

Draft Integrated Waste Management Strategy
A Pathway for Resource Recovery

A summary document for public consultation

March 2014

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Executive summary

Providing sustainable and cost effective waste management solutions is a major challenge for every Australian council. In 2006, Tweed Shire Council adopted an integrated waste management strategy and the actions that have been implemented as a result of this have allowed Council to effectively respond to key challenges in the provision of cost effective and relevant waste services for residents of the shire. This has included Council pursuing a regional approach to planning for critical infrastructure development and the roll out of the voluntary garden organics collection service and improvements to the kerbside recycling service, just to name a few. By gaining approval to develop a new landfill facility that will provide long term disposal security for the local community, Council has ensured that the Tweed is equipped to manage waste disposal requirements for the foreseeable future.

In the intervening period, both the Federal and State Governments have introduced legislation and regulations that will have a significant impact on Council's operations, and that need to be considered from a strategic perspective if Council is to remain compliant and continue to be seen as being a leader in the region, whilst providing relevant services to residents.

In developing an Integrated Waste Management Strategy that will help guide Council's resource recovery efforts over the coming decade and beyond, independent waste specialist Hyder Consulting has reviewed Council's existing situation and provided a range of projections based on potential impacts, the most significant of which is a likely increase in household waste. This is projected to rise from the current figure of 40,000 tonnes per annum to at least 53,000 tonnes and potentially 100,000 tonnes by 2029–30 based purely on population growth projections.

In fulfilling its brief, Hyder Consulting has conducted the necessary analysis and investigations to assess Council's waste management capacity to identify potential constraints and opportunities with a view to providing a clear pathway to significantly improve resource recovery. The detailed analysis required assessment and interpretation of various streams of data and information to provide a frank assessment of the current position and to develop options and recommendations that will allow Council to improve the management of waste and resources within the shire.

The focus of Council's Integrated Waste Management Strategy is on those elements of the waste operations that Council has the ability to potentially influence, particularly household waste streams. The current state target for landfill diversion articulated by the *NSW Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy* is 66% however in a recent review, the State Government expressed a desire to increase this to 70%. Presently, Council is diverting less than 50% of all household generated waste.

The draft strategy articulates a comparison of the relative merits of continuing with a 'business as usual' approach versus alternative scenarios involving the implementation of significant changes to managing future waste streams. It is important to note that business as usual is unlikely to ever achieve the targets required by the State Government with the shortfall currently around 24% of the new targets. In effort to address the current shortfall and actively pursue the State Government target, this strategy recommends the implementation of a best practice waste collection and processing system.

As part of this best practice system, the following key recommendations are presented as Priority Actions (in no weighted order);

- **Action 1: Recovering food organic resources**
- **Action 2: Developing new infrastructure**
- **Action 3: Cleaning up the streets**
- **Action 4: Alternative methods of driving resource recovery**
- **Action 5: Regional collaboration**
- **Action 6: Education and promotion**

The complete draft Integrated Waste Management Strategy document includes detailed calculations, modelling and data interpretations that Council will use to guide implementation. This briefing document has been specifically prepared to provide the community with an overview of the strategy's high-level vision and an accessible summary of the strategy's technical content and recommended priority actions, in order to encourage and facilitate meaningful feedback.

A description of each Priority Action is contained in this public consultation paper, along with the basis for the proposed action, its linkage to Council's Community Strategic Plan (Delivery Plan and Operational Plan) and the anticipated impact of each action on Council's overall target of reducing waste to landfill.

The headline finding of the Integrated Waste Management Strategy is that, by following the recommendations in the report, Council could raise the current level of waste diverted from landfill from the current figure of less than 50% to greater than 60% and probably much closer to the revised 70% target.

Council is seeking feedback from the Tweed community on the draft Integrated Waste Management Strategy.

Further information is available on the Council website, www.tweed.nsw.gov.au or Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed, www.yoursaytweed.com.au/wastemanagement.

Formal, written submissions can be made to Council via email to tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au or by post to:

Draft Integrated Waste Management Strategy
General Manager
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484

All submissions must be received by close of business on Friday 16 May 2014.

Your feedback will help Council improve the way it manages your waste and recycling services.

Regional context

Over 86,000 people currently live in the Tweed region, based on published ABS data from the 2011 Census, and Department of Planning Population Growth Forecasts¹. The Tweed has a total of 17 villages across the council area, and major towns include Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Kingscliff and Pottsville.

Tweed Shire Council covers an area of 1,303km² including 37km of coastline situated alongside the NSW Local Government Areas of Byron Bay, Kyogle and Lismore, with Gold Coast City Council on the Queensland side of the border to the north.

The region is popular with tourists and retirees. The *Far North Coast Regional Strategy 2006–2031* (NSW Department of Planning) flags that the region is “facing major demographic changes”, due to a high population growth rate (26% increase projected from 2006-2031) and a median age expected to rise from 39 to 51 years by 2031. The proportion of the population aged 65 years or above is expected to more than double by 2031, while the proportion of young people is projected to decline to 14%, leaving just 54% of the population in the working age group.

Rapid population growth and a growing number of tourists visiting the region has resulted in a change from an economy historically dominated by agriculture to one now dominated by service sector industries (84%), and manufacturing and construction (12%).

The local economy is made up of retail, hospitality, agricultural and tourism industries; as the major employers in the region, as well as construction, fishing, and light industry that significantly contributes to the local economy. About 35,000 people are employed in the Tweed Region.

The Tweed's proximity to Queensland is also significant when planning for future waste management needs. A previous *Regional Waste Disposal Strategy* (Hyder 2012) developed for the region highlighted that significant benefits could be derived by taking advantage of the availability of low-cost, well-managed disposal points within South-East Queensland (SEQ), and Council has subsequently taken advantage of this opportunity.

Tweed is part of what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) refers to as the Regional Regulated Area (RRA) of NSW, in which the landfill levy for 2013–14 is set at \$53.70 per tonne. The levy will increase by \$10+CPI each year until 2015–16, reaching at least \$73.70 at this time. There is currently no waste levy in Queensland and the disposal costs and charges in Queensland are significantly cheaper than those in NSW. This as well as the scale and environmental controls on the Queensland landfills are part of the appeal of transporting waste there.

Regional collaboration

Tweed is part of the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC), and the North East Waste group (Newaste, previously known as the North East Waste Forum). Newaste manages a range of regional projects aimed at achieving sustainable waste and resource management on a regional basis, that contribute toward achieving the waste reduction targets set by the NSW State Government. Council has a strong history of regional waste collaboration as shown by participation in these forums, Newaste is made up of:

- Ballina Shire Council
- Byron Shire Council
- Clarence Valley Council
- Kyogle Council
- Lismore City Council
- Richmond Valley Council, and
- Tweed Shire Council

¹ Council's own data suggests population across the LGA in 2012 was actually 86,866.

Council officers regularly attend meetings within the region to determine ways that improve resource sharing in the provision of waste and recycling services and infrastructure.

Need for an integrated strategy

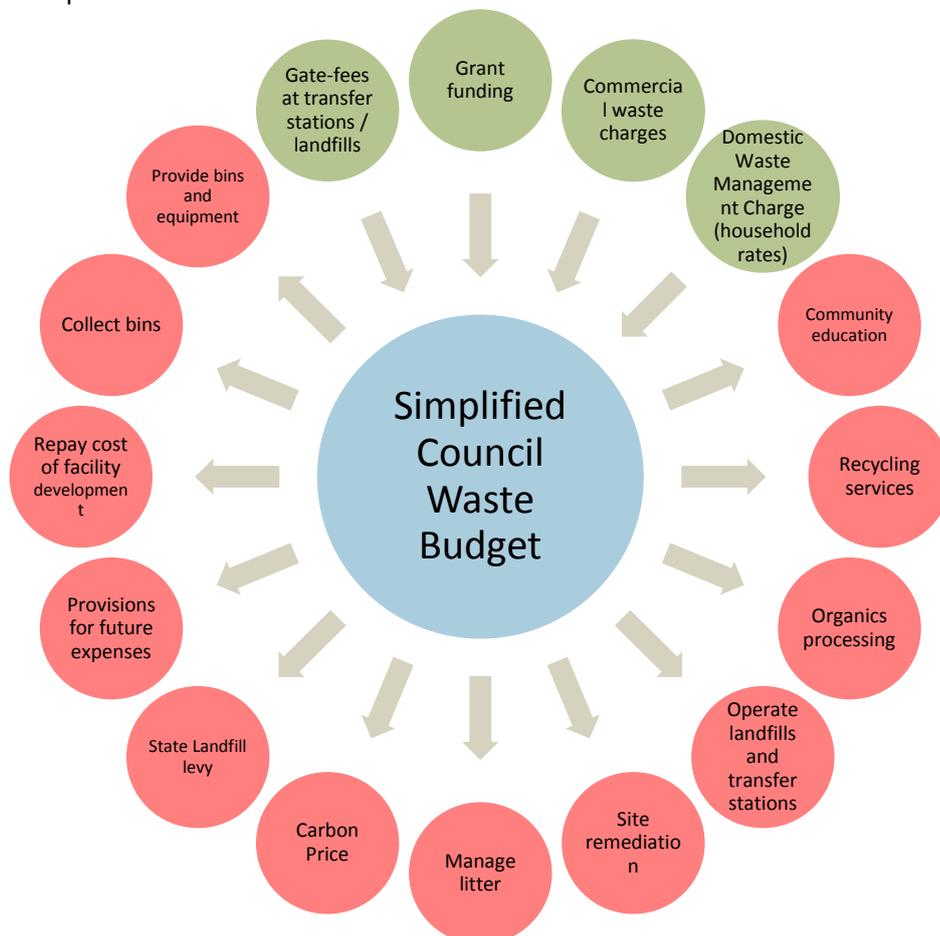
The provision of community waste management services is a core function of every local government in Australia, and the cost of providing these services has increased markedly over the last decade. One reason for this is that landfills, which were traditionally a relatively cheap and easy disposal option for most waste materials, have become much more expensive to develop and operate in the modern world.

Operational costs have increased significantly in NSW due to the State Government’s application of a levy on every tonne of waste disposed in the region’s landfill. The levy was introduced by the state government to encourage greater resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill. The levy for Council is currently \$53.70 per tonne, with this set to increase to at least \$73.70/tonne by 2015–16. Only a small percentage of the monies collected (around 30%) is returned as grants to local governments with the program of reimbursement in its final year in 2012/13. It is also extremely difficult and expensive to develop a new landfill relative to earlier periods due to the complexity of design and regulatory constraints.

A primary consideration for Council in the development of this Integrated Waste Management Strategy is in identifying opportunities to reduce the cost burden of waste services on the community by providing sustainable waste management solutions in the most cost effective manner. This includes consideration of opportunities to extend the useful life of its waste assets, including both Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre and the recently-approved Eviron Road Landfill development.

The following diagram provides a simplified description of general council waste management budgets, which aim to balance a wide range of expenses against two primary income streams, being the Domestic Waste Management Charge applied to ratepayers, and the gate-fees paid by users of Council’s disposal facilities. Grant funding and revenue from commercial users are also a potential source of income.

A key opportunity to reduce the cost burden of waste management, and extend the life of its existing landfill assets will be realised if Council can minimise the waste produced by Council and households that needs to be processed and disposed of into landfill.

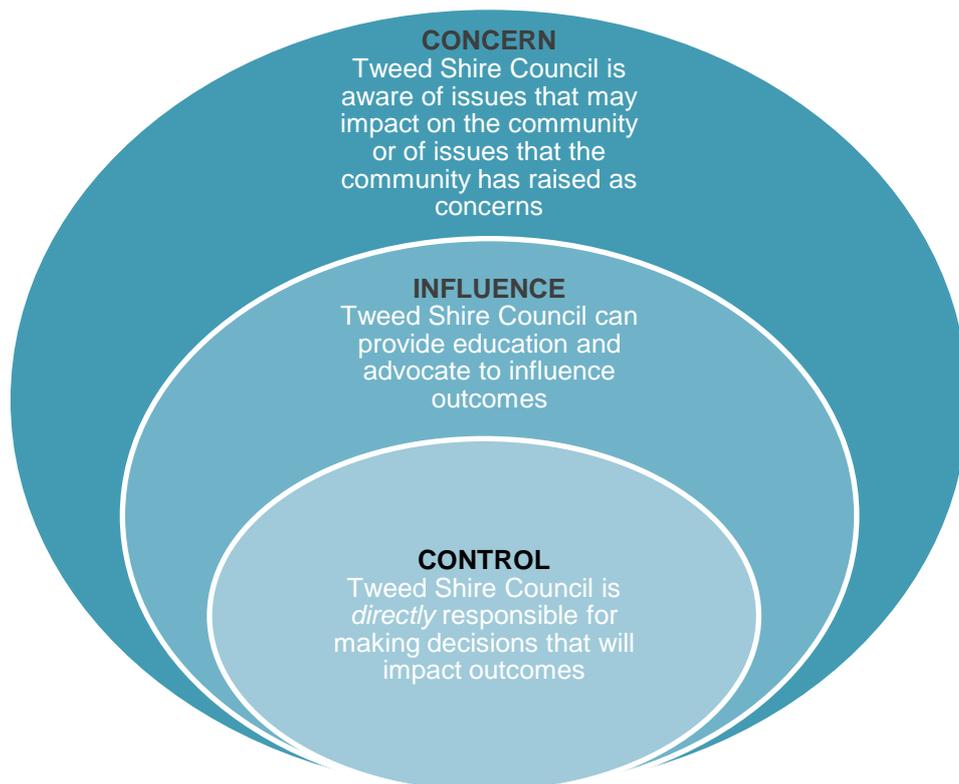


Focus of the strategy

Solid waste in the Tweed is derived from a number of sources. For strategic planning purposes this is broken up into three main streams, which are household materials (municipal solid waste, MSW), waste generated by businesses (commercial and industrial waste, C&I) and waste generated through building and development activity (construction and demolition waste, C&D). Council is also a generator of waste through activities such as roads construction, and this has also been considered in the development of this integrated waste strategy.

A distinction has been made between areas where Council has control in terms of ability and responsibility to directly make decisions. For example, Council is directly responsible for choosing the collection and processing options provided to households, but council cannot directly control how a specific household uses those collection services. In other circumstances, Council can try to influence outcomes by providing appropriate education and training. Other issues, such as global climate change, are seen as being beyond the scope of the council to control or influence but strategic decisions will be guided in part by community concern about these issues. Council's role in these circumstances would be to advise.

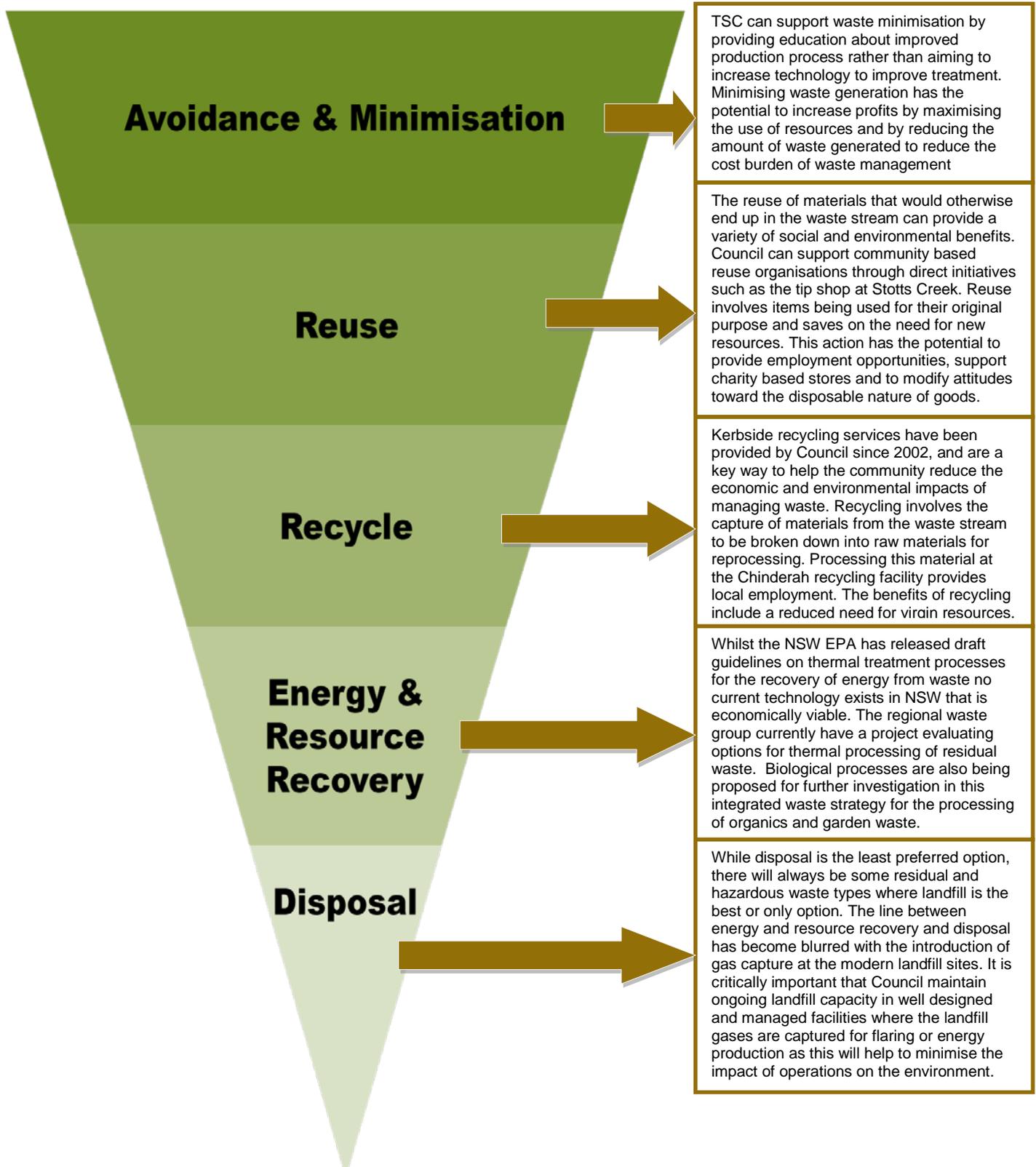
The key focus of this Integrated Waste Management Strategy is those areas where Council is directly responsible for making critical decisions on behalf of its community in relation to certain waste streams, that being primarily the domestic waste stream. The Strategy also identifies where opportunities exist to influence outcomes relating to commercial waste streams.



Aligning with the Waste Hierarchy

The Waste Hierarchy is a weighted list of approaches to managing waste that are arranged in order of preference. These have been adopted as a guiding management principle by many governments in Australia and overseas. The options that the Council's Integrated Waste Management Strategy will focus on are guided by this hierarchy. The hierarchy places a higher value on avoidance and minimising the creation of waste with each option under this focussing on the diversion of waste from disposal through to landfill disposal as the least desired outcome.

The following diagram explains the options that are available to Council relative to each level of the hierarchy.



Priority action 1: food and organics

Council's current landfill diversion rate is for Municipal Solid Waste is 46%. The current target set by the NSW Government for diversion of the municipal waste stream is 66% by 2014. This target is proposed to be increased to 70% in a recent review of the WARR strategy.

While tweaks and continual improvement to existing systems will help maintain current recovery rates the existing systems are generally performing well against industry benchmarks. To significantly lift Council's performance it will be necessary to implement relatively large changes to the status quo. Waste Stream audits show that the opportunity to address this shortfall would best be met by removing the organic materials in the household waste bin which current make up 39% of the residual waste stream. There is also the potential to capture a further 8.3% of the waste as garden organics in the same service and to remove a further 23.1% of that residual waste which is made up of household hard recyclables.

There are two main ways of dealing with garden waste and organics in the residual waste stream, with the cheapest option involving the introduction of a third bin requiring residents to separate out their food scraps for co-collection with garden organics. This service would be recommended for introduction to all urban residential properties. Rural areas would continue to be supported through the provision of education and subsidised infrastructure to allow residents to manage their organics and to return these to the soil through options such as composting and worm farming.

Previous studies have been used to inform the development of this strategy. These have found that processing of residual (nonorganic) waste streams or residual waste streams with the organic fraction intact, using Advanced Waste Technologies do not currently appear to be commercially viable as they are much more expensive than land filling or source separation. Modelling shows that the economic cost is significantly higher than alternate options for organics processing involving 'in vessel' biological treatment and that the output has significant contamination issues.

The introduction of a combined Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) weekly collection service presents the most cost effective opportunity for Council to achieve a significant improvement in resource recovery performance. Once collected Council will need to ensure the material is processed for beneficial reuse and that the material is reused.

In modelling the total domestic waste management system including collections, processing, disposal and education, implementing a compulsory weekly FOGO service to all urban residential properties is estimated to increase costs by 10% in the first year, but lead to savings of around 2% compared to Business as Usual (BAU) costs over the period 2016–17 to 2029–30 and, importantly, result in landfill diversion performance increasing from the current 46% to over 60%. Without the implementation of a FOGO service Council is unlikely to ever be able to achieve the state based target (currently 66%) for diversion.

The implementation of a FOGO system will require changes to community behaviour, and the transition will need to be carefully managed. A range of potential scenarios have been explored, but the most favoured option involves introducing the FOGO service to urban households only. The servicing of the green-lidded organics bin would transition to a weekly cycle and the red-lidded residual waste bin, which should not contain putrescibles after food and garden waste are removed, would move to being serviced on a fortnightly cycle. The change would involve the implementation of a compulsory service to urban residential property, rather than the current optional garden organics service, if economies of scale are to be achieved whilst addressing hygiene and odour issues in the residual waste bin.

The impact of varying levels of community participation in the FOGO service is explored in the strategy. The improved performance and reduced costs to Council under scenarios where there is high participation rates underlines the importance of developing an effective community education and engagement strategy.

The introduction of a FOGO service will require Council to access an appropriate facility for processing of the organic material and this strategy provides recommendations relating to the investigation of options.

Timing

The logical time for implementation of the service would revolve around the changeover taking place at the end of the current collection services contracts on 30 November 2016. Work on community engagement and developing a contract specification would commence immediately.

Linkage to Community Strategic Plan

2.3.4.4 Supporting Community Life by improving kerbside resource recovery rates and reducing total waste to landfill

Priority action 2: developing new infrastructure

Council's existing disposal infrastructure including the recently approved Eviron Road Landfill is well placed to meet disposal needs. It is in the development of processing options related to the diversion of waste where the most significant works are likely to be required.

Should the Council introduce the recommended FOGO (Priority Action 1) collection service, they will need to be able to access a facility capable of processing the collected garden and food organics. The EPA have indicated in preliminary discussions that by including household organics it is likely that the material collected would need to be processed in an enclosed composting/processing facility.

There are several options potentially available to Council for the processing the organics including:

- Use of an existing facility (noting there are currently no appropriate facilities in the LGA)
- Development of a new facility on land offered by Council (potentially at Eviron Road, or at Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre [SCRRC])
- Development of a new facility on an alternate site (either in or out of the LGA).

Whilst Council is proposing to undertake market testing to determine which option provides the lowest cost to achieve the desired outcomes, it is noted that development of organics processing infrastructure within the Council LGA may be an attractive option as:

- Previous studies have suggested additional FOGO processing capacity will be required within the Northern Rivers region, particularly in the North,
- Council has sites which appear broadly suitable for development of organics processing infrastructure, such as SCRRC and Eviron Road, some of which already have the requisite approvals
- Relevant benchmark information suggests Council could attract a better commercial rate for processing at a local facility, compared with the cost to transport and process at a facility outside of the region
- The NSW Government is making grant funding available for development of resource recovery infrastructure (through the \$465.7 million Waste Less Recycle More incentive)
- The process could support the sustainable agriculture project that Council is currently developing

The timing of the NSW Government's Waste Less Recycle More (WLRM) grants becoming available as Council investigates development of a significant piece of regional resource recovery infrastructure is fortuitous. Council could be well positioned to access grant funding to help offset the capital costs of long-term infrastructure development, and content within this strategy could be used as the basis of a grant application that could be rapidly developed as details of the proposed funding system are announced.

Timing

A facility would need to be available to coincide with the conclusion of the current collection contract in December 2016. Work on community engagement and developing a design and contract specification can commence immediately. If Grant funding is made available the facility could be delivered earlier as a need already exists for the processing of the waste generated through the optional green waste service.

Linkage to Community Strategic Plan

2.3.4.1 Supporting Community Life by construction of necessary associated infrastructure to appropriately manage waste

Priority action 3: cleaning up the streets

Council currently offers a bi-annual hard waste collection service that is available to all households at no additional cost, with the service charge incorporated into the Domestic Waste Management Charge. This service was implemented to help residents manage waste materials that do not fit within their standard mobile garbage bins. While uptake of this service is high, the current means of delivery presents a number of issues including unsightly public areas for extended periods around collection time, and a range of workplace health and safety and environmental hazards associated with large volumes of waste out on the street for collection.

There are alternative options being offered elsewhere that may help to address these issues. Whilst the State government does not recommend the provision of this type of service for a number of reasons the best practice approach to managing this issue involves the introduction of a booking system that allows residents to request a bulk waste collection service at a time that (generally) suits them. This results in a better outcome for residents, who do not need to stockpile material until the defined collection period. It can also result in a more orderly and organised process, with the council better able to assess data and exert some control over the process.

There are a range of options around system design, including opportunities to recover additional resources. For example, when residents in the City of Sydney book a service, staff enquire about the items being disposed and may direct a third-party re-use organisation (such as local charity organisations) to assess the condition of the item and determine if it can be reused.

Evidence from other Australian councils shows that introducing a full 'user pays' booking system is likely to result in significantly less community uptake than if the system is 'free'. To balance the principles of user pays with the need to make the system accessible enough to discourage illegal dumping, the recommended approach is for Council to provide every household with at least one 'free' booking per year, with any additional bookings being charged on a cost recovery basis.

The strategy considered cost scenarios and participation rates associated with operating booking systems across Australian councils. Provisional estimates indicate that the overall cost of a booking system could potentially reduce the cost for Council of providing the current kerbside bulk waste collection service, however this would need to be determined by testing the market. It is an option to charge the cost of the service either to the DWMC or to offer the service as a full user pays service.

As Council has approximately three years to run on the existing contract, any variation to the current arrangement would require negotiations with the contractor. There is an opportunity to open negotiations with the current contractor to determine the cost and their likely acceptance to move away from the remaining bulk waste collections towards a booking system.

This alternative means of providing the bulk waste collection service should only be adopted if favourable terms can be successfully negotiated with the current contractor as the current arrangement provides excellent accessibility at a reasonable cost, and is locked in contractually until November 2016. Following this a booking system could be market tested as against a fixed number of services and other options to determine a real market cost comparison.

Timing

Council could open negotiations with the current contractor to seek to amend the contract with a view to determining the likely acceptance and cost of altering the means of service delivery for the rest of the current contract term to offer a booking service for bulk waste collection if the negotiations show merit from a financial perspective. Should the contractor agree to favourable terms, Council would need to develop the support mechanisms and communication strategy to allow this to occur. Given the need to undertake negotiations it would be reasonable to expect this to be possibly implemented during the second half of 2014 pending successful negotiations.

Linkage to Community Strategic Plan

2.3.4.4 Supporting Community Life by improving kerbside resource recovery rates and reducing total waste to landfill

Priority action 4: alternative methods for driving resource recovery

As highlighted in the Priority Action 1, the highest priority activity that will allow Council to increase its landfill diversion rate involves removing organics from the domestic waste stream. There are however other components of the domestic waste stream that would be relatively easy to recover and/or recycle.

An additional potential method of capturing resources from the residual waste stream is the use of a pre-sorting facility (dirty MRF). This approach involves a 'last chance' attempt to salvage the mixed, relatively high value materials such as metals, plastics and potentially cardboard, that is in the domestic residual waste stream.

Based on Council's waste composition data from the 2013 audit, it is estimated that a pre-sorting facility has the potential to recover around 5-10% of Council's current domestic residual waste stream by targeting ferrous and non-ferrous metals, plastic containers, and cardboard materials. This could boost Council's overall municipal waste diversion rate by around 3-5 percentage points. If all residual waste were subjected to this sorting process it is likely that this figure would increase further.

It should be noted that such a pre-sorting facility would complement the proposed FOGO system (see Priority Action 1). If the proportion of organics in the residual waste stream was reduced through introduction of a FOGO system, the relative proportion of recoverable material for the Dirty MRF would increase, and it would also be easier to access this material as there would be less contamination to deal with in the sorting.

A critical question around development of a pre-sorting facility is whether it is economically viable to recover small quantities of salvageable materials. Council propose to undertake further investigations to determine whether the marginal returns justify the expense. These investigations should be expanded to include the possibility of adding commercial waste streams to the mix as this may assist in determining the viability of the technology. Council is also seeking to determine whether the existing building at the Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre would be suitable to be used or modified to host the pre-sorting facility.

A number of potential pre-sort system designs could be considered for use by Council, which range in technical complexity from a completely automated system, through to a manual sorting system. As the complexity decreases so does the amount of resources recovered and the investment outlay required.

Each of the general concepts would require some degree of manual labour, and would lead to an increase in local employment opportunities compared with the current approach.

Timing

Further investigation should commence immediately to determine the feasibility of introducing a pre-sorting facility for waste coming into the Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre with the investigations to focus on economic viability and the potential diversion.

Linkage to Community Strategic Plan

2.3.4.1 Supporting Community Life by construction of necessary associated infrastructure to appropriately manage waste

Priority action 5: regional collaboration

Given the size of each individual council in the region, it is likely that multi-council collaboration will either be necessary or at least highly desirable in order to achieve the economies of scale necessary to enable significant infrastructure developments. Council has a strong history of collaboration with other councils with a view to progressing the provision of a regional approach for waste service and infrastructure planning and development.

Previous studies that have been used to guide development of the Integrated Waste Strategy have indicated that Council would likely need to collaborate with at least one other council in order to have sufficient combined volumes to support the development and use of any Advanced Waste Technology (AWT) to treat household kerbside-collected mixed waste. However, it is also clear at the time that none of the AWT technologies that were currently on the market for residual waste processing were commercially attractive or viable for development in the region.

In the long-term, if it is proven that energy-from-waste technologies can deliver the outcomes currently anticipated (in terms of high diversion rates, at a cost comparable with landfill disposal) in the Australian context, then the opportunity may arise for regional collaboration for the treatment of residual waste.

To this end, it is important for Council to maintain relationships with the other councils in the region, including the other member councils of North East Waste (Newaste), as well as neighbouring Gold Coast City Council. It would be prudent to open dialogue with Queensland Councils, to entertain options reflecting synergies between Council and local government authorities in SEQ.

The Chinderah recycling facility is located within Tweed Shire and this facility receives material from Scenic Rim, Toowoomba, Byron and Kyogle Councils. In this spirit Council has the opportunity to continue with, or improve on its standing in the region in terms of providing waste processing infrastructure, such as the more immediate opportunity for regional collaboration in relation to processing of food and garden organics (FOGO).

While it is highly likely that Council will have sufficient FOGO tonnage to justify development of a stand-alone processing facility, from a technical standpoint, the inclusion of additional feedstock would present an opportunity to improve the commercial viability of the facility and ultimately reduce costs to Council. Planning for development of an organics processing facility should include consideration of regional options, and discussions through the Newaste forum as well as with South East Queensland organisations regarding potential project partners or organisations that wish to avail themselves of the service.

Notwithstanding Council's current enviable position in relation to landfill disposal capacity (having access to high-quality, low cost facilities, as well as having approval to develop its own local solution if needed), there are a number of incentives for Council to actively participate in the current planning for a regional landfill facility. As a contingency model, and to form part of Council's business continuity planning, service level agreements should be sought with regional neighbours in terms of waste acceptance during times where access is restricted to Tweed Council facilities, such as during significant rainfall events.

Council will continue to investigate, develop and innovate around waste and recycling management, and to pursue the opportunities that waste provides in terms of resource recovery, recycling, and energy recovery from waste. These opportunities should continue to be highlighted in the context of the Far North Coast Regional Strategy and the North East Waste Strategic Plan, and through the provision of input into the strategic thinking of advocacy groups such as Sustain Northern Rivers and Regional Development Australia.

Timing

Continued commitment to regional waste and recycling resource sharing and improved efficiencies can commence immediately.

Linkage to Community Strategic Plan

2.3.4 Supporting Community Life by building on regional collaboration

Priority action 6: Education and promotion

Council has a strong history of providing quality education and promotion to its community through a coordinated education program delivered through the Sustainable Living Centre, as well as by participation, promotion and advocacy of events such as World Environment Day, National Recycling Week, Tweed River Festival, and Landfill Open Days. Council can continue to encourage waste avoidance and minimisation by:

- 1 Building integrating waste avoidance and minimisation principles into Council's procurement policies
- 2 Educating the community about the importance of waste avoidance and minimisation, and offering practical advice of ways in which to achieve this, and
- 3 Directing local businesses towards waste avoidance and minimisation resources.

Potential actions for Council include:

- Providing more focus on the importance of waste avoidance and minimisation in Council's procurement policy. The current policy (Version 1.4, adopted on 20 March 2012) states:

"Officers making decisions on the procurement of goods and services must consider relevant sustainability criteria associated with the goods or services", and suggests sustainability criteria such as recycled content, end of life disposal and durability.

Adoption of the NSW Government's Waste Reduction and Purchasing Policy (WRAPP) could also be beneficial.

- The NSW Government offers resources such as Sustainability Advantage (which provides advice, training, networks and tools to assist businesses in driving sustainability within their workplace, in energy, water and waste), and Council could play a role in promoting such resources within the local business community.
- Council can encourage large local businesses to sign up to the Australian Packaging Covenant, which is a voluntary agreement with the Commonwealth Government to increase resource efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of packaging
- Council could coordinate or support existing campaigns against certain disposable items (such as plastic bags) in order to raise residents' awareness of waste generation
- Council can continue to support regional initiatives through North East Waste, such as the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

Council currently encourages reuse in the community through the provision of the tip shop at SCRRC, but there are other ways in which Council could contribute to increasing reuse, including:

- Support existing community-based initiatives and other local reuse charity organisations. This could include working in conjunction with these organisations to increase reuse opportunities from hard waste collections (see Priority Action 3).
- Council may be able to provide support to reuse organisations through developing a formal network for communication and collaboration between reuse organisations and other relevant partners.
- It could be possible to build demand for used products in the commercial sector, especially in the fit-out market. Council can lead by example by procuring reuse items for government offices where possible.
- Supporting initiatives such as Second Hand Saturday, the Bicycle Recycling Network, Lifeline Book Fair and bag-share schemes will enable Council to promote reuse opportunities.
- Encouraging household composting and worm farming by providing access to free workshops and by subsidising worm farms and compost bins.

Timing

Continued commitment to regional waste and recycling resource sharing is ongoing and improved efficiencies and program development can commence immediately.

Linkage to Community Strategic Plan

2.3.4 Supporting Community Life by building on behavioural change campaigns

Have your say

Council is seeking feedback from the Tweed community on the draft Integrated Waste Management Strategy.

Further information is available on the Council website, www.tweed.nsw.gov.au or Council's online community engagement hub, Your Say Tweed, www.yoursaytweed.com.au/wastemanagement.

Formal, written submissions can be made to Council via email to tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au or by post to:

Draft Integrated Waste Management Strategy
General Manager
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All submissions must be received by close of business on Friday 16 May 2014.



TWEED

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