

Kerbside Bin Collection

Transition to in-house service delivery

Stage 2 – May 2015

WHAT IS CHANGING AND WHAT ISN'T...

What are the proposed changes to our collection?

Instead of a contracted arrangement with Cleanaway, Council will use its own staff and its own trucks to collect garbage and recycling. Residents will still get the same weekly garbage collection service and fortnightly recycling collection service.

While we tried to keep the changes to the days your waste will be collected to a minimum, we have had to make some modifications to collection routes. This was needed to balance fuel efficient routes, the load capacity of the trucks and the final destination of each trucks daily load.

What areas are affected in Stage 2 of the transition?

All garbage and recycling services WEST of Bullioh (including properties in Old Tallangatta, Georges Creek and properties along the Murray River Road west of the Granya Road intersection).

Stage 2 will complete Council's withdrawal from contracted arrangements.

My place is not included on the maps.

This stage affects properties from the Old Tallangatta intersection heading WEST, including Georges Creek Road, and properties along the Murray River Road through Talgarno and up to (but not including) the intersection with Granya Road.

Yes

Council will continue to collect from all points that are currently being collected either by Council or Cleanaway. If you live on a road that is not highlighted on the map, but is adjacent to the route shown, you will continue to get your waste collected from your usual bin location.

No

Council already collects both garbage and recycling from households east of Bullioh, including Tallangatta Valley (and Soldier Settlers Road) and households along the Granya Road up to the intersection with the Murray River Road.

I live in Tallangatta town. Am I on a Monday collection or a Wednesday collection?

If you live within the township of Tallangatta you will need to check the map for your correct collection day. In basic terms, households within the area bordered by Queen Elizabeth Drive and Towong Street will be collected on Mondays and all other parts within the town will be collected on Wednesdays.

Splitting the town's collection over two days was needed to get the best out of a range of factors including fuel efficient routes, how much area can be covered in one day, the load capacity of the truck and the end destination of the truck's load of garbage or recycling could be balanced.

Can I still recycle the same materials as before?

Yes. And please do. Recycling is a win/win situation.

By recycling all that you can, there will be less volume going to landfill.

Recyclable materials are sent to a recycling plant where it is sorted. Council receives a payment from the plant, which varies depending on the type of material sent, and partially offsets the costs involved with providing the service. It is important to note that the payment is reduced if recyclables are contaminated with garbage – so please take care with what goes in the yellow bin!

Visit www.getitrightbinnight.vic.gov.au to find out more about the huge range of waste from your home that can be recycled – you might be surprised!

Where will Council take the recyclables?

Recycling will initially be taken to the Tallangatta Transfer Station. Periodically it will be taken from Tallangatta to a recycling facility for sorting.

Where will Council take the rubbish?

Most of the rubbish collected from the routes in Stage 2 will be taken to the Corryong landfill, apart from the rubbish collected from the route that goes through Georges Creek, Talgarno, Bethanga and Bellbridge. The rubbish from these areas will be taken to Albury landfill to achieve a more efficient outcome.

Do I have to have a waste collection service?

If you are on the garbage and recycling collection route, then yes. Council is required to facilitate responsible waste management. So for environmental sustainability reasons and to make the services financially viable across our vast yet sparsely populated area, it is compulsory for dwellings within 2km of the designated routes to pay for a waste collection service.

If you have a commercial arrangement with an alternative provider who collects waste from your property then you may apply for an exemption.

How much do I pay for the service?

Most of our residents have a 140 litre garbage bin (the one with the red lid) and a 240 litre recycling bin (yellow lid). For 2014/15, this costs \$250 for the year. The proposed budget currently on public exhibition includes an increase to \$265 for the 2015/16 year. Other bin combinations have different costs.

Can I get a different sized bin?

If you find that your bins are not large enough for your household, you can contact Council to arrange for a larger service. A 240 litre garbage bin and a 240 litre recycling bin service costs \$258 for the 2013/14 year. Or you could get a larger recycling bin (360 litre), or an additional bin; whatever your situation, there will be a solution to suit your needs. Contact Council to find out more.

Can I get a greenwaste/organics bin service?

Not at this stage. Council is currently investigating this service and is looking closely at how neighbouring Councils such as Albury and Corowa are implemented it. When considering any changes to the waste services we provide we need to ensure that it is economically viable in our area (keeping in mind that we have a much smaller population base and greater distances to cover) and we want to keep services affordable for local residents.

THE LOGIC BEHIND THE CHANGE...

Why did Council decide to withdraw from the contract with Cleanaway?

A joint tender with other Councils in North East Victoria was considered in 2012. The theory behind a joint tender is to hopefully achieve economies of scale – like bulk buying. However, when Council considered the tendered options put forward for Towong Shire residents, our sparse population and remote location meant that the costs proposed were still very high compared with our more densely populated neighbours.

With this in mind, we started considering alternatives so we could be confident that our residents could continue to receive a quality kerbside waste collection service at a price they could afford.

How did Council arrive at the in-house collection solution?

Council staff already collected garbage from residents living in the eastern end of the Shire. Initially we already owned two garbage trucks as well as operating an excellent licensed landfill in Corryong. So we had staff with the know-how, we had the equipment to start us off and we have somewhere sustainable to put rubbish.

We then studied maps and plans of the Shire. We highlighted potential routes and we discussed logistics with the drivers. We calculated the costs of staff, fuel and trucks, we researched options for processing recyclables and we checked recent bin audits to see what our residents are throwing away. A number of alternative scenarios were thoroughly cost-modelled, and then we surveyed the community to see what they really wanted for their kerbside collection.

Through the survey process, we found that the existing weekly garbage and fortnightly recyclables collection suited the majority of respondents. We realised that we could operate the same great service ourselves with better outcomes for our residents, for our environment and for the local economy.

To complete the transition to the in-house collection model, Council needed to purchase a new waste compacting truck. From May 2015 our three waste collection trucks will collect garbage and recyclables from all areas of the Shire, plus we have been contracted by Tumbarumba Shire to collect from some of their southern areas.

What are the benefits of a Council operated waste collection service?

Unlike Cleanaway, which operates to achieve a profit and provide returns to shareholders, Council just wants to offer a great-value service to the community.

There are a number of financial efficiencies that we can achieve. The distance driven to collect waste will reduce by over 30%, so fuel consumption and vehicle wear and tear will also reduce. We already own two trucks so we had low capital start up costs. And because we operate the Corryong Landfill, we have more control over the costs.

Other non-financial benefits include being able to increase local employment opportunities and the ability to adopt a flexible approach to respond to community needs rather than be locked into a long-term contract for the service.

What additional resources has Council needed to operate the service Shire-wide?

We already had two trucks and knowledgeable staff. To implement the next stage of the transition we needed to purchase an additional garbage truck. The new service delivery arrangements will also create additional employment opportunities with Council.

What about the Corryong landfill? How much rubbish can it take?

Our landfill license means that the landfill can take rubbish under the proposed arrangements for some time to come – decades even. Council operates the landfill in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority's guidelines and approval.