



## Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Assessment Summary

The Triple Bottom Line Assessment is required to be published in accordance with Part 4, section 23 (1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2016

### 20/333 – National Partnership Agreement for Recycling Infrastructure

#### Summary of impacts:

- Impacts listed in the TBL relate to the MRF infrastructure upgrades, which will be actioned through the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) rather than relating to the NPA itself.
- Noting this, the proposal has largely positive or neutral social, economic and environmental impacts.

<b>Level of impact</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Neutral</b>
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Social		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Positive	Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed upgrades to the MRF are expected to benefit all Canberrans and people living in the five local regional councils utilising the MRF to process recyclable materials collected from homes and businesses.</li> <li>• The COAG waste export bans are also designed to reduce the impact on the environment and human health in overseas countries, improving the lives of women and girls who may be impacted by the mishandling of residuals waste found in baled material.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Health (Community and mental health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed upgrades to the MRF are not expected to have any direct relation to community health other than potentially improving well-being through the knowledge that material disposed as recyclable will have an increased likelihood to reach reprocessing markets rather than landfill.</li> </ul>
Positive	Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed upgrades to the MRF will have a positive impact on access to services by underpinning the ACT's kerbside recycling collection services and services provided by local commercial businesses delivering to the MRF.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Housing and Affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no anticipated impacts on housing affordability.</li> <li>• Implementing upgrades at the ACT MRF through the NPA will allow continued collection of recyclables from territory homes.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Homelessness support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal will enhance the viability of the Territory's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), by strengthening the quality of products entering viability markets. The collection and redemption of 10cents for</li> </ul>

		CDS containers is a potential opportunity for homeless people to earn a small income while also contributing to environmental amenity.
Neutral	Access to social inclusion/participation and community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no anticipated impacts on access to social inclusion/participation and community activities.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no anticipated impacts on human rights.</li> </ul>
Positive	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While there are no specific impacts anticipated for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders, the improvements to service delivery and environmental benefits will benefit all Canberrans using recycling services.</li> </ul>
Positive	Multicultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While there are no specific impacts anticipated for certain cultural or ethnic groups, the improvements to service delivery and environmental benefits will benefit all Canberrans using recycling services.</li> </ul>
Positive	Impacts on different age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The improvements to service delivery and environmental benefits will benefit all Canberrans using recycling services.</li> <li>The MRF 'Recycling Discovery Hub' has a positive impact on the lives of school aged children and all visitors to the MRF and is expected to do so into the future if this proposal is successful by shoring-up recycling operations.</li> <li>Recycling ensures that finite resources will be available for future generations.</li> </ul>
Positive	Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While there are no specific impacts anticipated for people with a disability, the improvements to service delivery and environmental benefits will benefit all Canberrans using recycling services.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Justice and Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no anticipated impacts on justice and crime.</li> </ul>

Economic		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Positive	ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement from the Commonwealth Government to co-fund the MRF upgrade dollar for dollar through the NPA will avoid the future need to self-fund the entire \$23.2m investment required to address the impacts of the ban on the export of mixed plastics and paper.</li> <li>In addition, the \$23.2m will cover a glass washing and waste water treatment and reuse operation designed to enable the sale of manufactured glass sand using glass processed at the Hume MRF, allowing wider sources of revenue for the operation which will positively impact gate fees charged to Territory by any operator of the facility.</li> </ul>
Positive	Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upgrade to the MRF will significantly increase productivity of the facility by reducing, or potentially</li> </ul>

		<p>eliminating, the production of mixed plastic bales which do not attract as high a price as pure plastic polymers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements to the layout of the 'arrivals' area of the MRF will also improve productivity by reducing the need to manage loads and will allow the removal of gross contaminants which often lead to breakdowns in the facility.</li> </ul>
Positive	Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upgrades will include the use of high-tech systems which will provide real-time MRF production data, linked with the scanning units that monitor the composition of material being fed to the plant.</li> <li>This will allow the ACT Government to work more closely with waste collection contractors and educators to inform the community about what to / not to put in their yellow bins.</li> </ul>
Positive	Employment and labour force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upgrade will create construction jobs and up to four new ongoing FTE jobs at the site which already employs more than 20 full time staff and 18 contractors.</li> </ul>
Positive	Small business impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many small businesses are indirect customers of the Hume MRF as commercial waste services. The gate fee charged to the commercial sector needs to remain lower than the price charged for landfill as an incentive to drive recycling. The upgrades to the facility are designed to shore-up the financial viability of the operation by continuing access to recycling commodity markets. This may remove the pressure to charge higher amounts to small business.</li> <li>In addition, the Hume MRF is strategically located in the ACT. Without it, small businesses wishing to access recycling services would be forced to pay transport costs associated with using interstate facilities.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no direct impacts on skills expected, however construction work will require suitable technically qualified labour.</li> </ul>
Positive	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no direct impacts on education levels expected, however construction work will require technically qualified labour.</li> <li>As raised above, the Hume MRF also houses the 'Recycling Discovery Hub' which educates around 6,000 people on recycling each year. Shoring-up the facility would enable the continued education activities.</li> </ul>
Positive	Investment and Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is anticipated the proposed upgrade, if funding were to be secured in Q1 2020, would see \$23.2m invested on the site before June 2021.</li> <li>While machinery may be manufactured outside the ACT, associated works and installation would be conducted by the local industry where possible.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed upgrades to the MRF are expected to be neutral in terms of competitive neutrality as there are no privately operated MRFs currently in the ACT or</li> </ul>

		surrounding region capable of processing the volumes of commingled kerbside material collected each year.
Positive	Cost of living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While the cost difference between recycling and landfill of ACT household services is equal (because the Territory manages its own landfill), the cost of recycling for workplaces and institutions is far cheaper due to commercial landfill charges.</li> <li>Therefore, on balance, the impact to the cost of living is expected to be positive.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed expansion is a capital works project and will be subject to ACT Government policies and laws.</li> </ul>

Environmental		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Neutral	Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal will reduce fire risks associated with stockpiling recyclable material. This supports biodiversity values which can be negatively impacted by fire.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Landscape changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The upgrades would be carried out on an existing industrial site in Hume.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no anticipated impacts on heritage values.</li> </ul>
Positive	Environmental Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal will remove the current MRF output of 'mixed plastic' waste, which contains recoverable material streams along with other unrecoverable contaminants which can break down into microplastics with resulting damage to ecosystems. This will support the safe disposal of these plastic contaminants into landfill avoiding further damage if left to degrade in the environment.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Climate Change mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stockpiling and landfilling of paper and cardboard waste leads to anaerobic degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. There is some leakage of these emissions even with the Territory's greenhouse gas harvest and flaring from landfill. In contrast, recycling paper and cardboard both reduces emissions, and minimises the need for virgin forests to be logged in paper production, and so supports the retention of carbon sinks.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Climate Change adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no anticipated impacts on climate change adaptation.</li> </ul>
Positive	Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal will reduce the landfill space needed for disposal of potentially recyclable material and will therefore reduce the risk of groundwater contamination impacts from the landfill.</li> <li>The proposal includes significant investment in washing of recyclable material. Water treatment and reuse</li> </ul>

		facilities are included in the proposal and this will prevent water pollution from the MRF.
Neutral	Urban Heat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal involves the development of high quality glass fines for infrastructure development projects and other local markets. This will result in lower urban heat island effects than stockpiling or failure to recycle glass.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Visual quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stockpiling at ACT and regional landfills is visually unappealing which also risks reputational damage. The proposal will minimise the need for further stockpiling of the waste streams affected by the Waste Export Ban.</li> </ul>
Positive	Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main outcome from this project will be a significant increase in the amount of recyclable material that is effectively reused both in domestic and international markets. The project will have a major beneficial effect on waste prevention.</li> </ul>