



## 5.0 Waste Management Hierarchy

The collection and disposal of refuse is a major part of the waste service provided by Council. Waste minimisation initiatives will assist in reducing the quantity of waste produced and therefore to be collected for disposal.

The waste management hierarchy set out in the Local Government Act Amendment No.4 (1996) requires waste to be managed in the following order of priority:

- Reduction
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Recover
- Treatment
- Disposal

Reduction means lessening waste generation. Waste that is not produced does not require disposal. For example reducing waste at source by encouraging companies to produce less paper or cardboard packaging with their products.

Reuse means the further use of products in their existing form for their original purpose or similar purpose, such as reusing soft drink plastic bottles as water bottles.

Recycling means the reprocessing of waste materials to produce new products, for example manufacturing recycled paper from old newsprint.

Recovery means extraction of materials or energy from waste for further use or processing, for example composting.

Treatment means subjecting the waste to any physical, biological or chemical process to change the volume or character of that waste so that it may be disposed of with no or reduced significant adverse effect on the environment. For example, incineration of medical wastes to an ash residue.

Disposal means final deposit of waste on land set apart for the purpose. For example, disposing of refuse at a landfill.

