



# REGIONAL WASTE STRATEGY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

ANNUAL PLAN 2020/21



**DOCUMENT RECORD**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group (NTWMG) was established in 2007 to provide advice, funding and education on managing waste and recycling within Northern Tasmanian communities, businesses and local governments. The NTWMG is able to provide these services through a voluntary levy on waste disposed to landfill from northern Tasmania. The levy amount contributed by member councils is currently \$7.50/tonne.

The Tasmanian State Government has released a Draft Waste Action Plan in June 2019 which outlines the development of a state wide legislated landfill levy. When this is legislated, this would replace the NTWMG current voluntary landfill levy.

The 2017-2022 Regional Waste Management Strategy enables the NTWMG to undertake research on waste management best practice to inform its activities. The 2017–2022 strategy also included a range of projects that have evolved and grown into well-established projects that reduce waste to landfill from the north using a mix of education, recycling services and infrastructure.

This report addresses the 2017-2022 strategy projects that were achieved in 2019/2020 and describes planning towards implementing 2020/2021 projects outlined in the Regional Waste Management Strategy.

Major actions and projects proposed for 2020/2021 listed below:

- Engage with the Tasmanian state government and provide input on Draft Waste Action Plan targets, proposed statewide landfill levy and governance of the levy
- Develop new NTWMG 2022-2027 Strategy. Align with targets in the State Draft Waste Action Plan
- Community education through presentations and kerbside auditing
- Monitor bin contamination and provide regular feedback to residents
- Continued support of data collection at waste transfer stations
- Facilitate sustainable management of recyclables that are difficult to process locally i.e. e-waste for all NTWMG councils
- Implement 2017-2022 state wide communications strategy projects
- ASPIRE digital trading platform for waste materials and by-products
- Support Circular Economy development in Northern Tasmania through grant funding \$200,000 in partnership with Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC)
- Award community grants for activities that reduce waste to landfill
- Facilitate special collections of high profile waste streams
- Paint back - paint collection and processing for all NTWMG councils
- Regional polystyrene collection and recycling for all NTWMG councils
- Recognise and reward individuals, school groups and organisations via the Waste Not Awards
- Re-engage Flinders Island as part of NTWMG
- Invest in Waste Transfer Station best practice upgrades
- Coordinate Northern Tasmania landfill and waste transfer station composition audits.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The NTWMG was created in 2007 when eight northern region councils joined together to form a regional waste group to address regional waste and recycling as a collective, the NTWMG consists of seven Northern Tasmanian councils: City of Launceston, West Tamar, Meander Valley, Dorset, Break 'O Day, Northern Midlands and George Town Councils.

In 2012, the NTWMG updated its original 2009 strategy and developed the Regional Waste Management Strategy 2012 to 2017 which expired 1 July 2017. The current 2017-2022 strategy adopts a number of previously established projects while focusing on emerging areas of sustainable waste management to further divert waste streams from landfill.

The implementation of the current strategy projects is funded via the \$7.50 per tonne landfill levy which all NTWMG councils contribute towards. This income is an estimated \$686,000 per year. The group operates through a voluntary partnership formalised by a regional waste agreement and governed by a Terms of Reference.

This annual report details how the NTWMG 2017-2022 strategic goals were achieved in 2019/2020 and outlines the planned projects for 2020/2021.

The NTWMG is responsible for the implementation of its strategy, including the development of this annual plan. In 2019/2020 the equivalent of 1.0 full time staff equivalent was employed to implement the strategy in addition to two part time staff members who completed community education and kerbside recycling assessments. The 2017-2022 NTWMG strategy has three goals linked to eight targets (see **Table 1**).

**Table 1 2017-2022 NTWMG strategy goals and targets**

NTWMG Strategic Goals		Targets	
1.	Improve resource recovery	1.1 1.2 1.3	Waste avoidance, recovery and recycling Support kerbside organics collection Continue recycling of problem wastes
2.	Improve council operations and data	2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7	Best practice safe transfer stations Consistent operating standards Improve data collection Kerbside recycling bin assessment
3.	Education, engagement & partnerships	3.8	Community, government & industry engagement, education & awareness of sustainable waste management

## 2 ANNUAL REPORT: ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019/2020

### 2.1 Kerbside recycling education

Reducing contamination from the kerbside recycling stream is a major commitment of the regional waste group.

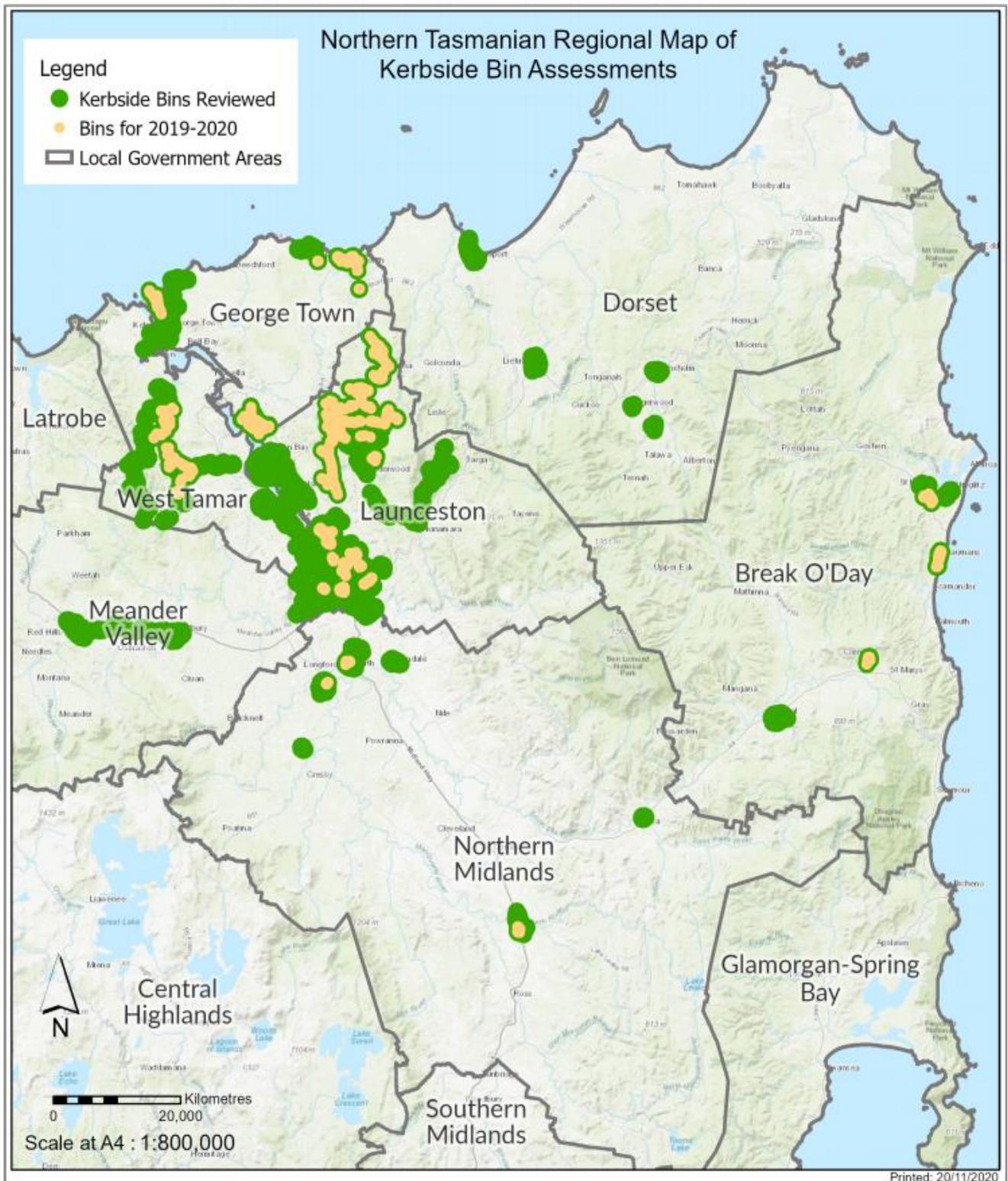
The kerbside recycling assessment program employs two part time officers to undertake the assessments. The aim of the assessments is to visually inspect kerbside recycling bins for signs of contamination and educate residents on the correct use of the recycling bins. Each kerbside recycling bin audit is mapped via an online GPS enabled mapping system providing real time data and spatial mapping capacity (see **Figure 2 Kerbside Audit Map**).

Each recycling bin in the program is assessed three times over a six week period. Once a recycling bin has been assessed, a "pass", "improvement required" or "fail" cardboard tag is left on the bin and a form outlining the reasons why the bin has failed or requires improvement is given to the household. Additionally, a flyer is placed in each letterbox outlining everything residents need to know about correct kerbside recycling. The Northern region is well placed to decrease significant impacts such as the recent China recycling crisis as the project has been investing in educating the public about kerbside recycling and reducing contamination for many years.

Indications from recurrent audits demonstrate this approach is achieving a reduction in the level of contamination in residential kerbside recycling bins. In 2019/20 recycling the kerbside auditing team introduced recyclable cardboard tags to replace the previously used stickers to communicate to residents the status of their recycling bin as seen in **Figure 1**. This small change is a good outcome both financially and environmentally.



Figure 1 Examples of information given to households as part of the kerbside assessment



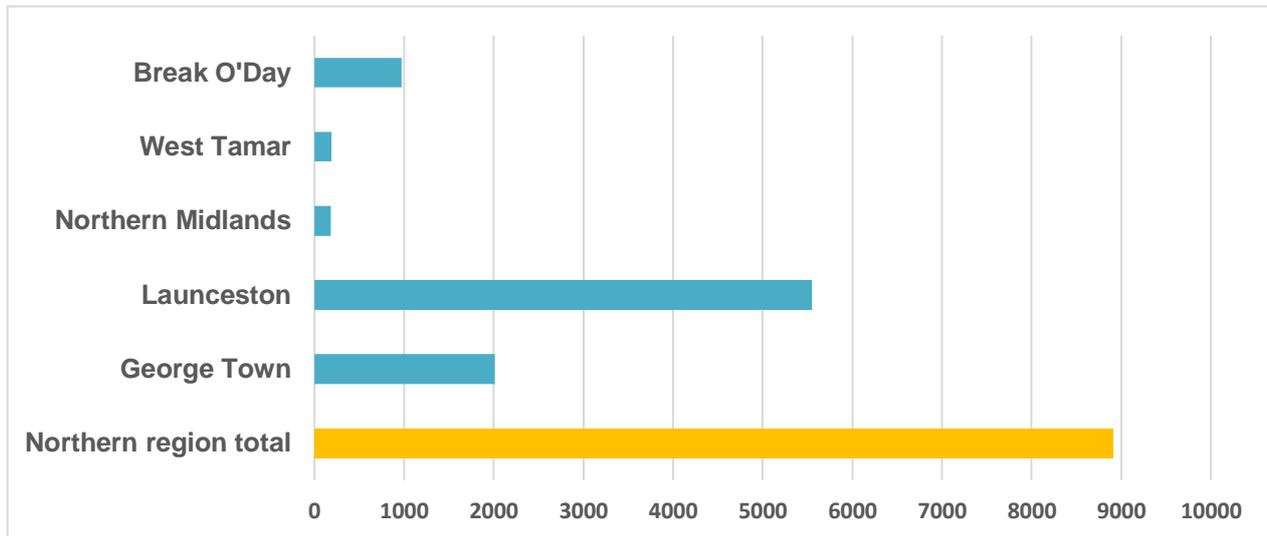
**Figure 2 Northern Tasmania kerbside recycling bin audit map 2019-20**

The NTWMG's experience is that, in the majority of cases, a lack of education and understanding of what can and what cannot go into recycling bins is the major cause of contamination.

In the 2019/2020 financial year this program operated throughout the northern region in George Town, Launceston, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, West Tamar and the Break O Day council. During this period, Dorset Council ceased membership and Meander Valley Council had reduced kerbside audit capacity due to the council's decision to rationalise NTWMG services. See *Figure 2* for 2019/20 kerbside audit map of Northern Tasmania.

In 2019/20 the kerbside assessment team assessed 8,905 recycling bins (**Figure 2**). With only 103 recycling bins failing three consecutive times making up just 1.15% of the total bins assessed that failed overall.

The results of the 2019/2020 kerbside audits (see *Table 2*) show a steady decline in the number of failed bins after each assessment and the volume of contamination in the bin reduces from the first assessment to the third assessment.



**Figure 3 Number of recycling bins audited in Nth TAS 2019/20**

**Table 2 2019/2020 Kerbside contamination assessment results**

Location	Bins assessed	1 <sup>st</sup> fail	2 <sup>nd</sup> fail	3 <sup>rd</sup> fail
Northern Region Total	8,905	205	113	103
George Town	2,014	12	9	10
Launceston	5,550	179	95	82
Northern Midlands	182	7	4	4
West Tamar	189	7	5	7
Break O'Day	970	37	17	11

In 2019/20, the group continued with bin assessments, school visits and community events until forced to stop due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Officers audited not previously assessed rural areas in West Tamar and Launceston. Areas, such as Campbell Town, Newnham and Summerhill were revisited, as they had not been assessed since 2014.

In 2019, changes were introduced about cardboard milk cartons and aseptic packaging, advising the public that these items are not recycled. This raised a lot of comments and questions from the public (phone calls and emails); however, most people were satisfied once the situation was explained detailing the composite nature of these items containing aluminium, two different types of plastic and fibre/paper.

Seven percent of bins audited failed assessment by having more than 10% contamination by volume. This rate has slowly fallen each year since 2013. This rate may increase after the Covid-19 lockdown and will show in results next year.

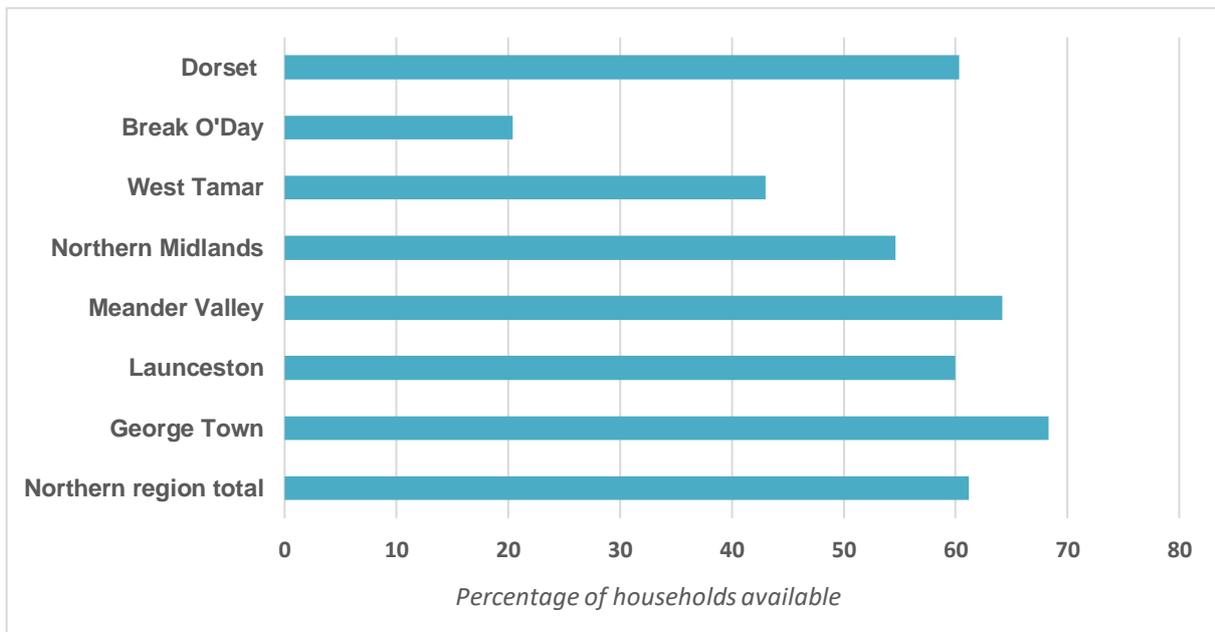
As noted last year, compostable packaging is causing confusion amongst householders as this material is not recyclable if made by plant starches and soft plastic is still the most common contaminant. Of the 8905 bins audited in 2019/20, 1066 had some sort of soft plastic bag contamination.



**Figure 4 Compostable food packaging in recycling bin and overflowing bins due to Covid-19 impacts**

Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns during 2020 forced the kerbside assessment program to be suspended for 12 weeks from March to June. Many public events and school visits were also cancelled or rescheduled. Kerbside audits resumed late June on a modified basis.

Once the kerbside assessment program restarted, it was noted that kerbside recycling bins had a high proportion of cardboard and other packaging, probably due to increased online shopping and increased food deliveries. Many overfilled residential waste and recycling bins were observed during this time. In the seven years that the program has been operating 37,090 bins have been assessed at least once across the region. This represents 61.2% of all households in the region that have a recycling service. Table 3 shows number of households visited across the council areas since the beginning of the program in April 2013.



**Figure 5 Recycling bins audited as percentage of households available in each council area 2013-2020**

Table 3 Kerbside contamination assessments April 2013 - June 2020

Location	Households available	Households assessed	Households assessed %
Northern region total (excl. Dorset)	52,936	32,411 once 4,679 twice	61.2% once 8.8% twice
Location	Households assessed as % of households available in each municipality		
George Town	68.3% once, 3.5% twice		
Launceston	60% once, 13.9% twice		
Meander Valley	64.2% once, 1.7% twice		
Northern Midlands	54.6% once, 4.4% twice		
West Tamar	43% once, 1.8% twice		
Break O'Day	20.4% once		
Dorset	60.3% once		

## 2.2 Community engagement

NTWMG education staff visit organisations in Northern Tasmania offering waste and recycling education and awareness through presentations, displays and demonstrations. The officers visit early learning centre, primary and secondary schools, community groups and have a presence at public events. The television series, War on Waste has increased the public's interest, awareness and expectations in recycling. This has led to an increase in talks to schools and community groups. Officers found while speaking to the public that there appears to be a greater awareness of soft plastic and the fact that it can be recycled. While many people are now using the soft plastic bins at the major supermarkets and the transfer stations, officers are unsure if this is reducing the amount of soft plastic in kerbside bins. Officers have found that soft plastic continues to be the most common contaminant in kerbside recycling bins.

In 2019-20, officers recorded 367 interactions with the public as part of the kerbside auditing project and of these, 350 were positive and supportive of the program. The remaining interactions involved questions about recycling confusion, aseptic packaging, compostable packaging and FOGO.

In 2019/20 NTWMG kerbside education officers attended over 20 community events. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions many events were cancelled. For a full list of 2019/20 community engagement activities see Appendix A.

## 2.3 Communications

### 2.3.1 Good SORT advertising campaign

The NTWMG deliver consistent waste and resource recovery education across Tasmania. Accompanied by the recognisable 'Good SORT' slogan, communications activities ranging from television, radio, newspaper and online advertisements target:

- Commonly occurring kerbside recycling bin contaminants
- Items residents may not realise are recyclable such as empty aerosol cans
- Waste Hierarchy - Avoid, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Dispose.
- Hazardous materials to keep out of kerbside recycling i.e. batteries and gas cylinders
- Illegal dumping.

### **2.3.2 Tasmanian Waste Management Communications Plan 2017-2022**

During 2019/2020 NTWWMG contributed \$30,000 towards a joint communications plan with Cradle Coast Waste Services (CCWS) and The Southern Tasmanian Waste Management Group (STWWMG) allowing for resource, cost sharing and consistency around waste minimisation and resource recovery messaging across the whole of Tasmania. The group has developed the "Be a Good SORT" brand and television advertising campaign and managed the Rethinkwaste.com.au website and in 2018 established the Rethink Facebook page to further bolster sustainable waste communication.

In 2020, as outlined in the State Communications Plan the group also signed an MOU with Master Builders Tasmania to initiate the development of Construction & Demolition (C&D) diversion from landfill as this sector is not well resourced in this regard. As part of the partnership, an audit of two standard type house builds is being carried out to identify the volumes, waste types and recoverable materials as part of the complete building process. This will give the group valuable insights into this sector.

The joint communications also managed media campaigns on topical and emerging waste and resource recovery issues through television, radio, newsprint and social media platforms. Campaigns included: Organics diversion, composting, glass recycling, e-waste, coffee keep cups and recycling, what can be recycled and case studies of organisations in both regions practicing good waste and resource recovery activities.

### **2.3.3 Rethinkwaste website and Facebook**

[Rethinkwaste.com.au](http://Rethinkwaste.com.au) and [www.facebook.com/rethinkwastetasmania](http://www.facebook.com/rethinkwastetasmania) are the central online communication tools and social media platforms for people to find out about and interact around recycling and waste management in Northern Tasmania. The website gives information on the NTWWMG and provides waste resources for people to download in the form of reports, 'how to' documents and video demonstrations. The site enables users to search by municipality to find information on what can and cannot be recycled, waste collection services, and operating times, location and services of council Waste Transfer Stations (WTS). The website is also used for correspondence and submissions for grant applications and promoting waste management events. The Facebook page offers an interactive platform that is linked to the website and engages people by showing case studies and linking and sharing with other Facebook pages.

In the 2019/20 financial year the Rethinkwaste website had 56,732 views, 29,143 users and 35,432 sessions with 88.9% new visitors recorded and the Rethink Facebook page has 3,490 followers.

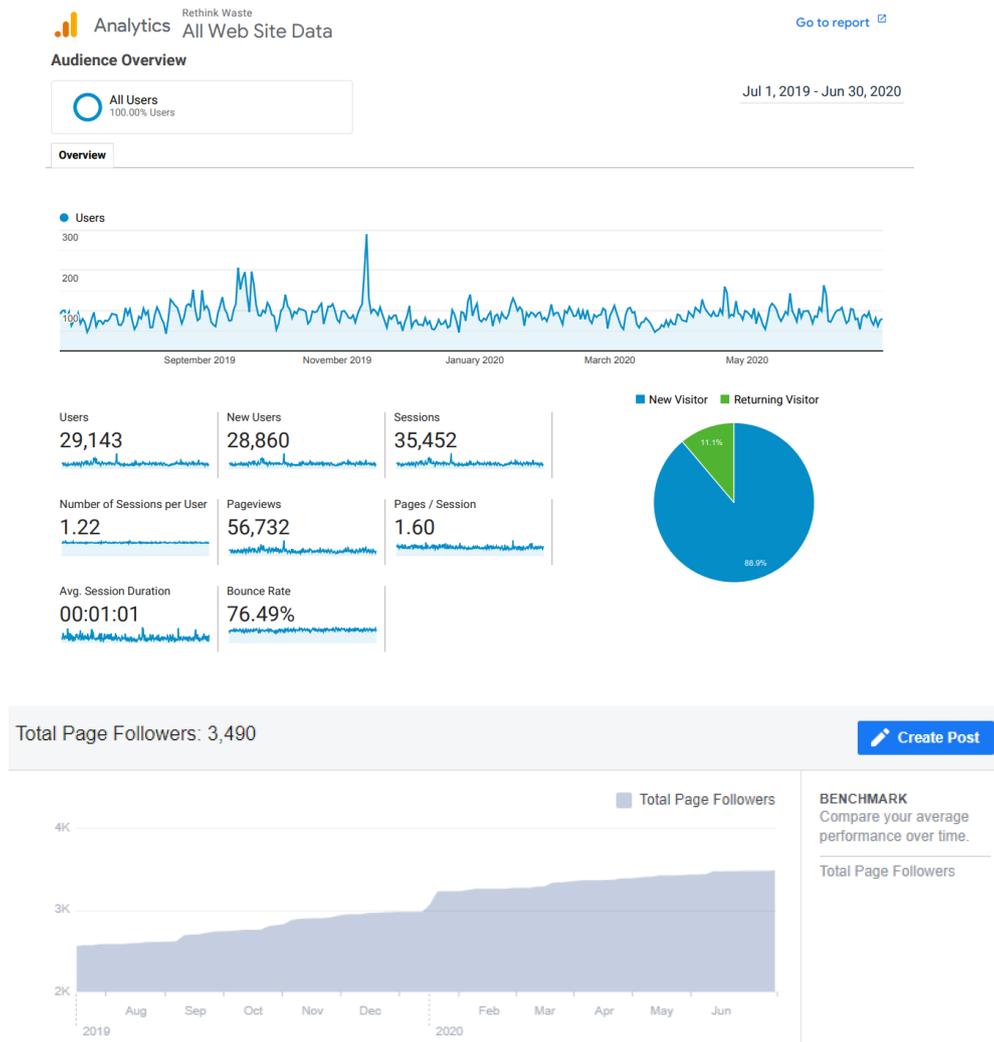


Figure 6 Rethink website and Facebook metrics 2019-20

### 2.3.4 Recycle Coach mobile application

The NTWGM purchases a yearly subscription to the mobile app Recycle Coach. The app allows users to set customised reminders for regular waste FOGO and recycling collections and contains a searchable index of detailed recycling and disposal instructions specific to the user's area. The app also includes functionality to inform subscribers of special e-waste collection events such as one-off household hazardous waste, e-waste and hard waste collections.

In 2019/2020 there were 7,241 app users with 189,312 resident interactions and 400 new app subscribers.

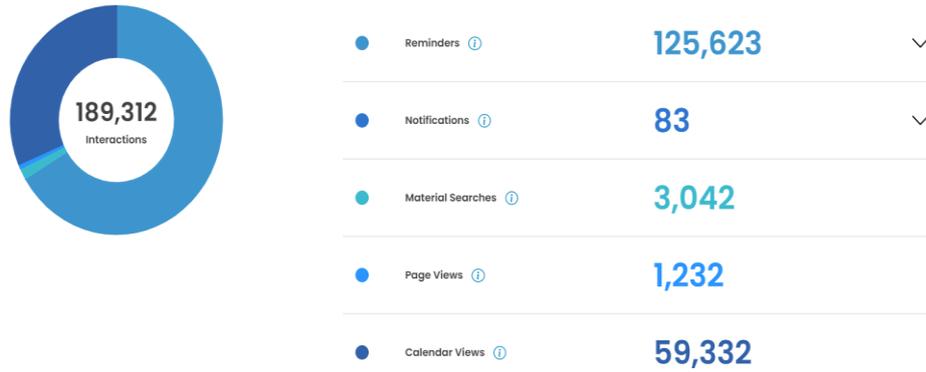


Figure 7 Recycle Coach App interactions 2019-20

### 2.3.5 Garage Sale Trail

In October 2019, the NTWMG participated in the Garage Sale Trail for the seventh time at a cost of \$12,750. Garage Sale Trail is a national initiative which coordinates garage sales around Australia with the aim of promoting community connections and reuse of items that otherwise might end up in landfills.

Garage Sale Trail registers 10,000 garage sales in communities across Australia annually. In 2019 the garage sales occurred on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 October. The NTWMG Region generated 146 garage sales including 66 individual sales 71 stalls and 9 group sales.

There was 5,583 people in the region that participated in the garage sale trail weekend as a shopper or seller. There were 33,950 items listed and 6,300 items sold/reused.

Local economic outcomes suggest \$35,432 was generated in the region with the average household generating \$304 from the sale of used items.

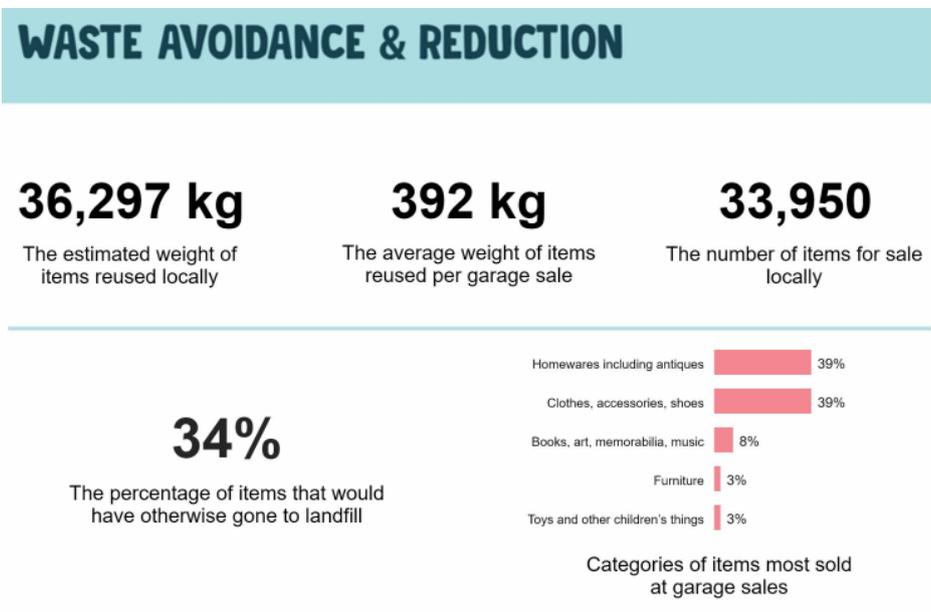


Figure 8 2019 Garage Sale Trail Nth TAS statistics

## 2.4 Resource recovery and waste minimisation grants program

The NTWMG waste minimisation grants support Northern Tasmania to increase resource recovery and decrease waste generation. The grants program has been operating since 2012 and since its establishment has awarded over \$500,000 in funding and has diverted an estimated 3,000 tonnes of material away from Landfill. \$70,000 is available annually under the Resource Recovery and Waste Minimisation Grants program.

This grants program allocates funds to eligible organisations in Northern Tasmania that are working towards decreasing the amount of waste sent to landfill through innovative core activities and/or increasing the recovery of resources from waste that would otherwise be lost to landfill.

Financial support is provided for eligible project costs associated with procuring innovative recycling infrastructure or educational materials necessary to improve waste management practices in the Northern Tasmanian area.

In 2019/20 there were 10 successful grant applicants who shared \$47,140 with a total project value of \$100,627. See *Table 4* for details.

**Table 4 Summary of projects funded through the 2019/20 NTWMG Grants Program**

Organisation	Project	Cost of project	Allocation	% Project funded
City of Launceston	Town Hall Landfill diversion project	\$4,715.00	\$ 2,357.50	50
Kings Meadows High	Supply and install Hand dryers	\$9,225.00	\$4,612.50	50
Launceston Aquatic Centre	FOGO & Recycling Infrastructure	\$8,507.36	\$4,253.68	50
Lilydale District Pony Club	Lilydale Pony Club Community Recycling Trailer	\$10,260.00	\$4,130.00	50
Northern Midlands Council	Installation of solar bin at Perth Train Park	\$8,857.40	\$4,428.70	50
Northern Suburbs Community Centre	Swap Shop, Youth Program and upcycled social enterprise project	\$28,790.00	\$12,290.00	50
Our lady of Mercy	purchase recycling and compost bin infrastructure	\$3,457.10	\$1,727.00	50
Panama Productions	Purchase glass washer and equipment	\$7,240.00	\$3,554.00	50
Scotch Oakburn College	Purchase recycling bins	\$1,420.16	\$710.08	50
Turner Stillhouse Pty Ltd	Install systems to upcycle and separate grain	\$18,155.00	\$9,077.50	50
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$100,627.00</b>	<b>\$47,140.96</b>	

## 2.5 Support implementation of regional organics

In 2017 the City of Launceston commenced a kerbside organics collection service. To support the introduction of this service the NTWMG funded the purchase of 10,000 kitchen caddies (\$68,000) and the printing of education material to be delivered to all residents in the Launceston area who registered for the service. As other councils in the northern region introduce a similar service in the future similar funding assistance will be provided to purchase the FOGO kitchen caddies. West Tamar Council introduced a FOGO service to residents and over 4,000 kitchen caddies have been supplied through the NTWMG.

### 2.6 NTWVG Waste Not Awards

The Waste NoT Awards aims to celebrate and recognise those within the community who have made the effort to change the way they manage their waste. From waste avoidance, waste processing and education initiatives through to recycling, re-invention and upcycling, these awards recognise efforts made to improve waste management and recycling and demonstrate the importance of better waste management practices to the community through examples.

The awards are divided in to categories; early learners, primary school, secondary school, colleges/tertiary, small to medium organization, large organization, individuals, not for profit community organisations and state/local government.

In 2019 there were 9 winners awarded from 18 applicants. See *Table 5* for details.

**Table 5 2019 Waste NoT Award Winners**

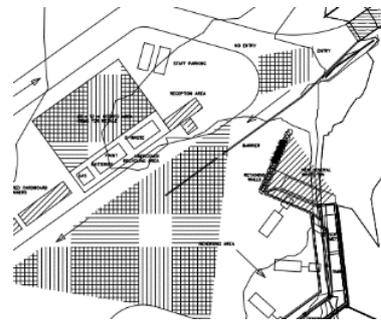
Award Categories	Award Winners	Projects
Early Learners	Harper Ling & Glen Dhu Children Services	Clean up local & War on Waste
Primary School	Trevallyn Primary	Waste at the Taste
Secondary School	Deloraine High School	Sustainable Communities
Colleges/Tertiary	Launceston College	STEAM plastic recycling 3D printer
Small to medium org	Vibestown Productions	Festival sustainability and waste management
Large Organisations	N/A	N/A
Individuals	The Poulton Family	The Bread bag challenge
Not for Profit	Harvest Launceston Community Farmers Market	FOGO at Launceston Harvest Market
State/local Govt	Break O Day Council	Hook Line & Sinkers

### 2.7 Waste transfer station best practise upgrades

In 2019 as outlined in the 2017-2022 strategy funding was allocated to best practise upgrades for waste transfer stations. The funding support is to improve safety, recycling capacity, green waste management, resale recovery and landfill diversion at Northern Tasmanian waste transfer stations.

In 2019 the NTWVG agreed to direct the funding towards upgrades at the West Tamar Council Exeter site which handles high volumes of recyclables and waste within the northern region. Upgrades included changing traffic flow, moving the gate house, directing vehicles past recycling prior to waste disposal, upgrading the green waste section and installing a new sawtooth bay for a large scrap metal hook lift bin.

The best practise upgrade funding for transfer stations will be ongoing and continue to drive improvements for waste transfer stations in Northern Tasmania.



## 2.8 Support household hazardous waste collection program

### 2.8.1 Paint

The NTWVG established a new paint-recycling program in March 2018 through partnering with Cleanaway which disposes of the paint waste through the Paintback scheme funded through a 15c per litre levy on the sale of paint. The aim of this partnership was to standardise paint recycling collection across the region and offer the service to all seven major transfer stations in each municipality where in the past only three councils benefitted from the service.



Once the waste paint is collected, the paint is transferred to a liquid treatment plant for processing where specialist equipment will crush the tins and extract the paint for processing and treatment. Waste elements from water based paint is processed before beneficial reuse through composting, waste elements from solvent based paints are used as an alternative fuel source for a local cement manufacturer. Plastic and metal paint packaging is split into ferrous and plastic materials and diverted to recycling recovery through the metals recycler network.

In 2019/20 the group has facilitated 59 tonnes of waste paint being collected and reprocessed; this is similar to the amount diverted from the previous year and represents significant project savings and landfill diversion of a hazardous waste substance.

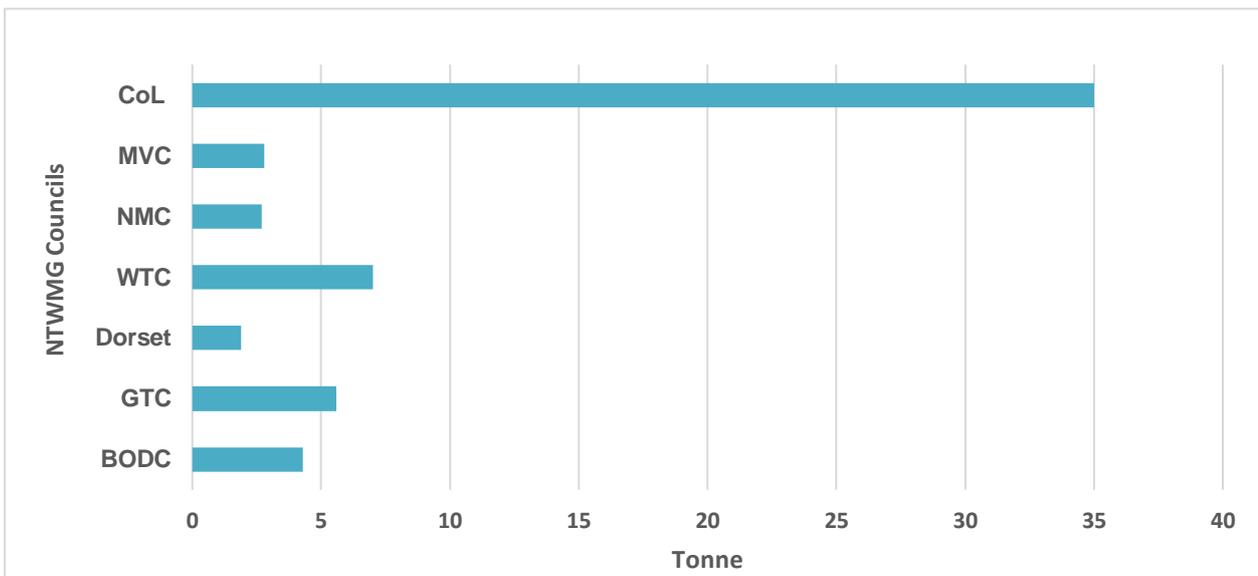


Figure 9 NTWVG Paintback Recycling 2019/20

### 2.8.2 Fluorescent bulbs and tubes

In order to engage the broader community with resource recovery activities, the NTWMG established a collection of mercury containing fluorescent bulbs and tubes in all northern council offices. Fluorescent bulb and tube collections have been established at most waste transfer stations in NTWMG. This collection has been maintained during 2019/2020 with 3,800 kilograms collected and processed in Northern Tasmania. Fluorescent tubes and bulbs contain the heavy metal mercury and pose risks both to human health and the environment. The mercury is recovered and reused through the recycling process.



### 2.8.3 Household batteries

In 2019/2020 household battery recycling collection occurred in northern councils. The collection is via collection buckets distributed amongst the northern council customer service centres and most of the major NTWMG waste transfer stations also offer battery collection and recycling services. Like fluorescent tubes batteries are hazardous to the environment as they contain many different types of heavy metals like cadmium, lithium and nickel. Household batteries also pose a fire risk and have been responsible for causing fires in kerbside recycling and waste compactor trucks in Northern Tasmania. Recycling rates for household batteries is extremely low hovering around 4%. The federal government is considering adding batteries to a national stewardship scheme which will help increase awareness and hopefully recycling rates for used batteries in the future. In 2019/20 over 4,500 kilograms of batteries were recycled through this NTWMG initiative.



## 2.9 Special collection of problem materials

### 2.9.1 Polystyrene

The City of Launceston installed a polystyrene recycling machine in 2016 that condenses collected polystyrene into easily transportable bricks which are sold and shipped away to a recycler on mainland Australia and overseas. The extruder gives a 90:1 density ratio, after extrusion each block weighs approximately 7kg. In 2017/18 the NTWMG enabled capacity of outlying waste transfer stations to collect polystyrene and transport it back to the Launceston Waste Centre for recycling. The polystyrene is collected at all major transfer stations in the region in bulk bags and transported back to the Launceston Recycling Centre by Launceston City Mission, the contractor exchanges full bags for empty bulk bags. In 2019/2020 the NTWMG recycled over 11,700 kilograms of polystyrene and diverted 1,618 cubic metres of the material from going into landfills in Northern Tasmania.



**2.10 Facilitate sustainable management of Ewaste**

Ewaste is a fast growing and problematic waste stream, currently NTWMG councils are subsidised for ewaste collection and processing and since December 2017 the group has established a partnership with Techcollect who are a co-regulator under the national stewardship scheme for electronic waste. The program is funded via a .78c/kg levy placed on imported electronic waste. The deal the northern group brokered with Techcollect is free processing and transport from Tasmania to the Victorian electronic waste processing facility. Transport from each major outlying transfer station is paid for by the group and it handled by Launceston City Mission who were the previous ewaste collectors. This new Techcollect partnership represents significant cost savings for the NTWMG as previously the group was charged .50c/kg to have the material collected and processed. The partnership has also enabled the collection to be offered to Break O' Day Council who did not have a service previous to this. During 2019/20 Ewaste George Town Council had a separate arrangement with Recycle to recycle its ewaste.

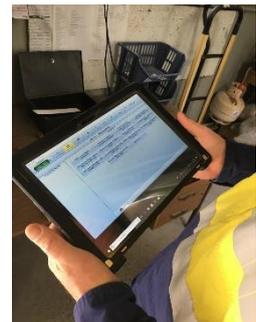


In 2019/20 there was over 180,000 kilograms of ewaste collected processed in the NTWMG region with council collection amounts as follows:

City of Launceston 119,700 kilograms, West Tamar 12,000 kilograms, Break O' Day 16,000 kilograms, Northern Midlands 11,000 kilograms, Dorset 1,500 kilograms, Meander Valley 10,000 kilograms and George Town 5,000 kilograms.

**2.11 Data collection at waste transfer stations**

To enable northern Tasmanian councils to collect accurate data at waste transfer stations across the region, the NTWMG invested \$100,000 towards the implementation of data collection systems for all councils in the form of software, hardware, training and a central website database. This will enable a much more accurate measurement and assessment of waste and recycling requirements for the Northern region to help drive improvements and identify and prioritise levy funded projects, while also offering advances in automated delivery of financial data to council IT and finance departments. Annual licensing and support fees (\$13,500) for all member councils are subsidised by the NTWMG



**2.12 Support household hazardous waste collection**

HHW project is a biennial event which aims to provide capacity to the community to bring in hazardous or unidentifiable liquids/ materials that can be managed and disposed of responsibly. This year collections were held at St Helens, Georgetown and Launceston at the end of October for a total cost of \$20,895, which is less than half of the allocated budget. Results below:



**Table 6 2019 Household hazardous waste collection data**

Council	Number of cars attending	Kilos HHHW collected
Break O' Day (St Helens)	2	41
Georgetown	10	215
City of Launceston	36	726
TOTALS	48	982

**2.13 NTWMG Financial position June 30 2020**

	Actual Results 2019-2020
Opening regional waste management reserve balance 1 July 2019	339,714
Levy Income 19/20	686,000
TOTAL levy funds available	<u>1,025,714</u>
Budgeted Expenditure 19/20	563,544
Closing regional waste management reserve balance 30 June 2020	<u><u>462,170</u></u>

### 3 ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2020/2021

At the beginning of the 2019/2020 financial year the NTWMG amended the voluntary regional landfill levy from \$5/t to \$7.50/t to allow for regional strategic projects outlined in the 2017-2022 NTWMG Strategy to be completed and to bolster and improve waste management outcomes for Northern Tasmania. The amendment has allowed for more levy income to be forecast than in previous years.

The total project budget forecast for 2020/2021 is \$1,082,170 this includes estimated levy income of \$620,000 and an opening balance of \$462,170. A closing balance of \$200,000 is usually required each year to act as a financial buffer to address arising regional issues, however in responding to Covid-19 and adding to community care packages the NTWMG have agreed to commit this closing reserve amount to the development of Circular Economy in Northern Tasmania.

Total project expenditure forecast for 2020/2021 is \$957,657 this includes operational expenditure, support of NTWMG strategy projects and the Circular economy development funding. A full list of all projects can be found in Appendix B.

New major projects and existing projects with costs expected to be \$20,000 or higher, are described below. Established and minor activities, with costs expected to be less than \$20,000, are not described below but have been accounted for in the current and forecasted budget found in Appendix B.

#### 3.1 Monitor bin contamination and provide regular feedback to residents

(\$119,292) The reduction of contamination in kerbside recycling bins is important both financially and environmentally, now more so than ever when recycling pricing is increasing domestically, nationally and globally.

On-the-ground assessment of kerbside recycling bin contamination and direct education will be the focus of this project over 2020/2021, however additional supporting activities have been added to the program. These supporting activities include an increased focus on recycling presentations and displays for schools and community groups and operation of recycling trials at public events.

#### 3.2 Award community grants for activities that reduce waste to landfill

(\$75,000) In 2020/2021 the NTWMG Community Grants Program will again be implemented with an allocated value of \$75,000 towards the program. As with the previous year's grants program, applicants must demonstrate a clear benefit to the Tasmanian community beyond the term of the grant period, align with the applicant's organisational business plan, provide benefits for improved resource recovery/waste minimisation practices, demonstrate innovation and divert material away from landfills.

#### 3.3 Continued implementation of statewide communications strategy/education plan

(\$30,000) In 2020/2021, the NTWMG will continue to work towards providing a detailed communications strategy and actions for waste reduction, organics, recycling, consistent signage, illegal dumping, schools and community education. This will be achieved through television, print and online advertising, social networks and targeted media releases, events and case studies.

The 2017-2022 communications strategy was endorsed by NTWMG, Cradle Coast Waste Services (CCWS) and the Southern Tasmanian Waste Management Group (STWMG) to provide Tasmanian statewide waste communications which assists in standardising the messaging across the state. It also allows for resource and cost sharing enabling more cost effective communications. Each organisation contributes \$30,000 annually to pool together \$90,000. During 2020/21 the partnership aims to continue to increase community awareness of the Tasmanian waste management groups and sustainable waste management practices, with a particular emphasis on implementation of the first principle of the waste hierarchy "avoid" using materials that are single use and problematic from a recycling point of view. The collaboration aims to increase participation in its education program for primary schools. Additionally, as part of the statewide joint communications group, the NTWMG will be participating in the ongoing maintenance of the rethinkwaste.com.au website, waste education campaigns and the administration of the new rethink Facebook page.

### 3.4 Transfer station upgrades

(\$100,000) As outlined in the NTWVG 2017-2022 strategy funding was allocated to best practise upgrades for waste transfer stations. The funding support is to improve safety, recycling capacity, green waste management, resale recovery and landfill diversion at Northern Tasmanian waste transfer stations.

### 3.5 Regional landfill and transfer station audits.

(\$120,000) Conduct a regional landfill and transfer station audit to identify regional waste volumes, landfill waste composition and recovery streams. This data will assist the region in gaining a more detailed understanding to help the NTWVG prioritise landfill diversion and education opportunities.

### 3.6 Circular Economy development for Northern Tasmania

(\$200,000) As part of responding to the Covid -19 pandemic the NTWVG have committed \$200,000 to the development of Circular Economy projects, practices and demonstrations in Northern Tasmania. A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and protecting natural systems. A circular approach moves away from a linear approach of a take, make, break and waste and moves to a more circular approach where waste and bi-products are reused and revalued.

This major project forms part of a regional community care package by creating investment in innovative circular economy projects, which in turn boost local awareness, economies and employment. This significant funding was made possible through the closing reserve balance that the NTWVG has continually budgeted for to respond to arising regional challenges such as what has been experienced with Covid-19 2020. While providing a community care package the funding also supports the aims of the NTWVG by aiming to increase landfill diversion and positioning Northern Tasmania to become an early adopter and leader in circular economy. This initiative is in partnership with Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC)

### 3.7 ASPIRE digital trading platform for waste streams 12 month Trial

(\$22,000) ASPIRE offer a digital platform for small and large businesses to identify by-products of their operations that may be useful to another business thus promoting landfill diversion and reducing businesses waste management costs.

See [www.aspiresme.com](http://www.aspiresme.com) for more details and demonstrated case studies.

The NTWVG have agreed to a 12-month trial where Small to Medium Enterprises (SME's) with less than 20 employees can apply free membership and registration to the platform within Northern Tasmania to trade and make connections. This project is also in partnership with NTDC.

### 3.8 Continue to facilitate sustainable management of Ewaste (\$25,000)

(\$25,000) Currently NTWVG councils are subsidised for ewaste collection and processing. The NTWVG has negotiated an agreement with National stewardship organisation Techcollect to collect and process Northern Tasmania's e-waste free of charge from Launceston. The costs for the project are to transport the ewaste form out transfer stations to the Launceston waste centre.

In 2018/2019 the ewaste budget was reduced from \$100,000 to \$50,000 and in 2020/2021 the budget has been further reduced to \$25,000.

### 3.9 Regional Waste Forum

(\$10,000) Coordinate a yearly NTWVG waste forum inviting member council elected members, waste management staff and commercial sector to attend a presentation aimed at raising awareness of the group and associated services within member councils. The 2021 forum will highlight the state of Tasmanian waste recovery, NTWVG group achievements, challenges and include keynote speakers giving a national, state and regional perspective.

### **3.10 Participate in State-wide Waste action plan and proposed legislated State landfill levy**

The NTWMG with its demonstrated regional coordination of waste management and the administration of the regional voluntary landfill levy is well placed to provide input towards the Tasmanian State Waste Action Plan and actively engage on the development of a state landfill levy. The NTWMG will advocate for maintaining the momentum and positive regional waste outcomes that have been achieved over the last decade.

## 4 FINANCIAL

### 4.1 Budget (levy funds)

The current and forecasted status of the levy funds are detailed below for the 2020/2021 financial year. See Appendix B for detailed project expenditure.

	<b>2020/2021 Budget</b>
Opening regional waste management reserve balance 1 July 2020	462,170
Forecast Levy income	<u>620,000</u>
<b>Estimated total levy funds available</b>	<u><b>1,082,170</b></u>
Budgeted Expenditure	957,657
<b>Estimated reserve closing balance 30June 2021</b>	<u><b>124,513</b></u>

## APPENDIX A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Recycling Education & Community Engagement

During 2019-20, Recycling Education Officers were involved in Community Education activities. These include:

#### Static Displays:

- WTC Riverside Office and WTC staff lunch room - until July 2020
- GTC display at Customer Service Centre - ongoing
- Northern Suburbs Community Centre, Newnham - until Mar 2020

#### School visits:

- Westbury Primary School, 6 classes (all school), 30<sup>th</sup> June
- Scotch Oakburn College, Recycling talk (Gr 7's), 5 Mar [taken by Michelle Ogulin]

#### Other:

- Visit to Storm Disability service at St Helens to speak to staff about kerbside recycling, January
- Mowbray Community day, 29<sup>th</sup> February

#### Planned:

- LST Prep School, recycling talks, 6 classes, 20 October
- Recycling education for teachers & school staff, in 2020 (delayed)
- Scottsdale Primary School, 2&3 Sept, all school
- Studentworks, Recycling talk (catering students, 2 groups), 13 & 19 August
- Glenara Lakes residents group, recycling talk, 16 Oct
- Panel Member, UTAS Sustainability event (via Zoom), 13 August
- Bridport Childcare, visit planned, possibly November

#### Cancelled due to COVID 19:

- Agfest, May 2020
- Tamar NRM Sustainability event, September
- WTC, recycling talk at staff meeting, April
- Scotch Oakburn College, recycling talk (Gr 7's)
- East LST Primary School fair, March, display & activities
- Salvation Army group, Recycling talk, 3 June

## APPENDIX B SUMMARY OF 2019/2020 STRATEGY PROJECTS

Item	NTWVG Projects 2017-2022	Budget - forecast 20/21
<b>1</b>	<b><i>Priority waste theme: Organics</i></b>	
1.1	Regional organics kitchen caddies	\$ 40,000.00
1.2	Regional organics education	\$ -
		<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>
<b>2</b>	<b><i>Priority waste theme: C&amp;D recovery and reprocessing</i></b>	
2.1	C&D/C&I recovery: ASPIRE	\$ 25,000
		<b>\$ 25,000</b>
<b>3</b>	<b><i>Priority waste theme: Household hazardous waste</i></b>	
3.1	Household hazardous waste biennial collection	\$ 25,000
3.2	Domestic batteries collections	\$ 15,914
3.3	Paint collection	\$ -
3.4	Fluorescent light collection	\$ 10,404
		<b>\$ 51,318</b>
<b>4</b>	<b><i>Priority waste theme: Problem wastes</i></b>	
4.1	E-waste collection	\$ 25,000
4.2	Glass recovery from transfer stations	
<b>NEW</b>	Soft Plastics recycling trial	
<b>NEW</b>	CD & DVD recycling	
4.3	Polystyrene recycling (transport)	\$ 12,000
		<b>\$ 37,000</b>
<b>5</b>	<b><i>Priority waste theme: Transfer station and data improvements</i></b>	
5.1	NTWVG transfer station infrastructure upgrades	\$ 100,000
5.2	Waste charging and consistent services	
5.3	Kerbside waste composition audits (4 yearly)	\$ -
5.4	Landfill and transfer station composition audits (4 yearly)	\$ 120,000
5.5	Data collection - expansion to satellite transfer stations	\$ 11,000
		<b>\$ 231,000</b>

<b>6</b>	<b><i>Priority waste theme: Kerbside recycling assessments and community education</i></b>	
<b>6.1</b>	Kerbside recycling bin assessments and community/school education - salaries	\$ 98,023
<b>6.2</b>	Kerbside recycling bin assessment program - materials and training	\$ 20,269
<b>6.3</b>	Community events and displays	\$ 1,000
		<b>\$ 119,292</b>
<b>7</b>	<b><i>Priority waste theme: Share information about waste and recycling and raise awareness about the NTWVG</i></b>	
<b>7.1</b>	Regional/cross regional communications and education	\$ 30,000
<b>7.2</b>	Website management	\$ 1,500
<b>7.3</b>	Waste NoT Awards	\$ 5,382
<b>7.4</b>	Garage Sale Trail	\$ -
<b>7.5</b>	Recycle Coach phone app	\$ 13,265
<b>7.6</b>	Local government waste forum - biennial	\$ 10,000
		<b>\$ 60,147</b>
<b>8</b>	<b><i>Priority waste theme: Events, litter and illegal dumping</i></b>	
<b>8.1</b>	Event recycling - the right bins at the right place	
<b>8.2</b>	Litter and illegal dumping hotspots, including PPR bins	\$ -
<b>8.3</b>	Illegal dumping strategy advocacy	\$ -
		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>9</b>	<b><i>Resource recovery grants (covers organics; transfer station improvements; C&amp;D priority waste themes)</i></b>	
<b>9.1</b>	NTWVG resource recovery grants program	\$ 75,000
		<b>\$ 75,000</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Administration</b>	
<b>10.1</b>	Staffing x 2 P/T (equiv. to 1 FTE @ 50% NTWVG/50% CoL)	\$ 99,400
<b>10.2</b>	Training and conferences	\$ 7,500
<b>10.3</b>	Annual report and budget (internal)	
<b>10.4</b>	Strategy mid-term review (internal)	
<b>10.5</b>	Annual levy collection and administration charge	\$ 12,000
		<b>\$ 118,900</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Circular Economy Development</b>	
<b>11.1</b>	Utilise closing balance \$200K one off payment	\$ 200,000
<b>TOTAL ALL PROJECTS</b>		<b>\$ 957,657</b>

