

23 March 2010

Waste services tenders for city

Shoalhaven City Council – at its meeting on 23 March – has resolved to accept tenders for the on call organics and bulky waste pick up, the weighbridge and non weighbridge operations of a new waste tender. Council has also resolved to not accept tenders which deal with the tendered three bin or two bin systems for waste collection and processing.

Staff have been asked to report on a proposal to invite tenders for the continuation of its current two bin collection and processing system based on a contract term of six years with an option for extension for a period of 3 years and to adopt a series of supporting initiatives to improve waste management in the city.

Council has received a rescission motion on this item from Council's meeting of 23 March which halts any work on the recommendations. The rescission motion will be dealt with by Council at an extraordinary meeting of council, called by Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green for Friday 26 March.

Council's current waste contracts have been coordinated to expire on 30 June 2010.

Council is seeking to move to a target of diverting at least 66 per cent of domestic waste from landfill by 2014. This target will allow Council to receive the Waste and Sustainability performance payments. In this current financial year the payment to council was \$355,000, in 2010/2011 the payment is estimated to rise to \$477,000.

Council had called for tenders on the new two bin recycling system used in the Greenwell Point trial and a three bin system discussed in July 2009. In August 2009 Council reiterated that the tenders for waste services from 2010 would include these two system alternatives, which will deliver significant increased amounts of waste diverted from landfill compared to the existing system.

A number of issues are impacting on Council's future expected costs. These issues include the waste levy paid to the NSW State government, which is expected to rise to about \$135 for each tonne of waste placed in landfill. Currently it costs council \$52 a tonne and in 2010/2011 will cost \$65.30 a tonne. Other factors include long term capacity at the council's waste depot at West Nowra, the commercial operator's role in delivering the services, and the environmental impacts of a different waste services system.

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