

Kerbside recycling Frequently Asked Questions 22/2/19

We are very disappointed that we are one of 30 councils in Victoria whose recycling contents will go to landfill next week after recyclables processor SKM Recycling temporarily closed its Geelong plant.

This means that from Monday 25 February all recycling bins will be collected on their normal collection day but it is anticipated that the contents will go to landfill.

You can choose to hold onto your recycling until your next collection as we hope the Geelong plant will be open by then.

This is a disappointment for both council and our community. No one wants recyclable material to be sent to landfill.

Will my recycling bin still be collected?

Yes. Recycling bins will be collected as normal but until SKM's plant reopens the contents will be diverted to landfill.

Why can't the recycling just go somewhere else?

Council collects 50 tonnes of recycling from households each fortnight. There are very few facilities in Victoria that process recycling. We have thoroughly investigated all options and for a range of reasons including permit conditions, capacity, and fire risk, other companies are not able to take on the extra materials.

Can't Council just collect and store the recycling until the plant is open again?

No. The EPA's licensing rules for waste sites do not allow this.

Can I put rubbish in my recycling bin this week if it's going to landfill anyway?

No. This issue may only be for one week so we encourage you to continue recycling as normal. SKM's plant may reopen at any time, and it is important that recycling bins are not contaminated so they are suitable for redirecting back to processing at any time.

I don't want my recycling going to landfill, what can I do?

If you have enough space in your bin, we'd encourage you to hold on to your recycling materials at home until the issue is resolved. We understand many people can't do this so we will still be collecting and emptying your recycling bins on your normal collection day with the materials temporarily going to landfill.

Why has this happened?

SKM has temporarily closed its Geelong Plant. This follows a decision by the EPA (Environment Protection Authority) to temporarily stop SKM from receiving recycling at its two plants in Melbourne. SKM receives about half of Victoria's kerbside recycling across its three sites.

How many people are affected?

SKM receives 50% of Victoria's recycling and takes materials from 30 Council areas across Victoria.

Will Council have to pay the cost of sending it to landfill instead of recycling?

It is unlikely that there will be any additional cost to Council to divert recycling to landfill.

Why doesn't Council have a back-up plan for situations such as this?

There are very few locations in Victoria that accept and process recycling materials. Recycling is an important issue to our community, but all Councils in Victoria are in the same situation so we are working with the State and Federal Governments to come up with more sustainable long-term solutions for processing recycling.

How long will this last?

The State Government and EPA are working with SKM to resolve this issue as soon as possible. We are disappointed that we are one of 30 Councils affected by this issue. We are hopeful it will only be a week or so.

We will provide any updates on this issue on our website www.moyne.vic.gov.au/waste and our Facebook page [@moyneshirecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/moyneshirecouncil).