

Protection of the Environment Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In accordance with clause 39.1.6 of the Eastern Waste Management Authority Charter, East Waste must, in consultation with its Constituent Councils, prepare, adopt and keep under review a policy on the protection of the environment.
- 1.2. East Waste collects and transports waste and recyclable materials on behalf of its Constituent Councils. These activities have the potential to affect the environment, and East Waste recognises its responsibility to minimise those impacts.
- 1.3. This policy sets out East Waste's commitment to responsible waste collection and transport, the prevention of pollution and environmental harm, resource recovery, and compliance with relevant environmental requirements. It has been prepared with consideration of the Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010 and the National Waste Policy 2018: Less Waste, More Resources.

2. Scope

- 2.1. This policy applies to all East Waste employees, contractors and labour-hire personnel. It covers East Waste's waste collection and transport services; vehicles, plant and equipment; depot, workshops and operational sites; and activities undertaken on behalf of Constituent Councils and non-Constituent Councils.

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. East Waste is committed to providing reliable waste collection services in a way that protects the environment and supports the recovery of valuable resources.
- 3.2. East Waste will conduct its activities consistently with applicable environmental requirements, including the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (SA), the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010* (SA), the *National Waste Policy 2018: Less Waste, More Resources*, and all relevant licences, approvals, codes, standards and guidelines.

4. Policy Commitments

- 4.1. East Waste will collect and transport waste responsibly using suitable vehicles and equipment and delivering materials only to facilities authorised to receive them. It will manage spills, leaks, litter, noise, odour, emissions and other operational risks to prevent pollution and environmental harm.

- 4.2. East Waste will prevent pollution and environmental harm by ensuring waste is managed safely and remains contained throughout collection and transport. Escaped waste, spills, leaks and other environmental risks will be addressed promptly and in accordance with approved procedures.
- 4.3. For the avoidance of doubt, responsibilities for point-source pollution management include the inspection, operation, upkeep, repair and maintenance of facilities, plant and equipment associated with preventing, controlling, capturing, treating or containing pollutant discharges, including without limitation wash bays, bunding, drainage infrastructure, separators, treatment systems, pumps, pipework, storage areas and associated pollution-control infrastructure."
- 4.4. Waste will be kept contained during collection and transport. East Waste will respond promptly when waste escapes from a vehicle or collection container and will manage prohibited, hazardous and unknown materials safely and in accordance with applicable requirements and approved procedures.
- 4.5. East Waste will apply the waste hierarchy by supporting waste avoidance, reuse, recycling and resource recovery ahead of disposal. Waste streams will be kept separate to minimise contamination of recyclable and organic materials, improve resource recovery and reduce waste sent to landfill.
- 4.6. East Waste will promote the efficient and responsible use of fuel, energy, water and materials across its operations, and will consider environmental sustainability when planning services and making operational and purchasing decisions.

5. Sustainable Resource Management

- 5.1. East Waste will support its Constituent Councils to recover resources and reduce disposal to landfill by keeping general waste, recycling and organic material separate during collection and transport and delivering each waste stream to an appropriately authorised facility.
- 5.2. East Waste will identify and report contamination, support clear and consistent information about correct bin use, conduct bin audits and use collection information to identify opportunities for improvement.

6. Waste Collection and Transport

- 6.1. East Waste will use vehicles and equipment that are suitable for the type and volume of material being collected. Vehicles and equipment will be inspected, serviced and maintained to prevent leaks, spills and excessive emissions, and loads will be secured in accordance with applicable requirements and operational procedures.
- 6.2. East Waste will take reasonable steps to minimise litter and recover escaped waste where it is safe and practicable to do so. Waste will be transported only to facilities authorised to receive the relevant material.
- 6.3. Rejected, prohibited, hazardous and unknown materials will be managed in accordance with approved procedures. Contamination and incorrectly presented waste will be reported through East Waste's approved processes.

- 6.4. East Waste will maintain collection, transport and disposal records as required by law and East Waste procedures. Collection routes and schedules will be planned and reviewed to improve service efficiency, minimise unnecessary travel and reduce vehicle-related fuel consumption and emissions.
- 6.5. Employees and contractors must not collect or transport material that cannot be managed safely or lawfully. Such material must be reported promptly to the relevant supervisor.

7. Environmental Risk Management

- 7.1 East Waste will identify, assess and manage environmental risks arising from its activities. These may include spills of fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid or chemicals; leaking leachate or other liquids; escaping waste or litter; waste entering drains, waterways or environmentally sensitive areas; contamination of land, stormwater or water; excessive dust, smoke, noise, odour or vehicle emissions; fires involving collection vehicles or waste loads; and the collection or discovery of hazardous, prohibited or unknown materials.
- 7.2 Environmental controls will be proportionate to the nature and scale of each risk and will prioritise preventing environmental harm before it occurs.

8. Environmental Incident Management

- 8.1 All environmental hazards, incidents, near misses and suspected breaches must be reported promptly through Skytrust.
- 8.2 When an environmental incident occurs, employees and contractors must stop the activity where it is unsafe or may cause further environmental harm. They must take reasonable steps to protect people and the environment without placing themselves or others at risk, contain the incident where it is safe to do so and they are trained and equipped to respond, promptly notify the relevant supervisor, follow East Waste's incident and emergency procedures, and assist with reporting and investigation requirements.
- 8.3 East Waste will notify emergency services, regulators, Constituent Councils and other relevant parties where required. Environmental incidents will be investigated, and appropriate corrective actions will be implemented and monitored to prevent recurrence.

9. Accountability and Reporting

- 9.1. The General Manager is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy and ensuring that appropriate systems, procedures, training and operational controls are in place to support compliance.
- 9.2. Managers and supervisors are responsible for monitoring environmental performance within their areas of responsibility, ensuring that environmental incidents, hazards, near misses and suspected breaches are reported and addressed in accordance with East Waste procedures.
- 9.3. Employees, contractors and labour-hire personnel are responsible for complying with this policy, following relevant procedures and directions, and promptly reporting environmental risks, incidents and non-compliance through approved reporting processes.

- 9.4. The General Manager will provide reports to the East Waste Board, as appropriate, on significant environmental incidents, material compliance issues, trends in environmental performance, and actions taken to address identified risks and improve environmental outcomes.

10. Legislation

Environment Protection Act 1993

Environment Protection (Movement of Controlled Waste) Policy 2014

Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010

Green Industries SA Act 2004

Local Government Act 1999

Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016.

11. Related Documents

Eastern Waste Management Authority Charter

National Waste Policy 2018: Less Waste, More Resources.

12. Monitoring and Review

- 12.1. East Waste will monitor implementation of this policy through incident and contamination data, operational inspections, audits, compliance reviews, resource recovery information and other relevant performance measures.
- 12.2. This Policy will be reviewed every four years, and following any material legislative or operational change, significant environmental incident or identified compliance issue. Reviews will be undertaken in consultation with the Constituent Councils where required by the Eastern Waste Management Authority Charter.



Signed
General Manager

Date



Signed
Chair of East Waste Board

Date

Document History

Version No:	Issue Date:	Description of Change:
1.0	September 2026	Draft Protection of the Environment Policy