

Circular Economy Precinct

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Project Elements/Cost

- Land: TBD
- Materials Recovery Facility (MRF): \$37.1 million
- Partnership with government and the private sector for CEP foundational infrastructure

Investment Needed

Land

- A 5.2 hectare parcel of land at the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) to establish a Circular Economy Precinct (CEP)
- Applied in March 2023 to Development Victoria’s Stage 3B Circular Economy Precinct BWEZ Request for Expression of Interest process
- One and a half hectares of the land parcel will be set aside for a MRF

Materials Recovery Facility

- \$37.1 million for site infrastructure/ equipment costs, excluding land. The MRF is the foundational infrastructure for the CEP
- Current application to the Victorian Government’s Regional Recycling Fund for \$13.1 million toward MRF establishment costs, given the facility will service parts of the Grampians Central West Region

- Government assistance will be required to facilitate private investment to establish the MRF

Partnership

Seeking a three way partnership with government and the private sector to deliver the MRF.

City of Ballarat Investment

- \$4.8 million allocated for a CEP at BWEZ.

Project Description

A CEP, anchored by a MRF, will be a regional centre fostering a sustainable approach to waste management, innovation and job creation. It will:

- Make the region more self-sufficient in its waste management
- Ensure the value of recyclables is retained and enhanced locally
- Reduce transport costs and related emissions
- Deliver cost efficiencies for residents, councils and business



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Note: All project costs are subject to inflationary pressures leading to cost escalations

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 Circular Economy Precinct continued

The Ballarat Regional MRF will have capacity to sort up to 30,000 tonnes of recyclables annually

The Ballarat Regional MRF will

- Have capacity to sort up to 30,000 tonnes of recyclables annually
- Including kerbside recyclables from City of Ballarat and councils in the Grampians West Region
- Provide opportunities for commercial and industrial commingled waste sorting and recycling

Community Benefit

Circular economy-focused solutions for City of Ballarat's waste streams will:

- Reduce the impact and costs associated with waste management
- Facilitate development of a true circular economy
- Show councils and governments are leading in approaches to environmental sustainability

Why should Governments invest in this project?

Emissions Reductions

A CEP and MRF will support the establishment locally of waste management businesses and infrastructure, reducing the need for the transportation of regional waste to metropolitan areas for processing.

This will mean:

- Annual savings of approximately 65,000 kms
- Almost \$750,000 savings in transport cost
- Associated emissions savings of approximately 65t CO₂-equivalent.

Job Creation

Jobs during construction, plus 68 FTEs (24 direct and 44 flow-on) once the MRF is operational

Responding to Government Policy

The project aligns with federal and state circular economy and recycling policies including:

- National Circular Economy Roadmap, National Waste Policy 2019
- Australian Infrastructure Audit 2019
- Recycling Victoria Policy
- Regional Recycling Fund
- Regional Circular Economy Plan Grampians Central West

Location

- Stage 3B of the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) in Mitchell Park, Victoria (City of Ballarat LGA)

Status

- Discussions ongoing with the Victorian Government, via a multi-agency working group, into the feasibility of a CEP at BWEZ

- Currently preparing a Request for Tender process to establish a MRF in the CEP in collaboration with six neighbouring councils. Expected tender release mid-2024

Timeline and next steps

- Secure government support – land and funding – to facilitate delivery of the CEP
- Waiting to be advised if an application to the Regional Recycling Fund has been successful
- Land in Circular Economy Precinct at BWEZ is expected to become available by early 2025

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