

# 2026-27 Operational Plan

## Waste management

### \$3.19M capital investment in waste management

This fact sheet has been prepared to help the community understand what Council plans to deliver across key areas in the 2026–27 Operational Plan.

Below are the key waste management capital projects for 2026-27:

#### Waste management

- EN.OP26: Implement key actions from Council's Waste Master Plan and associated capital improvements including roadway renewals within the weighbridge and Community Recycling Centre (CRC) areas
- EN.OP27: Construction of a new Waste Cell (Waste Cell 5) at Kempsey Waste Management Centre



Photo: Community Recycling Centre at the Kempsey Waste Management Facility

#### Annual programs and operational projects

While key capital projects are outlined above, Council also delivers a range of ongoing programs and projects funded through the operating budget to support waste management. This includes delivering household and business waste services, managing waste processing, recycling and disposal, and supporting community education to improve waste outcomes. Council also implements the Waste Management Strategy 2022–32, plans for future waste needs across the shire, and meets legislative and regulatory requirements, including those of the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

## Increase to waste fees

**Waste service charges on rates notices and waste fees at all facilities will increase by 30% to return waste operations to a financially sustainable position and better align charges with the cost of providing the service.**

The cost of providing waste services is rising, including higher regulatory and compliance requirements. This affects day-to-day running costs and major projects like building Council's next landfill waste cell (Cell 5). Council's 30-year Waste Masterplan sets out 30 years of planned waste cell construction and supporting infrastructure costs. To share these costs fairly over time (intergenerational equity), Council needs a mix of reserves and borrowings. The waste fee increase helps keep the waste fund sustainable and supports full cost recovery.

Some of the materials needed for Cell 5 are sourced from overseas, and prices can be affected by the global economy. Cell 5 must also be designed and built to meet NSW Environment Protection Authority requirements and Council's licence conditions. Council's waste management team continues to look for ways to deliver services more efficiently. Building a new waste cell locally will be more cost-effective for the community than transporting waste to another facility for processing.

*Note: Financial investment in accordance with Appendix 2 of the 2026-27 draft Operational Plan: Capital Works Projects >\$50,000, and references i.e EN.OP26 are the Operational Plan action number for 2026-27.*

For more information please visit Council's website

**Integrated Planning and Reporting - Kempsey Shire Council working with the Macleay Valley community**