

Waste Amendment Local Law 2026

Proposed Changes and Why They Matter

The City of Cockburn has been reviewing its local laws, with the aim of renewing and aligning with best practice.

The purpose of a waste local law is to manage how rubbish and recycling are collected and disposed of. It sets out what can go in your bins, how waste should be handled, and penalties for not following the rules. These laws help protect the environment and support resource recovery.

The proposed new Waste Amendment Local Law 2026 updates the current City of Cockburn Waste Local Law 2020 to include relevant sections of the City's Consolidated Local Law.

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 has been considered while proposing these amendments.

The key changes are:

Amendment	Reason
Changing the procedure around determinations so that Council does not need to do it every year.	This will bring this into line with how determinations are dealt with in all other local laws.
Re-writing the clause to do with the set-out of waste for verge collections, so that it works for both a bulk verge collection and bookable verge collection model.	To futureproof the local law.
Broadening of the general duties of an owner/occupier so that all waste must be placed in bins, bins must be kept clean and in good repair, and they are emptied regularly.	Currently, these obligations only apply to bins provided by the City. This means these obligations would not apply to persons who utilise a third-party waste company.
Adding a clause allowing the City to direct an owner or occupier of a premises consisting of 5 or more dwellings, or which is used for commercial or industrial purpose, to provide a suitable enclosure for the storage and cleaning of bins used on the premises.	A clause already exists in the Consolidated Local Law but it has been moved to the Waste Local Law as it has to do with waste.

Amendment	Reason
Adding a clause regulating waste on building sites.	A clause already exists in the Consolidated Local Law but it has been broadened and moved to the Waste Local Law as it has to do with waste.
Standardising enforcement rules.	To improve clarity, consistency, and provide greater transparency.
Review of the modified penalties to align with a three-tier approach.	To ensure the modified penalties better reflect the seriousness of the offence, and to also create the ability for the City to issue larger infringements for repeat offenders.

Please visit the [Proposed Waste Amendment Local Law 2026 'Comment on Cockburn' page](#) for a copy of the complete [proposed City of Cockburn Waste Amendment Local Law 2026](#).



While local governments have the ability to make local laws under the Local Government Act 1995, there are limits to this power. Any local law must be fair, reasonable, and proportionate. It should be necessary for the good government of the district. Local laws cannot conflict with State legislation, and they shouldn't introduce major new policies or big changes to existing policies. That is the role of State Government.