

As a prospective elected member, what strategies regarding recycling in public places would you like to see supported and implemented in the Alexandrina Council area during your first year in the role?

What other recycling strategies would you like to see considered in Alexandrina in the future?

Response from Mike Tye – candidate for Goolwa Hindmarsh Island Ward

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I thank Cittaslow Goolwa for offering candidates for the upcoming Council elections the opportunity to express their thoughts about recycling.

I am a passionate advocate for recycling and continue to look for ways to reduce, reuse and recycle in my own life. To do this, I have made changes to the way I live and to the products I buy. One of the benefits of this is a reduced cost of living. Improving waste management on a community scale will also result in cost savings, as well as reducing harm to our environment.

In my first year on Council, if elected, I would like to see a comprehensive plan for resource recovery in public places completed. This plan would be specific to Alexandrina but existing plans from organisations like Sustainability Victoria could be drawn upon as a starting point. Search for 'recycling in public places' to see examples of these plans.

I would support the implementation of this plan as soon as possible.

Waste management is a core activity of Council and is a significant cost to the ratepayers. Council can lead the way through public education, providing infrastructure, and reducing its' own waste but it's also up to residents to be open to new ideas and to consider making a few changes themselves.

I support:

- Council expanding its' program of public education regarding recycling,
- Financial incentives to encourage residents to reduce waste (Council subsidizing the cost of compost bins and worm farms is an example of this)
- Federal Government legislation that requires packaging to be recyclable and to be clearly labelled as such
- Community initiatives to reduce, reuse, and recycle
- The Goolwa Waste Transfer Facility expanding the range of items it accepts for recycling (I'm particularly thinking of an 'all other plastics' category here)
- Businesses that adopt or enable best practice resource recovery

There are numerous examples around the world of communities embracing recycling (such as Kamikatsu in Japan) and while their solutions may not be right for us, it does show that it is possible for a community to adjust its' lifestyle to reduce waste, reduce environmental impact, and benefit from a reduced cost for waste management.