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| Frequently Asked Questions |
| Kerbside recycling collections  February 2019 |

## Q. What has happened?

## A. The Environment Protection Authority has taken action against SKM Recycling due to significant fire risks from stockpiles of recyclable materials at its Coolaroo and Laverton North facilities. From Friday 15 February 2019, SKM cannot accept recycling at these sites until it complies with the notice issued by the EPA.

## While this is unfortunate, safety is the Victorian Government’s top priority, and this action is necessary to protect our communities from fire risk.

## On 20 February, SKM voluntarily ceased receiving materials at its Geelong facility as the site was nearing capacity. SKM advised that the processing capacity at Geelong has been affected as the current EPA restrictions are impacting the ability to transfer materials to other sites for processing.

## Q. Is kerbside recycling being sent to landfill?

## A. Under its contracts with affected councils, SKM Recycling is responsible for making alternative arrangements. SKM may store the material at other sites, send it to other recycling facilities, or send material to landfill.

## Q. When will normal kerbside recycling resume?

## A. SKM Recycling is responsible for ensuring that its storage facilities are safe for communities and the environment. The EPA notice will remain in place until SKM complies with the rules for how it must manage and store recyclable materials to minimise fire risk.

## Q. Why has the EPA taken this action?

## A. The safety of our communities is the highest priority for the Victorian Government. The government has boosted the powers of the Environment Protection Authority to reduce fire risk at resource recovery facilities, and the EPA is acting now to protect Victorians and our environment.

## Q. Which councils are impacted?

## A. We understand recyclable material from 34 councils is processed at SKM facilities at Coolaroo, Laverton North and Geelong:

* Ballarat
* Boroondara
* Brimbank
* Buloke
* Cardinia
* Casey
* Colac Otway
* Darebin
* Glen Eira
* Glenelg
* Golden Plains
* Greater Geelong
* Hepburn
* Hindmarsh
* Hobsons Bay
* Hume
* Kingston
* Knox
* Macedon Ranges
* Melbourne
* Mildura
* Moonee Valley
* Mornington Peninsula
* Moyne
* Nillumbik
* Port Phillip
* Pyrenees
* Queenscliff
* Stonnington
* Surf Coast
* West Wimmera
* Whittlesea
* Wyndham
* Yarriambiack

If you want more information about what is happening in local area, please contact your council.

## Q. Should I keep recycling if I live in one of these municipalities?

## A. Yes. All Victorians should continue to recycle as normal unless directed otherwise by their council.

## Some kerbside recycling may be sent to landfill in the short-term to manage risk at resource recovery facilities and ensure the safety of nearby communities. However, maintaining good recycling habits will help minimise any disruption caused by the current situation, and assist your local council to take up alternative recycling arrangements where they are available.

## It’s more important than ever for all Victorians to sort their recycling from their general waste correctly and minimise the amount of waste they produce. If in doubt about what you can recycle, check with your local council.

## Q. Will my recycling bin still be collected?

**A.** You should continue with your usual arrangements unless advised otherwise by your council.

## Q. Will my council waste charges increase because of this situation?

## A. This is a matter for individual councils.

## Q. What is the Victorian Government doing to support our recycling industry?

## A. The Victorian Government provided a $37 million boost to the recycling industry in July 2018, through the [Recycling Industry Strategic Plan](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/victorians-urged-to-keep-recycling). This included a $13.5 million short-term relief package for councils and industry.

## Q. Where can I learn more?

## A. You can learn more [here](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/sustainability/victorians-urged-to-keep-recycling).

## You can remind yourself what can and can’t be recycled by checking with your local council or visiting [Sustainability Victoria](https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/You-and-Your-Home/Waste-and-recycling/Recycling/What-you-can-and-cant-recycle). Recycling services vary from council to council.