

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What recent changes have there been in the recycling industry?

This year in January China's General Administration of Customs implemented a new 'National Sword Policy' that aims to improve recovery and reuse of domestic solid waste while restricting the import of contaminated paper, cardboard and plastics. The policy has severely disrupted recycling markets worldwide with significant impacts on Victoria.

### What is the issue?

While most of Victoria's kerbside recyclable material is processed in Victoria or Australia, significant quantities are exported to China for processing. The Chinese restrictions has resulted in recycling companies no longer offering a rebate to Victorian councils as they have in the past. As a result recycling companies are likely start charging a fee for the processing of household recycling.

### How does this impact Nillumbik?

There are three major Victorian recycling companies that have differing exposures to the Chinese restrictions and global market. SKM Recycling is the company that Nillumbik sends kerbside recycling to for processing. Currently there are no impacts to Council's kerbside collection service.

Sort your recycling items as per usual. Nillumbik residents can continue to put soft plastics inside a tied plastic bag.

### Will this cost ratepayers extra?

All Victorian councils are subject to rate capping, however the waste management charge within your rates is exempt from the cap.

In the short term there will be no increase to resident's current waste charges.

In the long term a number of considerations, including but not limited to the Chinese restrictions will be explored when determining the waste charge amount.

### What is Council doing to mitigate the effects of the ban?

For several years Council has been proactively monitoring contamination in kerbside recycling bins. The first way that we have done this is through bin auditing where we have randomly collected data

from a sample of several garbage bins from around the municipality to determine what main items our residents recycle. The objective of this has been to inform our internal strategies for waste education programs.

The second method has been our bin inspection program whereby we inspect resident's bins for contamination items and mark them with either a 'well done' or 'please use your bins correctly' sticker. The purpose of this is to educate residents about recycling in order to keep contamination down.

### **What can residents do?**

All residents are urged to continue to carefully separate recyclables from non-recyclable materials and place them in the correct bin.