Service	2	2	2	2	1	0.60
Option 7 – Communal Service	0	2	1	2	3	0.53

The full impact of statewide demand for new bins is yet to be seen. Monash has received advice from our contractor that placing orders by January 2026 will ensure timely delivery.

Failure to meet this deadline carries potential legal implications. Legal advice has outlined potential consequences under the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (Vic)*.

Community sentiment towards the glass bin and advocacy

During recent community engagement on the proposed Waste Charge, the mandated introduction of the glass bin service by 1 July 2027—and the associated cost increases—was met with strong opposition.

Residents voiced concerns about space limitations for an additional bin and expressed a clear preference for expanding the existing Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) instead. Many residents urged Council to continue advocating to the State Government for a delay or reconsideration of the separate glass bin requirement.

On Tuesday 29th April 2025 Council resolved

That Council joins an inter-council advocacy group seeking an expansion of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme and a review into the feasibility of the introduction of a kerbside glass service by 2027, and call on the Victorian Government to:

- a) Extend the timeframe for Councils to introduce a glass recycling service until national standardisation of kerbside services and Container Deposit Schemes has been implemented.
- b) Expand the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme to accept wine and spirits bottles in line with other states in Australia.
- c) Review the effectiveness of the Container Deposit Scheme and assess against the usage of the glass recycling service that has been rolled out by councils to date.
- d) Share the Business Case it prepared on kerbside glass recycling for Victoria.

The City of Monash continues to participate in advocacy efforts with a coalition of 32 Victorian councils, while trying to ensure we meet our legislative obligations.

Failure to meet this deadline carries potential legal implications. Legal advice has outlined potential consequences under the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 (Vic)*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Glass - Consultation has no additional financial impact.

The difference in financial implications between delivering an 80L or 120L bin for glass recycling are minimal, with 80L bins costing 50 cents less per household per year over the 10 year span. The introduction of a glass recycling service has been projected to cost an additional \$20M to \$24M over the next 10 years.

Hard waste – Consultation has no additional financial impact.

Both options included in the consultation are cost-neutral for residents – an At-call service may result in cost savings, potentially lowering the cost of delivering the service overall.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications to this report.

CONSULTATION

This report is requesting Council approval to consult with the community on glass bin sizes and hard waste service provision.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no social implications to this report.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

There are no human rights implications to this report.

GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A GIA was not completed because this policy/program/service does not have a 'direct' and 'significant' impact on the community.

CONCLUSION

After careful consideration of several options (refer below table) Option 1 is deemed the lowest risk approach. This report recommends that Council proceed with community consultation for the delivery method for Hard Waste and the preferred size of the glass bin, pending the mandatory requirement to implement by July 2027.

While consulting our community, Council will continue to advocate to the State Government to delay and further consider the introduction of a fourth bin specifically for glass recycling in response to feedback received.

	Option 1 – Preferred	Option 2 – Considered	Option 3 – Considered
Summary	Consult on hard waste and glass bin sizes to support the 1 July 2027 deadline.	Consult on hard waste only; delay glass consultation until service standards are released.	Consult on hard waste only; do not implement a fourth bin for glass.
Benefits	Reduces risk of bin procurement delays, supports timely implementation, gauges community sentiment, and creates efficiencies	Ensures alignment with future standards, Allows time for advocacy outcomes	Significant cost savings, Supports CDS expansion, Aligns with community feedback

	through consulting once for both key waste initiatives.		
Issues	Risk of misalignment with future standards if service is rolled out before standards release. May cause community concern due to recent feedback.	May risk missing the deadline, uncertainty around implementation date due to no committed timeline for standards release. Will require two separate consultations.	Non-compliance with legislation, legal and financial risks
Financial Implications	Eligible for DEECA contribution	Eligible for DEECA contribution, Potential cost savings through aligned service design, Minor legal risk if deadline missed.	Avoids \$20–\$24M in implementation and service costs over 10 years Risk of fines up to ~\$95,000

ATTACHMENT LIST

Nil