

## AMENDED ITEM



**Item No:** 6.2  
**Title:** Notice of Motion - Ruling out rotting red bins  
**Department:** Councillor

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13 July 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14058901  
Author: Greg Best, Councillor  
Bruce McLachlan, Councillor  
Rebecca Gale, Councillor

Councillors Best, McLachlan and Gale have given notice that at the Ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 13 July 2020 they will move the following motion:

- 1 That Council notes with great concern that the recently exhibited Central Coast Waste Strategy makes numerous references encouraging the reduction of red bin pick up cycles as an environmental and cost saving device.**
- 2 That also Council notes under significant Green Group pressure a number of sister Councils have now already moved to withdraw services to a fortnightly red bin pick up.**
- 3 That further to Council recently voting to increase rates by a further \$4.4 million, lifting the annual total rate take to \$335.5 million dollars, Council now not reduce its services through RULING OUT reducing the red bin pick up by 50% to fortnightly.**
- 4 That Council recognises the COVID pressure that our Community is currently under and that this should not be magnified to escalating public health concerns through emissions from pungent red bins.**

### Councillors Note

Councillors, you may recall that I sought to draw this very issue to Council's consideration on the 8 July 2019, prior to this Strategy going on exhibition, through my then Formal Notice of Motion "Ratepayer Red Bin Reduction."

Regrettably and surprisingly, this was voted down along Party Lines leaving the Community decidedly nervous about the future of their waste pick up services particularly on the back of the Community outrage that erupted when Lake Macquarie sought to carry out a similar reduction. As the only Independent Councillor representing the Budgewoi Ward, I speak without fear or favour, and I say on behalf of the good folk of the 'Forgotten North' that they will not in any way accept such behaviour from their Council! To put up Rates by more than \$4 million last week and now to leave open the prospect of a significant reduction in their Red Bin Services is an outrage. This cost cutting has no regard for the quality of life, respect for our Community or indeed in my view public health.

To assist Councillors I have reviewed the extensive and recently exhibited Waste Strategy and note that the seeds of Red Bin Reduction to fortnightly is referred to on numerous occasions (see below in yellow).

One may argue that these are simply references by individuals and Community Groups nevertheless, if Council is serious about maintaining and retaining our Service Delivery Levels, we should simply 'rule this out' now.

I can only imagine if a transparent and open question were crafted in a genuine poll to our Community asking them, "Would you be happy with Council reducing your Red Bin Pick Ups by 50% to fortnightly and providing you with a complimentary can of air freshener?" The answer would be outrage and an unequivocal 'NO!'

Irrespective of any argument that can be mounted in the Chamber, we should recognise that our Community, courtesy of COVID is under extraordinary pressure and we should not leave such 'a sleeping suggestion' active in this Strategic Document that's purpose is to craft our future direction.

The Options/questionnaires should be fair and square and upfront/transparent, not buried in bureaucratic speak, furthermore speeches, and malleable statistics.



# CENTRAL COAST WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

2020-2030



## Options

### Business as Usual (BAU)

The standard BAU service provided by Council consists of:

- Weekly collection and disposal of a 140L red lid general waste bin
- Fortnightly collection and processing of a 240L yellow lid recycling bin
- Fortnightly collection and processing of a 240L green lid garden organics bin, provided to the eastern area only
- Landfilling at Woy Woy and Buttonderry

### Food Organics and Garden Organics Collection and Processing (FOGO)

Introduction of a weekly FOGO service to co-collect food and garden organics, with a fortnightly red lid general waste bin collection, and development of a FOGO processing facility.

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### Improve kerbside recycling

- The following ideas from the community aim to reduce red lid general waste going to landfill:
  - Reduce the size of the red lid general waste bin to help residents think about the amount of waste they generate and encourage avoidance.
  - Change collection frequency to once a fortnight to promote waste avoidance

## Comparing results

To inform discussion of long-term waste management, the four waste service scenarios were defined and modelled to compare the costs and outcomes that each might deliver. For each option, the cost to Council and diversion rate potential between 2020 and 2045 were compared in net present value terms. There are several models to investigate which include Council either investing Capital to construct required facilities, or seeking a third party contractor to build and operate the facilities.

### Business as Usual

Landfill is the most expensive option due to the significant costs associated with the landfill levy. If Council keeps the current services, costs will increase in line with levy increases, with no benefits in terms of improved resource recovery.

### FOGO System

### Diversion rates

Table 4 provides the indicative recovery rates of each scenario.

Table 4: Diversion rates under various service scenarios for red-lid general waste and overall domestic waste.

Description	Red Lid General Waste Diversion Rate	Overall Diversion
Business as usual	0%	41%
FOGO with fortnightly red bin	26%	54%
FOGO with weekly red bin	14%	49%
MBT producing compost	55%	67%
MBT producing RDF	85%	81%
EfW Combustion	34%	58%
EfW Combustion - FOGO, fortnightly red	90%	82%
EfW Combustion - FOGO, weekly red	88%	82%
EfW Gasification	32%	57%
EfW Gasification - FOGO, fortnightly red	86%	80%
EfW Gasification - FOGO, weekly red	84%	80%

FOGO delivers the lowest diversion given it only targets the organic fraction, resulting in landfill diversion rates of between 14-26%. It is the second most costly alternative scenario given collection costs increase and a significant volume is still sent to landfill, where it incurs the waste levy.

In addition, Council will need to determine whether to collect the organics-depleted red lid general waste bin either weekly or fortnightly. FOGO is most successful (high capture, low contamination rate) when the red lid bin is collected fortnightly, however community acceptance may be a challenge.

### Mixed Waste to EfW

Another option is to process general waste in some type of alternative waste treatment facility, including at Woy Woy Waste Management Facility or another location. Of these options, energy-from-waste treatment technologies offer the lowest cost per tonne and accept the widest range of wastes, including bulky waste.

## Attachments

- 1 CEO Response - Notice of Motion - Ruling out rotting red bins D14063432

**Title:** CEO Response - Notice of Motion - Ruling out rotting red bins

**Department:** Roads Transport Drainage and Waste

13 July 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2019/00874 - D14063432

Author: Joanna Murray, Personal Assistant to Unit Manager, Waste and Business

Manager: Andrew Pearce, Unit Manager, Waste Services and Business Development

Executive: Boris Bolgoff, Director Roads Transport Drainage and Waste



## Summary

This report provides a response to the Notice of Motion – Ruling out rotting red bins. With comments on each component of the Notice of Motion.

### **Motion:**

- 1 That Council notes with great concern that the recently exhibited Central Coast Waste Strategy makes numerous references encouraging the reduction of red bin pick up cycles as an environmental and cost saving device.***

A draft Waste Resource Management Strategy (Strategy) was considered at Council on 23 March 2020. The Strategy was placed on public exhibition from 11 May 2020 to 21 June 2020. The Strategy includes several references to fortnightly collections as comparatives to other available options, that will be considered as part of a holistic approach to waste management over the life of the Strategy and these references are not identified as preferences to replace any current or future services.

Council is currently reviewing the submissions received from the public exhibition period of the Strategy.

No decisions will be made towards implementing any changes to the frequency of the current red bin collection service without further review of evidence, justification, community feedback, and business case submissions prior to consideration for adoption by the Council.

- 2 That also Council notes under significant Green Group pressure a number of sister Councils have now already moved to withdraw services to a fortnightly red bin pick up.***

### **Staff Comments:**

Many Councils have chosen, with variable levels of success, to keep many different configurations of domestic collection services, including both weekly and fortnightly red bin services and different configurations of green and food waste collections. Our future

approach to which service is the preferred option, will result from extensive investigations into the wide range of possibilities, service and technology options available and community feedback from the evidence presented.

- 3      *That further to Council recently voting to increase rates by a further \$4.4 million, lifting the annual total rate take to \$335.5 million dollars, Council now not reduce its services through RULING OUT reducing the red bin pick up by 50% to fortnightly.***

**Staff Comments:**

The rates applied to domestic waste management services are applied as a direct cost recovery for the services delivered. The aim of the Strategy is to research and investigate options, which will provide the best long term environmental and sustainable outcome, in the most cost-effective manner. Any rise or fall in the cost of the domestic waste service will be resultant from those investigations, community consultation, legislative requirements and Council resolution.

- 4      *That Council recognises the COVID-19 pressure that our Community is currently under and that this should not be magnified to escalating public health concerns through emissions from pungent red bins.***

**Staff Comments:**

Currently there are no proposed changes to the red, green and yellow bin configuration or frequency.

**Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme 3: Green

**Goal E: Environmental resources for the future**

E3: Reduce littering, minimise waste to landfill and educate to strengthen positive environmental behaviours.