

Attachment 2

Submissions and responses to draft Noosa Council Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2016-2024

Submission subject	Number of submissions relating to subject	Response
More public place recycling bins.	7	Agree. Already addressed on page 10 of the Plan. Action Plan updated to ensure an increased number of public place recycling bins in the future. Plan to be rolled out over the next 3 years.
Public place recycling bins on Hastings Street	1	Agree Hastings street to be included in above plan. A trial has commenced to collect recycling bins on Hastings Street daily.
Bulk kerbside collection needs to recycle a lot more than it did last year	1	Agree. Already addressed on page 12 of the Plan and Point 2.3 of the Action Plan. The future potential options for providing a more environmentally sustainable bulk kerbside collection to be analysed by Waste Section and a report provided to Council for their consideration.
Investigate the feasibility of recycling in Noosa – i.e. Noosa Council construct and operate a Material Recovery facility	1	Disagree Cost of building and operating a Material Recovery Facility for just Noosa Shire is not economically feasible.
Council should adopt a harder line on those caught littering and dumping	1	Noted This compliance strategy is to be considered in the drafting of a forthcoming Litter and Dumping Management Plan. This is now included in Point 4.14 of the Plan.
Council should collect e-waste	4	Noted.

		Addressed in Point 3.2 of the Action Plan. Noosa Council will once again facilitate the collection of e-waste at its facilities when an option to recycle it becomes available. At present there are no recycling agents accepting e-waste in the region and so it is not economically viable.
Promote national recycling schemes on the council website	1	Agreed This is currently happening.
Council should NOT introduce a compulsory garden waste bin service	10	Disagree A compulsory third bin in townships to remove a significant amount of organic waste from landfill was a main recommendation of the Noosa Community Jury and has received widespread support from the community. This initiative will result in a significant portion of the community's organic waste being removed from landfill and recycled into a useful product. Increasing diversion of waste from landfill is required by the Queensland Government's waste reduction policy that Noosa Council is obliged to meet.
Clarify areas to receive compulsory green bin service	3	Noted. This has now been clarified for the new contract. All residents affected will be notified. The areas to be included are all townships excluding Kin Kin, Teewah and North Shore. Those within a 5km radius of this area have the option to opt in. Unit complexes will not be required to receive a service.
I don't need a green bin as I currently use a green waste bagging company.	1	Noted. Owners of houses using a green waste bagging company may be given an exemption where they can demonstrate that they use that service and the green waste is diverted from landfill.

Would like 2 green bins, but don't want to pay the extra fee.	1	Disagree. Extra bins will be charged in accordance with user pays principle.
Council should take steps to deal with littering and environmental issues associated with the distribution of newspapers and advertising.	3	Agree. The Waste Section to explore a compliance procedure as part of the Litter and Dumping Management Plan to address problems with unsolicited mail left on footpaths and in stormwater drains.
Council should take action to incentivise the use of the right bin to avoid contamination of recyclables/green waste.	3	Agree. Policing of contamination in recycle bins to be considered where necessary and resources allow. It should be noted that recent waste audits and feedback from recycling agents show that the Noosa Community already produces recyclables and green waste with a very low level of contamination.
Council should consider digestion (gas capture) from green waste	1	Disagree This is not economically feasible at this time.
Three 240 litre bins do not provide any incentive for waste reduction. Council should provide the option of smaller 140 litre general waste bins to reduce costs to the ratepayer.	3	Noted, but disagree. 140litre bins are collected at the same cost as 240litre bins. Therefore there is no cost saving. Council would run the risk of additional contamination of the recycle bin if general waste bin was of a limited size. It is worth noting that when 140litre bins were an option in Noosa only 60 bins were taken up.
Compliance officer needed to police use of bins and encourage waste reduction in residential, commercial and industrial users. This person could be used to monitor and provide advice on waste reduction plans.	1	Agreed. Dependant on resources.
Reinstate free voucher system	1	Noted Council currently offers a bulk kerbside collection service to all residents

		instead. A voucher system will be one of the options considered in the bulk kerbside review. Free dumping of unsorted waste is not in accordance with users pays principle.
Recycle bins are not needed or wanted by me or my neighbours.	1	Disagree Does not reflect the feeling of the wider community and removing recyclable material and green waste from landfill is critical for the environmental sustainability of Noosa.
20 years ago people could take recycling to the landfill station where they sorted it themselves and put it into the skips provided	1	Noted This is still the case.
Encourage commercial food waste composting	1	Noted. Already included in Plan.
If people can't get the use of normal recycling bin right, then why would council assume that they will use the 3 bins correctly.	1	Noted Community engagement and education is critical to the success of the Plan and it is included.
Council has not consulted enough. The invitations for the Community Jury that considered the waste issue should have been sent to all Shire residents not just a random sample of 3000.	1	Disagree The initial 3000 addresses were selected via a computerised, random sampling process. Council could not send out more than 3000 invitations out via post because it would have been too expensive. In addition, all responses were received by new Democracy Foundation that had the responsibility of processing the responses and ultimately, selecting a jury. This entailed matching people against demographic segments of Noosa Shire, calling them and making sure that they are available for all the session times and willing to take on the role. The time, effort and cost required to carry out this process precluded sending out invitations to the entire Shire which may have resulted in thousands of positive responses to process.

Encourage waste avoidance and reduced consumption within the community.	1	Agree Towards Zero Waste education strategy has a specific focus on shopping smart and reducing consumption.
Incentivise waste reduction in commercial businesses (i.e. lower fees for less waste)	1	Noted Commercial and industrial users have the option of paying a minimum charge for the basic waste collection service. Anything above this is strictly on a user pays basis for the amount of waste produced. Therefore if less waste is produced, less collections, cheaper fees.
Council provide optional composting bin/kitchen caddy	1	Noted. Currently not economically feasible, but may be considered in the future.
Re-affirm ban on plastic bags	1	Noted This is already included in the Plan and was a Council endorsed recommendation of the Community Jury.
Provide 360l recycling bins at no extra charge on request.	1	Noted. 360 litre recycling bins are to be made available from August 2017 in the next waste contract. There will though be a small extra charge to cover collection costs in accordance with user pays principle.
Expand recycling into currently un-serviced areas	1	Agree. Suitable trucks to service currently inaccessible areas are to be requested in new contract.
Implement a service to include a central 24-hour community drop off collection point for recycling for residential areas not included in kerbside recycling collection under the new commercial contract or make available one optional annual voucher free of charge for general waste or a bulk item disposal at a Noosa landfill.	1	Noted Bulk kerbside options are currently being explored (see above). An unmanned 24 hour drop off point is not being considered due to user pays principle and likelihood that it will be abused and lead to safety, environmental and amenity problems.

Conduct audits of multi-unit complexes to ascertain the need for additional recycling bins to improve recycling. A goal of at least 50/50 general waste bins to recycling bins should be the desired outcome. Encourage property managers to promote and include recycling bins in units.	1	Agree Subject to resources.
Make available upon request additional recycling bins to a maximum 3:2 scale for multi-unit complexes at no extra charge (subject to demand and space).	1	Noted Additional recycling services may be requested, however service will need to be funded by user.
Place separate 'No Plastic Bags' stickers on new recycling bins.	1	Noted Bins are already stamped with information.
Continue to supply educational information that promotes recycling, improves recycling habits and reduces landfill contamination rates.	1	Agree Already included in Plan.
Extend the introduced three-bin system to include a full organics waste collection service by 2025.	1	Noted In accordance with Council endorsed Community Jury recommendations this matter will be investigated again prior to 2025.
Implement composting and worm farming workshops over a three-year period and provide at a discounted price a pre-determined number of kitchen caddies, composting bins and/or worm farms available to attendees at each workshop.	1	Noted Workshops to be conducted as part of the Towards Zero Waste education strategy. Provision of free items will be subject to resources.
Continue to provide support and appropriate council land for existing and proposed community veggie villages for the diversion of organic waste to landfill.	1	Noted Recommendation referred to Community Development for consideration.

Council to formally endorse the Container Deposit Scheme	1	Noted Waste Section supports the scheme in principal, however the details of how it will operate and how this may impact Council and ratepayers are not yet known. A report to Council will be prepared when details of a CDS are released.
Investigate alternatives to dog waste plastic bags	1	Agree Currently underway.
Ensure organisers and managers of special events, markets and sports facilities on Council land have proper recycling policies and procedures are in place.	1	Agree Included in the Plan. Council also currently has a sustainable events guide.
Develop programs that give ownership to sustainable practices for sports club and other groups using Council land.	1	Agree Now added to Action Plan Point 2.6
Encourage shopping centres to make recycling bins readily available for customers.	1	Agree
Distribute waste reduction and recycling information and educational brochures to the Noosaville Industrial Precinct.	1	Noted Subject to resources.
Is a resource recovery drop off point for the local businesses at the Eumundi-Noosa Rd depot near the industrial precinct a cost-effective alternative to improve recycling and assist in landfill diversion (e.g. scrap metal, wiring, plastics).	1	Disagree Does not reflect user pays principle. Pre-sorted recyclable waste can already be dropped off for free at the Eumundi Road Resource Recovery Facility. An unmanned drop off point would be difficult to regulate and manage.
Employ a full time education and compliance officer to monitor the segregation of waste streams.	1	Agree Subject to resources.

Replace existing commercial 240L recycling bins for each business with a larger 360L recycling bin wherever possible or as needed with no impact to kerbside collection frequency.	1	Agree Larger recycling bins to be optional to commercial operators from August 2017 under the new contract.
Provide a minimum fortnightly recycling collection of 1 x 360L bin or similar capacity or increase collection frequency to a minimum weekly recycling collection of 1 x 240L bin for hinterland businesses.	1	Agree Additional recycling options provided for in new contract.
Provide a minimum weekly recycling collection of a 360L or similar capacity for coastal businesses.	1	Agree Additional recycling options provided for in new contract.
Supply, as needed, an additional 240L recycling bin for those businesses requiring 240L bins under special circumstances (e.g. access, limited space) at little or no extra charge.	1	Agree Additional bins will incur an extra service charge.
Promote the use of can and plastic bottle crushers to reduce volumes in bins and increase recycling efficiently.	1	Agree Subject to resources
Investigate the possibility of creating or identifying a simple online platform via social media to share and allow residents to easily donate items to other residents or NFPs on a daily basis (an example could be a 'Pay It Forward' Facebook page).	1	Noted Potential for partnerships with community groups to develop this resource.
Consider waiving fees for self-hauled items such as green waste, mattresses and general household goods-refrigerators.	1	Noted Sorted recyclable items are already free. Waste items at user pays.

Legislate a ban on the intentional release of helium filled balloons similar to Sunshine Coast.	1	Agree Will be addressed in the Litter Management Plan.
Support a coin deposit for shopping trolleys supermarkets and shopping centres.	1	Noted
Trial or investigate extending the hours and/or days of transfer stations to better accommodate the needs of the hinterland communities.	1	Disagree The two rural facilities are not used extensively enough to warrant extra resources required to extend hours.
Allocate funds received from the commercial arrangements with LMS for the 'Towards Zero Waste' initiative.	1	Noted Revenue received from methane extraction already used for waste initiatives.
Actively support an increase to state landfill levies and lobby support through the LGAQ.	1	Noted Council would need to have the details of the proposal before being in a position to comment.
Investigate the viability of entering into a commercial contract, similar to LMS contract arrangements, for the collection of organic waste and installation of a commercial composting facility at the Eumundi Rd landfill.	1	Noted Potential to act on future viability of composting facility to be included in the next contract.
Investigate a cooperative opportunity between Council and the business and agricultural sectors to install a commercial composting unit(s) in the Hastings St precinct for diversion of organic waste to landfill and use in soil reconditioning for farms and planting projects.	1	Noted Potential for partnership arrangements with businesses will be explored.
Seek support from the wider community including local	1	Agree

residential and community associations, business and environmental organisations, social groups and sporting clubs.		Opportunities for partnerships will be explored.
Promote the practice of refusing excess packaging, recycling and re-using products.	1	Agree Will form part of the Towards Zero Waste education strategy.