

Doc ID No: A6269154

ITEM: 5
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF MATERIALS RECOVERY PLAN
AUTHOR: SENIOR BUSINESS ADVISOR
DATE: 1 JUNE 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Amended General Purposes Committee No. 2 of 23 June 2020

Under the provisions of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 (Qld) (the Waste Act)*, Local Government is required to adopt a waste reduction and recycling plan and review it at least every 3 years. Council's current waste reduction and recycling plan, titled 'Materials Recovery Plan 2017-2031' (MRP) (Attachment 1), was adopted in May 2017.

Division 2 section 125 of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* stipulates that a local government must by resolution adopt a waste reduction and recycling plan, or an amendment of the plan, before the plan is implemented in its local government area. Before adopting the plan, the local government must consult with the public about the proposed plan or amendment, and take into account any submissions received.

A review of the MRP has been undertaken in accordance with the legislative timeframe requirements. However, a full review including community consultation could not be completed to meet the three year timeframe as specified under the Waste Act.

Findings from the internal review indicate that a detailed and more thorough review is required, and the recommended option, to ensure Council's plan fully considers the impending outcomes of the Sub-Regional Alliance Expression of Interest, the proposed Council of Mayor's regional waste management plan, State Government waste management and infrastructure plans currently being developed, as well as the Queensland Government's 'Waste Management and Recycling Strategy' and the National Waste Policy. Hence, the recommendation was to defer the detailed review until these artefacts were all available.

As such, it is proposed that Council retain the existing Plan in its current state and begin a detailed and comprehensive review in 20/21. Community consultation will be undertaken and all submissions will be considered by Council prior to the adoption of the revised Plan. This may include notification to the Department of Environment and Science seeking support for this approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation D added at General Purposes Committee No. 2 of 23 June 2020

Recommendation E added at Council Ordinary Meeting of 30 June 2020

- A. That Council retain the Materials Recovery Plan 2017-2031 in its current state whilst commencing a detailed and comprehensive review of the Plan in 2020-2021.
- B. That Council undertake a major review of the Materials Recovery Plan in 2020-2021, in accordance with the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.
- C. That comprehensive community engagement be undertaken as part of the major review in accordance with Division 2 section 125 of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.
- D. That the Mining and Waste round table be included in consultation.
- E. That a review of the Materials Recovery Plan consider the feasibility of turning green waste into mulch that is available to the public.

RELATED PARTIES

There was no declaration of conflicts of interest.

ADVANCE IPSWICH THEME

Caring for the environment

Managing growth and delivering key infrastructure

Caring for the community

PURPOSE OF REPORT/BACKGROUND

A review of the Materials Recovery Plan 2017-2031 (the Plan) has been done in accordance with the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* timeframe requirements. The review assessed the current MRP against the Queensland Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy and the National Waste Policy objectives and targets, and found that whilst the key principles and goals of Council's MRP remain relevant, a major review of the waste minimisation targets and actions is required. This review will commence in 2020/21 to allow for consideration of the Sub-Regional Alliance Expression of Interest outcomes, the impending release of further Queensland Government waste management and infrastructure plans, and the development of the SEQ Council of Mayors Regional Waste Management Plan.

The update to the Plan will be done in accordance with the Act, with the proposed amendments including:

- Updated waste reduction & waste diversion from landfill targets
- Updated population and waste data

- An action plan to align with the 3 strategic priorities of the Queensland Strategy, plus an additional priority for Corporate Leadership
- Actions to mitigate the risks that have been identified through the National Waste Policy
- Actions to mitigate the risks that have been identified through the implementation of the Queensland Waste Levy

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR A WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PLAN

Under the *Queensland Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*, a waste reduction and recycling plan is required to including the following content:

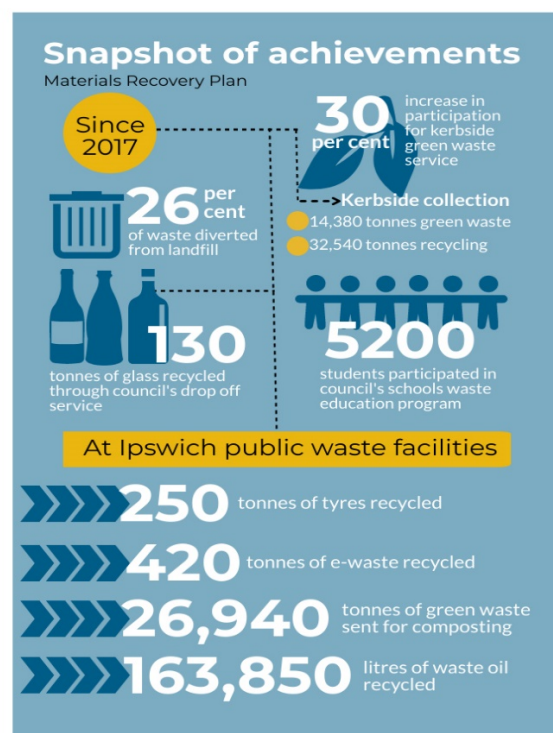
- a) waste reduction and recycling targets for:
 - i. waste generated by the local government in carrying out its activities; and
 - ii. waste generated by households in the local government's local government area; and
 - iii. other waste generated in the local government's local government area other than by the local government;
- b) actions to be taken to improve waste reduction and recycling of:
 - i. waste generated by the local government in carrying out its activities; and
 - ii. waste generated by households in the local government's local government area; and
 - iii. other waste generated in the local government's local government area other than by the local government;
- c) details of current and proposed waste infrastructure;
- d) the management and monitoring of the local government's performance under the plans;
- e) information about achieving continuous improvement in waste management;
- f) any other matters prescribed under a regulation about the requirements for a local government's waste reduction and recycling plans.

The Materials Recovery Plan does not include a Council position on or actions relating to the approval, management or operation of private waste facilities within Ipswich, as these are regulated through other State and Local Government mechanisms and sit outside the remit of this Plan.

PROGRESS ON CURRENT ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Progress on the actions in the current Materials Recovery Plan have been reviewed as part of this process (Attachment 2). It is proposed that any outstanding actions will be taken into account during the detailed review of the MRP.

Further, a snapshot of the achievements to date demonstrates an increase in the uptake of kerbside green waste collection by 30%, more than 74,500 tonnes of recycling collected across the City, and 26% of waste diverted from landfill since 2017.



LEGAL/POLICY BASIS

This report and its recommendations are consistent with the following legislative provisions:
Waste Management and Recycling Act 2011

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Recycling Markets

Over recent years there have been some significant changes to the way collected recyclable material is managed within Australia. These changes have presented major challenges to local governments.

Companies that processed the material from the yellow topped bins relied on overseas export markets. China, in particular, was increasingly relied on to import and process vast quantities of plastic, paper, metal and other recyclable waste. For example in 2019, China was processing 55% of the world's scrap paper.

China has now significantly reduced the amount of waste it will import, adopting their National Sword Policy in 2018 to tighten regulation on imports of solid wastes as raw materials.

Many overseas countries have now followed Chinas lead and placed restrictions on the imports of solid waste as raw materials. This has resulted in Australia having a glut of commingled recycled material and has led to the value of the collected material plummeting as there are limited accessible local or global markets for these materials. For example,

three years ago Council was receiving a rebate for the material collected in the yellow top bins. Now Council is paying over \$100 per tonne for this material to be processed.

Legislative and Regulatory Operating Environment

The National Waste Policy and associated Action Plan sets the direction for waste management in Australia. One of the notable actions in the Action Plan is Target 1 to enact waste export bans for plastic, paper, glass and tyres effective from the second half of 2020. This will have implications for council with these export bans and the immature and/ or non-existent local manufacturing and processing capabilities of end markets. Further export restrictions will likely impact council's ability to recycle kerbside collected materials in a cost-effective way unless Council can quickly establish alternative solutions.

Queensland Management and Resource Recovery Strategy with the vision to become a zero-waste society by 2050. In order to drive recycling and waste diversion from landfill, the Queensland waste levy was introduced from 1 July 2019. Council currently receives an advance payment to offset the levy costs for municipal solid waste (MSW).

The advanced payment is expected to cease from 30 June 2022 in accordance with the current legislation. This will have a major impact on the cost of council's operations without effective programs in place to divert waste from landfill.

Ipswich City Council Waste Infrastructure

Ipswich City's current waste infrastructure (Riverview and Rosewood Recycling & Refuse Centres) is ageing, inefficient and not adequate to meet the needs of the growing population or state government waste recovery targets. Population growth is expected to more than double in the next 20 years therefore Council will need to enter into an investment phase to upgrade its public waste disposal infrastructure to provide fit-for-purpose facilities that can achieve the desired landfill diversion targets.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Review and update of the Materials Recovery Plan to include waste minimisation and landfill diversion actions will be critical to reduce the potential future cost impacts of the Queensland Waste Levy, should the levy rebate cease on 30 June 2022 as currently proposed.

COMMUNITY AND OTHER CONSULTATION

The *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* (Qld) specifies that before adopting any waste reduction and recycling plan, or amendment of the plan, the local government must consult with the public about the proposed plan or amendment. If there is a substantial amendment to the operation of the plan, the proposed plan or amendment must be made available for public comment for at least 28 days.

It is recommended that a consultation and communication process is undertaken to seek community feedback on the proposed review of the Materials Recovery Plan in 2020/21.

It is not considered necessary for Council to undertake community consultation in the recommendation to retain the Materials Recovery Plan 2017-2031 in its current state. However, Council may consider providing notification to the Department of Environment and Science seeking support for this approach.

CONCLUSION

Under the provisions of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*, Local Government is required to adopt a waste reduction and recycling plan and review it at least every 3 years.

An internal minor review of the Materials Recovery Plan 2017-2031 has been undertaken, and found that a detailed and comprehensive review is required. This review will commence in 2020-2021 to allow for consideration of the Sub-Regional Alliance Expression of Interest outcomes, the impending release of further Queensland Government waste management and infrastructure plans, and the development of the SEQ Council of Mayors Regional Waste Management Plan.

ATTACHMENTS AND CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND PAPERS

1.	Current Materials Recovery Plan
2.	Progress on Materials Recovery Plan Actions

Kay Clarke

SENIOR BUSINESS ADVISOR

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Mark Sines

ACTING IPSWICH WASTE SERVICES MANAGER

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Kaye Cavanagh

MANAGER, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

I concur with the recommendations contained in this report.

Charlie Dill

GENERAL MANAGER - INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

"Together, we proudly enhance the quality of life for our community"