

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

10 DECEMBER 2025



Item 4. Public Question Time

Questions from Frank Artuso:

1. What were the actual 2024/25 financial year costs and the budgeted 2025/26 costs for recycling and reprocessing contaminated recycling materials?
2. What are the processors sliding scale penalties above the allowable 10% contamination threshold?
3. Are fees and penalties calculated per an actual waste truckload and therefore linked to the collection route and day of the week?
4. What auditing process verify the processor's charges to the City of Port Phillip and at what intervals are these charges invoiced to benchmark strategy progress in dollar terms?
5. Is there an identifiable correlation between seasonal or event periods and the costs associated with recycling and reprocessing of recycling materials? If yes, then how is the City of Port Phillip using this information as part of a strategic solution?
6. Can public reporting in quarterly CEO reports, newsletters and websites include dollar value metrics linked to the Waste & Recycling Strategy targets regarding these costs?
7. Will the City of Port Phillip education initiatives include dollar value implications to improve residents' understanding of this issue and buy into solutions?
8. Is the \$2 million General Waste Red Bin Lid Changeover fully Government grant funded?
9. Will the City of Port Phillip repurpose the current serviceable old burgundy bins lids as an exemplar case study, guided by the Circular Economy Act 2021?

Responses:

1. *In the 2024/25FY Council incurred recycling processing charges of \$1,029,300 with an additional \$374,490 charged for contamination. For 2025/26FY, the budget forecasts \$1,064,239 for processing and includes an additional line item of \$466,453 for contamination.*
2. *Councils' processor, Cleanaway, applies base recycling processing rates for contamination up to 15%. For contamination between 15% and 25%, an additional rate per percentage point is applied, and a higher rate per percentage point applies for contamination above 25%.*
3. *No, fees and penalties are not calculated per individual truckload. The contamination rate, which determines the overall processing fee (Gate Fee + Contamination Rate + Landfill Levy), is set annually based on an independent audit. Contamination cannot be linked to a specific route or truck.*
4. *The processor's charges to City of Port Phillip are verified through annual independent audits that determine the contamination rate for the following year. These audits are conducted over a 10-day period by an external auditor who samples Council's commingled recycling. The contamination rate established by this audit sets the processing fee for the entire year. Charges are invoiced at regular monthly intervals, based on tonnage processed and the annual contamination rate. Because the contamination rate and therefore the processing fee is fixed for the year, any financial gains from initiatives are realised on an annual cycle.*
5. *There is a seasonal trend in overall recycling processing costs, with costs peaking in summer and dipping in winter. Contamination-related costs have not been extrapolated at this stage.*
6. *Council acknowledges the importance of transparency and the community's interest in understanding the financial implications of the Waste and Recycling Strategy. While*

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Council has not included dollar-value metrics in current public reporting, Council can commit to considering this as part of future-year reporting. At a high level, this could involve incorporating aggregated cost indicators such as the overall financial impact of contamination rates or the savings achieved through key initiatives into Council's quarterly CEO reports, the Divercity newsletter, and the Council website.

- 7. Council have not planned to provide residents with specific dollar figures for individual impacts, as Council want to avoid an overemphasis on small cost differences. Instead, the approach is to share the broader financial implications. For example, Council will illustrate the overall cost difference between a contamination rate of 20 percent and one of 50 percent one of the scenarios Council have modelled if glass remains in the recycling stream.*
- 8. Not currently. Council received a grant for the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) roll out. Council have not yet applied for a grant for the red bin lid changeover, but Council will if the grants open again.*
- 9. Discussions with Council will commence shortly regarding options to repurpose the old burgundy bins, however repurposing bin lids only is not practical.*

Item 10.2 Proposed Local Law Amendment Update and Draft Protocol with Police

Question from Councillor Buckingham:

The report states that it will cost \$60k if either Option A or Option B is passed tonight. How much has Council spent in the last 12 months on investigating changes to our Local Law? Has Council costed implementation of these changes?

Response:

Council can confirm that approximately \$15,493 has been spent on legal advice, benchmarking and report writing to investigate changes to the Local Law in 2025 following a number of Council resolutions.

The \$60,000 endorsed at the 10 December 2025 meeting will cover the cost of engagement and required legal certification for consideration of a new Local Law.

Council has not costed implementation if Option B is endorsed next year, however Council will be able to accommodate enforcement within existing resources and no other implementation costs are expected. Council have not costed potential legal challenges, but these could cost from upwards of \$5000.

Question from Councillor Jay:

There's been a referral to the cost of implementing and potential changes at \$50k. Can we get an understanding of how much these encampments are costing us in the form of Local Laws, cleaning, time, rapid response and what the financial cost is of managing these spaces currently?

Response:

Council does not break down these services into work specifically responding to encampments versus other scenarios, so it is difficult to give an exact cost for management of encampments.

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However, the work mainly fits into the Safe and Liveable City strategic direction in the Council Plan under the following service profiles

- 1. City Amenity - dumped rubbish, local laws compliance and animal management, public space bins and litter collection, public toilets, street and beach cleaning and graffiti management*
- 2. Community Safety - rapid response cleaning service, local laws amenity patrols, community safety policy and planning, public place CCTV and summer management.*