

The change in the name of Yarra's Waste Strategy document over the years indicates the change in thinking about waste. In 2009 it was the Waste Management Plan, in 2014 it was the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy. This year it is the Waste Minimisation Strategy. An emphasis on waste minimisation, ie not producing the waste in the first place, has been at the heart of YCAN's demands and we commend this strategy for its strong focus on waste reduction.

We are pleased to see that prevention of greenhouse gas production is acknowledged as a primary goal through the reduction of organic matter going to landfill (and producing methane), and through using less man-made materials, mainly plastics, the basis for which is non-renewable resources such as crude oil.

Now that we can no longer send our recyclables to China and forget about them, working out how we deal with waste is even more urgent than ever. And we are concerned that the new strategy is not moving fast enough. Over the next four years a good deal of the "actions" are trials, assessments, and reviews. We are concerned about the slow move to actual implementation of meaningful strategies.

Obviously, an adequate budget is required for this Waste Strategy to deliver its goals (and we realise that arguments about budget issues are a matter for a budget submission), but we are concerned that it is budget restraints that are preventing this strategy from delivering on its admirable goals more speedily.

For the all important organics collection, the trial (which is already underway) will only be delivering recommendations in the 2021-2022 financial year. Also the statements in the Waste Strategy about trialling a small-scale food waste processing technology seems to be at odds with what officers have said tonight, where they seem to have already decided against it.

We are very pleased to see the Proudly Plastic Free Campaign proposed by YCAN has been included in the Strategy. YCAN stands ready to support such a campaign, and rally community members to assist. We note that there is a suggested budget, but no actual allocation, and we will be vigorously lobbying for its funding through budget submissions.

We believe that the Victorian State Government has not yet done its share in supporting inner-Melbourne councils in solving the waste issues that face a densely populated municipality. We encourage Yarra Council to call on the state government:

- to implement a stronger regulatory approach on waste reduction, including the banning of single-use plastics such as shopping bags, drinking straws and plastic take-away food containers. And for them to utilise the millions of dollars that are currently accumulating in the Sustainability Fund, which is expected to rise to \$531 million this financial year.
- Also to shift the responsibility onto businesses to deal with the waste they produce.
- to introduce a container deposit scheme.

- and to provide funding for local governments to reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill, noting that residents often do not have the capacity to undertake composting in their households.

We commend Council for this waste strategy and trust that it will be adequately funded so that it can deliver these essential strategies.