

ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM

Ordinary Meeting

16 July 2013

Agenda Item 8.7	Waste Management Strategy Options Paper 2013 - 2023	
Attachment 1	Waste Management Strategy Options Paper - Community Consultation	343
Attachment 2	Have Your Say on Waste.....	359

**GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL
WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW**

**OPTIONS PAPER
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

JULY 2013

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Public submissions to this document will close
on Friday 16 August 2013 at 4 pm.

Submissions may be made by:

- Returning this document to the Council offices
90 Welsford Street Shepparton
- By mail to
Greater Shepparton City Council
Waste Management Options Paper
Locked Bag 1000
Shepparton Vic 3632
- Submit by email
council@shepparton.vic.gov.au
- Make submission via the Council website
www.greatershepparton.com.au

Further information can be obtained from the Council's Waste Services Department on
Telephone 5832 9700
National Relay Service (NRS) 133677

WASTE SERVICES OPTIONS PAPER

1. INTRODUCTION

The Council is currently reviewing its 10 year Waste Management Strategy. This strategy will determine the type and also the way we deliver waste services to our community in the future.

This document gives an outline of the services currently available and some of the issues and options we have identified.

Although our surveys tell us that waste services are important and generally well regarded by our residents, we are seeking further feedback from our community. This will assist us develop the waste management strategy.

A response sheet "*Have your say on waste*" is attached to this document where you can evaluate our performance and provide comments on the options provided. Please return this section to the Council.

Residents should note that options with cost implications will result in higher charges for waste services. Currently a 1% rate rise equates to approximately \$600,000. All costs are at 2012/13 rates. New contract rates may also alter the estimated costs.

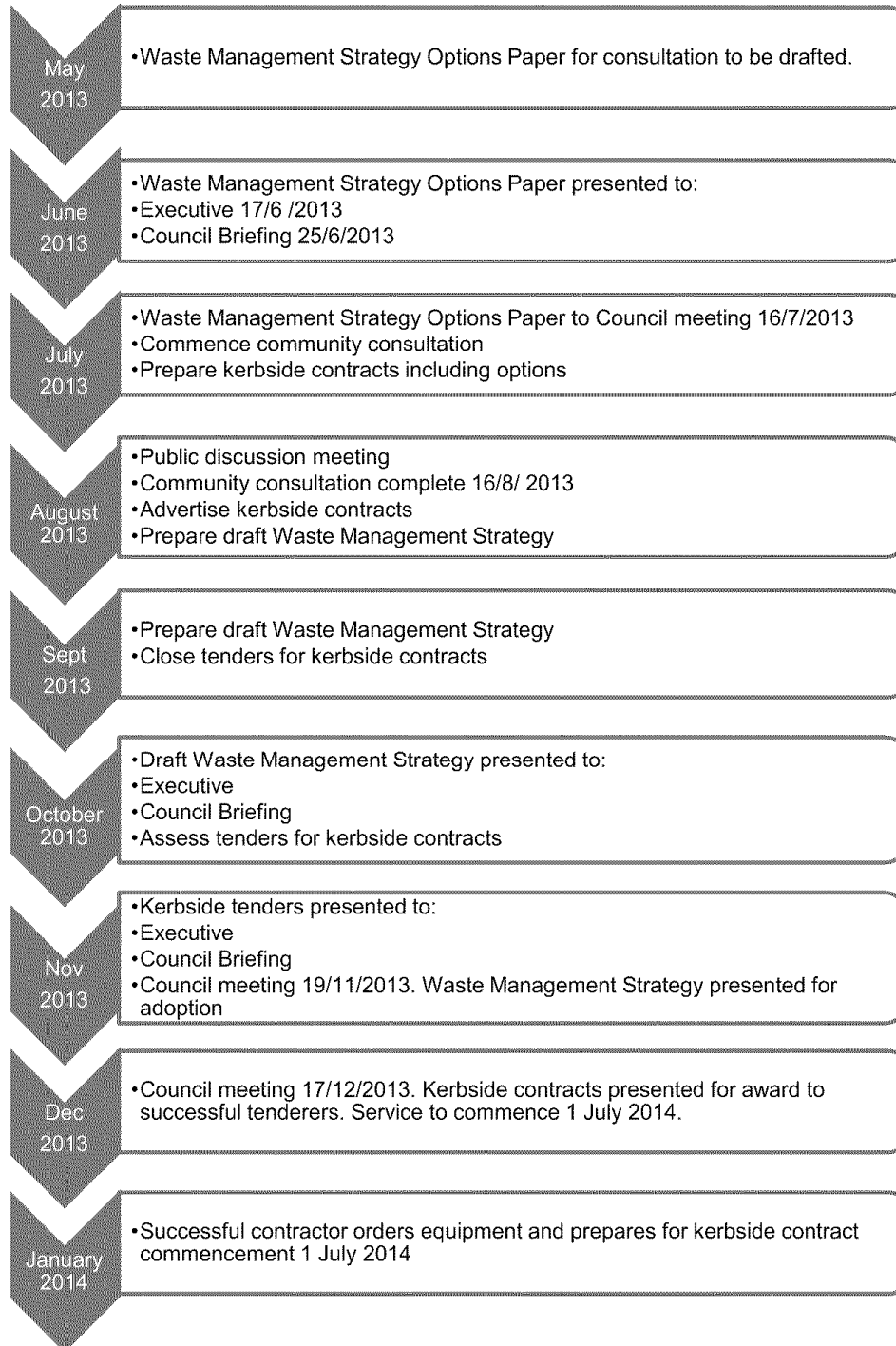
We invite residents to comment on this options paper to assist us to deliver high quality and sustainable waste services in Greater Shepparton.

2. TIMELINES

A timeline of the waste services review process can be found on the following page.

Residents are invited to comment on this paper and return submissions to the Council for consideration by Friday 16 August 2013.

Ways of responding to this options paper can be found on the front page.



3. SERVICE OPTIONS

3.1 COLLECTION AREA

The collection area describes the locations where kerbside services are available. Roads must be capable of accommodating a large truck and for safety reasons reversing of the collection vehicle is avoided. In rural areas bins are collected from one side of the road only.

The following areas are currently serviced in Greater Shepparton:

- All urban areas and properties abutting the sealed road network in the rural area. The garbage service is compulsory in the urban area and optional in the rural area. The urban limits are designated by the Manager Finance and Rates.
- The green organics service is available in urban areas only.

Issue 1 – Should we expand our collection area?

The collection area could be expanded to also service properties on the unsealed road network in rural areas. This would mean that collection vehicles would need to travel an extra 1200 km or nearly double the existing travel distance every week per service. It is estimated that 440 rural households do not currently receive kerbside services either because they do not need or want a service. The total number of waste services currently collected is 26,500.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service – The collection area will continue as described above.	No cost implications	✓
2. Expand existing service to all roads in Greater Shepparton.	Estimated additional transport cost for the waste service only is \$525,000 annually. Does not include waste disposal charges. This equates to a 0.9% rate rise or \$19.80 per household per year spread over all customers.	✗

3.2. RED BIN (WASTE)

The Council currently collects approximately 26,500 waste services across the municipality every week. This can be broadly divided into 24,000 residential and 2,500 commercial customers. Three bin sizes are available to residents to best suit their needs. All collected waste is disposed of at the Council's landfill at Cosgrove. This service is compulsory for urban residents.

**Issue 2 – Should we change the size of the bin we offer you for normal waste?**

Residents currently have three bin sizes available with the weekly kerbside waste service. These are an 80L, 120L and 240L size. The cost of the service is proportional to the bin size. The large 240L waste bin is no longer Industry best practice and statistics indicate that smaller bins result in less waste to landfill. This is desirable from an environmental and sustainability perspective.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing bin options	No change to current service costs \$2,600,000 annually	✗
2. Withdraw existing 240L waste bin and replace with either a 120L or 80L bin.	Estimated additional annual cost of \$1,100,000 including bin supply, yield savings and reduction in garbage charges. This equates to a 1.8% rate rise or \$41.50 per household per year.	✗
3. Phase out existing 240L waste bins. All new bins would be small size.	As above but spread over 7 years.	✗
4. Retain existing waste bins but increase cost of 240L service to discourage use.	Additional \$720,000 income initially. This amount will decrease to \$1,100,000 cost should all customers downsize their 240L waste bin. This cost would equate to a 1.8% rate rise or \$41.50 per household per year.	✓
5. Do not provide a kerbside waste service	No service costs	✗

3.3 YELLOW BIN (RECYCLING)

The Council currently provides a fortnightly recyclables collection service to all residents having a waste service. The service is a co-mingled system where all recyclable products are placed loosely in the same bin. Most residents have a 240L bin which is desirable as recovered material is transformed into new products. A 120L bin size is also available. The collected material is currently sent to Visy in Melbourne for processing and sale.



Issue 3 – Should we collect your recycling bin more often?

The recycling system as a whole has sufficient capacity when comparing the total volume collected to the total volume available. Some residents however may find that they are routinely exceeding their fortnightly recycling bin capacity. Excess recycling product can be disposed of for free at the Council's transfer stations, or a larger bin may be available. Alternatively a weekly recyclables collection service could be an option.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level	No change to current service cost. \$945,000	✓
2. Upgrade recyclables collection to a weekly service	The cost to provide a weekly service would be approximately an additional \$700,000 annually. This equates to a 1.2% rate rise or \$26.40 per household per year	✗
3. Do not provide a recycling collection service.	No service costs however waste disposal costs would increase by approximately \$525,000. Current waste bin volumes may be inadequate. Also an indirect cost to the environment.	✗

3.4 GREEN BIN (GREEN WASTE)

The Council currently provides an optional green waste collection service to township areas only. There are currently 16,500 services collected. Most residents use a 240L bin which is desirable as the material is composted into a useable end product. A 120L bin is also available. The collected product is processed at a specialised composting plant in Shepparton.



Issue 4 – Should we collect your green waste bin more often?

The Council is considering introducing food waste into the household green waste collection service. As food can become smelly, particularly during hot weather, a weekly service may be more appropriate.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level	No change to current service cost. \$1,310,000 annually	✓
2. Upgrade the green waste service to a weekly collection	The cost to provide a weekly green waste collection service would be an additional \$375,000 annually plus \$250,000 processing costs. This equates to a 1% rate increase or \$37.80 per household per year	✗
3. Do not provide a green waste collection service	No service costs however waste disposal costs would increase by approximately \$420,000. Also an indirect environmental cost as greenhouse gases produced.	✗

Issue 5 – Should we allow food waste to be collected with the green waste service?

An audit of the weekly waste service bins has indicated that approximately 21% of the contents is food waste. This food waste breaks down in landfill creating greenhouse gases which should be avoided. Alternatively the food waste could be composted to minimise the production of greenhouse gases and also make a usable product.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level	No change to current service cost. \$1,310,000 annually	✗
2. Introduce the collection of food waste to the service	Unknown but minor impact on cost as proportion of food waste is small compared to garden organics.	✓

Issue 6 – Should we make the green waste service compulsory in township areas?

Currently the green waste service is optional in township areas. Surveys have indicated that optional service costs per tonne collected are 22% more expensive when compared to a compulsory service. Properly processing green waste is desirable as less greenhouse gasses are produced. There is also a useful product at the end.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level	No change to current service cost. \$1,310,000 annually	✗
2. Make the green waste service compulsory in residential areas excluding commercial properties.	The cost of expanding the service would be proportional to the number of new services. The current cost per service is \$71 annually.	✓

3.5 HARD WASTE

Hard waste refers to large bulky items that will not fit into a normal household waste bin. There are a number of ways that hard waste can be managed. These include disposal at the Council's transfer stations, collection by a private contractor or charity, hire of a skip bin and some kind of Council collection service.

The Council does not currently provide a hard waste collection service.

Issue 7 – How should we manage hard waste?

A variety of methods are available to manage hard waste using either the services of private industry or Council. A number of Council options are listed below with the likely costs identified. Preferably recyclable material should be removed during the collection process with only the residual waste being directed to landfill.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level – No Council service provided.	No cost implications.	✗
2. Provide a Council hard waste at call service	With 60% of households using the service the cost would be approximately \$1,076,000 annually This equates to 1.8% rate rise or \$40.60 per household per year spread over the entire rate base.	✗
3. Provide a Council kerbside hard waste collection service.	With 60% of households using the service the cost would be approximately \$900,000 annually. This equates to a 1.5% rate rise or \$33.90 per household per year.	✗
4. Communal skip bins for residents to use	Uncontrolled tipping is not recommended by the EPA	✗
5. Provide tipping days at transfer station (1 cubic metre per load)	With 10% of households visiting the transfer station the cost would be approximately \$88,000 per day. This equates to a 0.15% rate increase per day opened or \$3.30 per household per day opened.	✗
6. Provide tipping vouchers (2 number 60L bags)	With 60% uptake-approx. cost \$143,000 Equates to 0.24% rate increase or \$5.40 per household per year	✓

Issue 8 – Should we provide a hard waste collection service to residents with disabilities?

There are members of our community with mobility, health or transport restrictions that result in them not being able to access some Council services. Subject to an assessment by the

Council's Aged Care Team assistance could be provided to these residents to dispose of their hard waste

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level – No service provided	No cost implications	✘
2. Provide at call hard waste collection service to eligible residents.	Assuming 50% participation estimated cost after customer contribution would be \$28,000 This equates to a \$1 per household per year.	✔

3.6 SPECIAL COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

There are members of our community with mobility, health or transport restrictions that result in them not being able to access some Council services. Subject to an assessment by the Council's Aged Care Team assistance could be provided to these residents to have their bins collected at their front door.

Issue 9 – Should we assist residents with mobility restrictions put out their bins?

Eligible residents with mobility restrictions would have their kerbside service bins collected and returned to their front door by the collection vehicle operator.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level – No service provided	No cost implications	X
2. At door waste collection service be provided to eligible residents.	Estimated 50 customers so would be absorbed within the main collection contract.	✓

3.7 TRANSFER STATIONS

The Council operates three transfer stations at Shepparton, Ardmona and Murchison. These facilities are mainly used by householders but are also utilised by some commercial operators for the disposal of smaller quantities of waste.

Issue 10 – Should transfer stations operate on a full cost recovery principle?

All the Council's transfer stations currently operate at a significant cash loss. This loss is mainly associated with weekend operation and the actual cost of transport and disposal of waste. The cash shortfall is currently funded through the garbage charge that most residents pay for their kerbside services. The alternative may be to increase the transfer station waste disposal charges and reduce the garbage charge.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level – Continue with the current cash loss funded through the garbage charge.	No cost implications	✓
2. Operate on a full cost recovery principle.	To offset the cash loss only the waste disposal charge at the transfer stations would need to increase from \$34 to \$100 per cubic metre of waste deposited. The garbage charge could be reduced by \$15 per household per year.	✗

3.8 LANDFILL

The Council operates an Environment Protection Authority (EPA) licensed landfill at Cosgrove. The landfill is now nearing completion and at current fill rates its capacity is expected to be exhausted during 2016. A new landfill site has recently been purchased that will extend operations for at least another 25 years.

Issue 11 – Should the Council continue with landfill operations?

Operating a landfill is now complex and exposes the Council to significant environmental risk. An alternative may be to cease Council landfill operations and transport local waste to another EPA licensed landfill.

Options	Cost implications	Council preferred position
1. Maintain existing service level – Continue with the current landfill operation.	No cost implications	✓
2. Close the Cosgrove landfill and transport waste to an alternative licensed site.	Additional \$35 tonne transport plus cost of transfer facility. Equates to an additional \$532,000 for domestic and transfer station waste disposal. Cost per household \$20 or 0.9% rate increase.	✗

4. SUMMARY OF EXISTING SERVICES AND PREFERRED OPTIONS

Council recommended action in tan background – 2012/13 annual costs

Clause	SERVICE	Current cost per household	INCOME Current	COST (Total)	INCOME Estimated	COST Estimated	Prefer
3.1	Collection area No change			No cost implications			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1	Collection area – extend to unsealed roads in the rural area	Not currently provided				Extra \$525,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Kerbside Waste (80L, 120L, 240L) No change	\$152, \$202, \$334	\$5,925,000	\$2,600,000			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2	Kerbside Waste (80L, 120L, 240L) Includes extra cost for 240L bin to discourage use	\$152 \$202 \$420			\$6,645,000 After 240L downsize \$4,815,000	\$2,540,000 plus \$72,000 Bin changeover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Kerbside Recycling (no change except special collection)	Included in waste charge	As above	\$945,000			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.3	Kerbside Recycling Weekly service	Not currently provided				Extra \$700,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Kerbside Organics (compulsory urban service except for commercial properties) plus food	\$71			\$1,270,000	\$1,310,000 (Quantities below min)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.4	Kerbside Organics No change	\$71	\$1,125,000	\$1,310,000			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Hard waste At call for eligible HACC clients	Not currently provided	\$0	\$0	\$34,400	\$28,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Hard waste collection (kerbside)	Not currently provided	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Tip day (10% uptake)	Not currently provided	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$87,000 day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Tipping vouchers 2 X 60L bags	Not currently provided	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$143,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Transfer stations – Full cost recovery	\$100 per m3			\$1,164,000	\$1,164,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.6	Transfer stations (No change. Capital works not included)	\$34m3	\$685,000	\$1,164,000			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5 ACTIONS PLAN

5.1 COMMUNICATION PLAN

A communication plan has been developed that details how the Council will communicate with its community during the review and implementation of the revised Waste Management strategy.

A Community Engagement Plan has also been developed that provides further details on how the Council will engage with its community.

Communication and engagement activities for this project include the following:

- Media release
- Council website
- Social media
- Public forum
- Internal Council networks

EDUCATION PLAN

The Council acknowledges that it needs to develop a significant education plan to assist residents to make informed decisions about waste management.

Some of the issues that may be relevant to residents include the following:

- Minimising waste to landfill – this is a key government strategy for achieving its environmental objectives. It affects many of the decisions the Council makes relating to waste services.
- The EPA landfill levy – This levy applied to every tonne of waste arriving at landfill directly affects the cost of waste disposal for householders. The current commercial levy rate is \$46.60 per tonne.
- The production of greenhouse gases by food and green waste decomposing in landfill - This is driving the development of systems to divert organic waste from landfill. In the future we can expect to see targeted programs to assist the commercial sector divert more food and green waste from landfill.
- Increasing environmental standards for modern landfills – Much higher environmental protection standards are now required for landfill construction and this directly affects the cost of waste disposal.
- Barriers to establishing landfills – As the population rises and environmental standards for landfills increase, viable landfill sites are reducing. This may result in longer haul distances for waste or alternative waste treatment methods. Either outcome will result in higher waste disposal costs for residents.
- Losing scarce resources – Some raw metals and minerals are already becoming more difficult to source. Society cannot afford to lose these items to landfill. The establishment of pre-sort facilities at landfill to retrieve some of these items will increase the cost of waste disposal for residents.

Resources to be developed to assist residents in being informed about waste management may include the following:

- Information on the Council website
- Fact sheets
- Signage at Council facilities
- Tours of waste facilities
- Presentations to community groups
- Opportunity to meet with Council staff for further information.

5.3 OTHER INITIATIVES

The council may consider other initiatives as part of the development of the Waste Management Strategy. Community garage sales or swap meet days may be an effective way for residents to dispose of unwanted products that may be of value to others.

Educating residents about the benefits of home composting can also have positive results.

6. RESPONSE SHEET

Please record your comments and preferences on the attached document "*Have your say on Waste*" and return to the Council.

Thank you for assisting the Council with the development of its Waste Management Strategy.

Have your say on Waste



The Council is currently reviewing its 10 year Waste Management Strategy. This strategy will determine the type and also the way we deliver waste services to our community in the future.

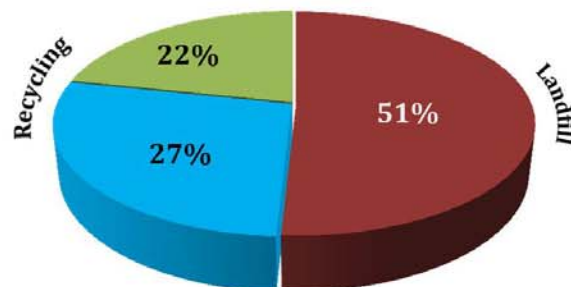
This strategy will affect all the community, from how often we put our bins out to how much you get charged to tip at our transfer stations.

We are seeking your feedback to ensure any concerns or issues you may have will be considered during the development of this strategy.

Greater Shepparton City Council Kerbside waste is broken down into the following categories.

Kerbside Waste

■ General Waste ■ Recycling ■ Green Waste



*Recycle material currently is below the state average and this needs to be increased. Landfill is currently above the state average and needs to be decreased.

Waste is any material that you no longer have a use for and wish to discard.

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 M13/32847



Householders in Greater Shepparton on average dispose of nearly 500kg of waste in their Red lidded bins every year. This goes straight to landfill. The good news is that householders on average recycle almost the same amount with their Yellow and Green lidded bins every year.

One of the Greater Shepparton City Council objectives is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and increase the amount of recycling. This is much better for the future of the community and environment.

The Greater Shepparton City Council considers best practice waste management as the means to achieving both environmental sustainability and also providing quality services to its local community.

Questions:

1.1 Are you a:

Householder Business owner

1.2 Where do you reside/operate your business?

Dookie
 Kialla
 Mooroopna
 Murchison
 Shepparton
 Tatura
 Other:

Kerbside Collection

1.3 Do you currently receive kerbside collection services?

Yes No

If No, where are you located?

1.4 Do you think kerbside collection should be extended to unsealed roads in the rural area? If yes this would see a rate rise of 0.9% or \$19.80 per household per year.

Yes No



General Rubbish (Red lid bin)

2.1 Your general rubbish is collected once a week. Is once a week?

Too frequent Not often enough Just right

2.2 What size bin do you have?

240L 120L 80L

2.3 Is your Red Lid bin?

Too Small Too Large Just right



Industry best practice recommends that smaller bins results in less landfill waste. While there might be some initial increases in rates to replace the bins (1.8% or \$41.50 per household per year) future reductions in garbage charges would occur.

2.4 Should the current 240L bins be replaced with small bins?

Yes No

Recycling (Yellow lid/blue bin)

3.1 Most households/businesses have a 240L Recycling bin. Is this size?

Too Small Too Large Just right

3.2 Currently recycling is collected every two weeks. Is this?

Too frequent Not often enough Just right



If collection of recyclables is increased to a weekly service this will result in a 1.2% or \$26.40 increase per household per year.

3.3 Do you support a weekly Recycling collection?

Yes No

3.4 Are you aware excess recycling products can be disposed for Free at the Council's transfer stations?

Yes No

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Green Waste (Green lid bin)

4.1 Most households have a 240L Green waste bin. Is this size?

Too Small Too Large Just right

4.2 Currently Green Waste is collected every two weeks. Is this

Too frequent Not often enough Just right



Council is considering introducing food waste into the household green waste collection service. As food can become smelly, particular during hot weather, a weekly service may be more appropriate.

4.3 Would you place food waste into your Green waste?

Yes No

Approximately 21% of the contents placed in general waste bins is food waste. If food waste was placed in green waste bins this could be composted to minimise the production of greenhouse gasses.

If collection of Green/food waste is increased to a weekly service, this will result in a 1% or \$37.80 increase per household per year.

4.4 Do you support a weekly Green collection including food waste?

Yes No

4.5 Should Green waste bins be in all residential areas?

Yes No

Making green waste service compulsory in residential areas excluding commercial properties would increase by \$71.00 annually per new property serviced.



Hard Waste

5.1 Would you like the Council to provide a Hard Waste service?

Yes No

5.2 How would you like the council to provide Hard Waste service?

- a. Call the Council for the pickup of Hard Waste (once per annum) equates to 1.8% or \$40.60 per household per year increase.
- b. Provide a kerbside hard waste collection service, equates to 1.5% or \$33.90 per household per year increase.
- c. Free tipping day at transfer station for 1 cubic metre of waste equates to a 0.15% or \$3.30 per household per year increase per day opened.
- d. Provide tipping vouchers for 2x 60L bags (equates to 0.2% or \$5.40 per household per year).

6. Should we provide a hard waste collection service to residents with disabilities?

Yes No

If yes, this equates to a \$1 per household per year. This collection service is assessed by the Council's Aged Care Team.

6.1 Should the Council help assist residents with mobility restrictions put out their bins?

Yes No

Eligible residents with mobility restrictions would have their kerbside service bins collected and returned to the front door by the collection vehicle operator.

6.2 Are you aware the Council has three transfer stations located in Shepparton, Ardmona and Murchison?

Yes No

6.3 Do you think the Council should continue to operate its Transfer stations at a financial loss?

Yes No



To offset the current cash loss only, the waste disposal charge at the transfer stations would increase from \$34 to \$100 per cubic metre. This would create a reduction in the garbage charge of \$15.00 per household.

7. Current service

How would you rate council's current waste management services?

Excellent Good Fair Poor

8. Ideas

8.1 What waste collection initiatives do you think that council should introduce to reduce waste?

8.2 Can you suggest ways in which you could minimise the amount of waste you produce?

Awareness & understanding

8.3 Do you support the principle of waste minimisation?

Yes No

8.4 What information is important for you to understand in regards to waste?

Landfill, environmental impacts, costs, waste minimisation etc.

8.5 How would you like to find out more about waste management?

Council website, email, SMS, fact sheets, direct mail, newspaper, newsletter, social media etc

Where to from here

The Council thanks you for your time and assistance. All information will be collected and a public forum will be announced in August, 2013.

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