

29 April 2026

The Hon Paul Hamer MP
Minister for Local Government
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Dear Minister

Subject: Council Resolution regarding the Proposed Mandatory Glass-Only Kerbside Collection Service

I am writing on behalf of Knox City Council to formally advise of a resolution of Council in relation to the State Government's proposed mandatory glass-only kerbside collection service, as outlined in the draft Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards.

At its meeting of 23 March 2026, Council considered a detailed officer report examining the implications of the proposed service, including legislative context, financial impacts, operational risks, industry feedback and the outcomes of recent community engagement. Following this consideration, Council resolved that it does not support the mandatory introduction of a glass-only kerbside collection service in its current form.

Council noted that the draft Service Standards and associated Business Case have not yet been finalised and/or released, and that key service parameters, funding arrangements and compliance requirements remain unclear. This level of uncertainty presents significant challenges for effective planning, budgeting and implementation, particularly given the indicative commencement date of 1 July 2027.

Council also noted that preliminary financial analysis indicates the proposed service would impose a substantial cost on households, estimated at approximately \$3.7 million in the first year and \$1.1 million per annum ongoing, at a time when affordability pressures for residents remain acute. Community engagement undertaken in late 2025 further identified low household generation of glass and limited awareness of the proposed requirement, raising concerns regarding utilisation, value for money and long-term viability.

Importantly, Council's position is informed by industry advice, including from Council's current recycling processor, which suggests that a glass-only kerbside service is unlikely to deliver meaningful financial, environmental or operational benefits when compared with alternative approaches. In this regard, Council strongly supports consideration of more flexible and evidence-based options, including expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme to include wine and spirit bottles, improvements to existing mixed recycling infrastructure, and location-appropriate drop-off solutions where necessary.

Accordingly, Council resolved to defer any decision on the implementation of a glass-only kerbside service until the draft Service Standards are finalised and endorsed, the Business Case is released, and Council has been afforded sufficient time to properly assess requirements, alternative measures, risks and funding implications.

Council also resolved to continue participating in a coordinated advocacy effort alongside a growing number of Victorian councils, calling on the State Government to provide greater flexibility in service delivery and to reconsider the mandated approach to glass collection. While Council acknowledges the risk of potential non-compliance should mandated requirements ultimately proceed, it remains committed to engaging constructively with the State Government in good faith to achieve outcomes that balance environmental objectives with affordability, practicality and community benefit.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further and to work collaboratively with the State to develop waste and recycling solutions that are proportionate, evidence based and responsive to local conditions.

Yours sincerely



Cr Paige Kennett
Mayor

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