



# IMPROVING WASTE COLLECTION IN THE CENTRAL CITY

This discussion paper is part of consultation on the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030. To have your say, visit [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste-resource-strategy](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/waste-resource-strategy)

The commercial sector generates most of the waste in the central city. Commercial rateable properties are entitled to a weekly collection of one small garbage and one small or large recycling bin. Businesses that generate more waste must arrange their waste disposal service through a commercial waste collection company. There are currently 36 companies registered to collect waste in the central city. Collection companies vary in size and scope. The City of Melbourne has established shared garbage compactors and recycling hubs in five city blocks. This has substantially reduced the number of bins and truck movements in these areas.

## What are the current issues?

**Bin storage** – Many businesses do not have the space to store bins inside and instead are allowed to store their bins in a nearby laneway. Bins in laneways take up space, restricts access and can cause odour, visual pollution and vermin.

**Waste collection trucks** – Large numbers of truck movements results in traffic congestion, reduced pedestrian safety, odour and visual pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Timing of collections** – There are only three areas in the central city where collection times are restricted. Noise from late night collections impacts local residents while day-time or early-morning collections impact other city users.

## What are other cities doing?

**City of Perth** and **City of Gold Coast** offer a wide range of waste and recycling collection services to commercial properties with a user pays fee.

**San Francisco** (USA) has a single waste collection service provider for both residential and commercial properties. This has allowed a high level of environmental and service quality.

**City of London** (UK) does not provide a commercial waste service but provides a list of companies that comply with the City's Time Banding Scheme that restricts the times when waste can be placed outside for collection.

## What could be done to address these issues in Melbourne?

Some options for improving waste management in the central city are:

- Extending the shared garbage compactor and recycling hub program to cover the whole central city area, allowing all businesses to use a shared service rather than needing their own bin.
- Further restricting bin storage and collection from public spaces.
- Controlling waste collection through a waste permit system. This could include placing conditions such as restricted collection times, electric or noise-reduced vehicles or service quality. Alternatively, the number of permits could be restricted, with a competitive tender process used to allocate permits.
- Providing an expanded ratepayer service with more collections or larger bins, enabling more businesses to use this service.
- Using charging schemes such as user-pays or weight-based systems or introducing incentives for businesses to improve their waste management.



Shared recycling hubs provide businesses with an easy way to recycle items such as bottles, cans and cardboard.

## What if?

**The city was divided into zones, with only a limited number of collection companies operating in each zone.**

**Shared garbage compactors and recycling hubs were provided across the whole city.**

**No bins were allowed to be stored or collected from streets or laneways.**

**Waste trucks were electric vehicles.**

**City of Melbourne provided a waste service for all businesses.**

## We want your thoughts

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