

Kerbside Glass Bin Collection Service

South Gippsland Shire Council formally adopted its position opposing the Victorian Government's requirement for councils to introduce a separate purple bin for kerbside glass collection.

At its May Council Meeting, Council passed the resolution calling on the Victorian Government to reconsider the compulsory fourth bin service for glass collection.

As part of the formal position, Council resolved to write to the Victorian Minister for Environment seeking a review of the current policy settings and greater flexibility for councils in how glass recycling is managed.

Council will advocate for:

- Improved transparency regarding the business case supporting the introduction of a fourth kerbside glass bin.
- A review of current policy settings to allow greater flexibility within Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.
- Greater ability for councils to adopt alternative and locally appropriate glass recovery methods, including centralised drop-off points.
- Consideration of extending or removing the current 1 July 2027 implementation deadline.

South Gippsland Shire Council has not made provision for a full purple bin rollout within the draft 2026/27 Annual Budget. If the service was introduced in 2026/27, the estimated cost would be \$983,000 in the first year, then \$355,000 (indexed for CPI) annually.

Council noted that approximately 50 per cent of South Gippsland residents currently receive kerbside waste collection services, meaning a universal fourth bin rollout may not represent the most efficient or equitable solution for the municipality.

It is also important to recognise that the service would not increase the amount of glass recycled, as current drop off facilities already achieve the same environmental outcome at significantly lower costs. On that basis, the kerbside option represents a costly service with limited additional benefit.

Alternative approaches, including local drop-off points for glass recycling, were identified as more cost effective while continuing to support strong recycling outcomes.

Council also noted that improvements to Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme may deliver more effective long-term outcomes for glass recovery and recycling.

Council's resolution will now be formally communicated to the Victorian Minister for Environment.

Quote attributable to South Gippsland Mayor, Cr Nathan Hersey:

"Council serves a diverse municipality and is committed to delivering waste services that reflect and support the needs of our communities.

"Council supports strong recycling initiatives, however we are seeking greater flexibility for local government to determine the most practical, cost-effective and locally appropriate ways to recover glass.

"We are also calling for greater transparency from the Victorian Government regarding the business case for the fourth bin and more realistic timeframes for councils to plan, budget and procure services if this reform is to proceed."

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