

Waste Management Sub-committee

Report to SIRAC Sept, 21th

Updates since last meeting:

Jetty Skips

By now we had expected to see the new plastic URM skips being installed. This has been delayed after Council engineer had concerns over the anchor points that were proposed by URM because each plate needs four holes drilled on the deck timber, which will erode the integrity of the timber over time. To avoid damaging the deck permanently, council asked URM to go back to the drawing board and come up with an alternative solution that will last and cause minimal damage to the deck.

The proposed alternative doesn't involve any drilling. Essentially it will be two-piece galvanized steel braces that will be fitted over each timber plank, the plate will be fed through the gap between each timber and secured in place by tamper-proof bolts. All that remains is to measure out each deck's specification and custom make each clamp individually.

Richard Li will come out to each offshore decks over the next 2 weeks to measure out the number of clamps needed as well as individual specifications required, once this is completed the project can be completed quickly. All other elements have now been in place.

Cleanup and Green Waste:

Feedback from council and contractors was that the last clean up/green waste collection went quite well from a logistic point of view. The contractor complaint that some people are not doing the right thing , e.g. leaving non-compliant items out for collection, put items out too late etc.

From observation, the new process is slower but reduced the impact on Cargo area which previously resembled a recycling centre for long periods. There weren't any really windy days but it also seemed the amount of potential "leakage" to Pittwater was reduced.

This is clearly an education issue and so will be addressed in the new waste calendar as a top priority. Richard commented that Council still has much to do in terms of education for our offshore community and will be “following this up with relevant officer”. Not sure what that means but he would like SIRA support in any communications.

Other issues:

David attended the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting and among the key topics was the future strategy for waste in the region.

The relevant section of the minutes is below however the two key items seemed to be:

- 1- The Belrose waste centre (where the mixed garbage waste currently goes) is closing in 2014 and there is no other location in the regions for it to go- so at that stage it seemed likely that it will be trucked to Chullora and transported to Golburn- clearly an additional cost.
- 2- With the construction of the new facility at Kimbriki will changed the whole model of recycling, putrescible and green waste- starting at Warringah but will include Pittwater by 2017

Proceedings in Brief

Ms Liz Quinlan, SHOROC addressed the meeting on this item. A copy of the Strategy “Too Good To Waste” is attached to the minutes at Attachment 4.

Too Good to Waste is the overarching waste strategy for the SHOROC region – encompassing Mosman, Manly, Pittwater and Warringah Councils. It has been developed in consultation with the four SHORCO Councils to guide improved waste avoidance and resource recover practices across the region and bring together projects that are more efficiently and effectively delivered in partnership. It responds to the NSW State Plan and contributes to targets in the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recover Strategy (Appendix A: Key policies and plans impacting on Too Good to Waste) and will maximize funding opportunities under the NSW Governments’ Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.

Waste is a key area of concern for our community. Too good to Waste will link to each Council’s 10 year Community Strategic Plan that identifies community objectives and strategies for achievement. Waste management is one area of responsibility that Councils have considered when preparing their plans, particularly in relation to the communities expected level of waste service in light of the Communities willingness to pay. Details of each Council’s Community

Strategic Plan as it relates to waste as referred in Appendix B to the report.

The Strategy signals the continuing shift to recognize waste as a valuable resource of economic and environmental benefit. The strategy's main focus is on areas of Council's responsibility such as household waste, public place waste and Council owned waste infrastructure, however business waste is also considered.

Matters arising from the Discussion

Q: Will the items placed in the new red bin continue to be put towards landfill and where will that go?

A: All bins will continue to go through an Alternate Waste Treatment System (AWT) and will be managed accordingly. It is planned that there will be three new resource recovery facilities, which are:

- A landfill resource recovery facility to enable the sorting and resource recovery of waste dropped off by vehicles at the landfill face - anticipated to be operational by the end of 2016.

- An enclosed materials recovery facility to sort mixed recyclable materials collected from household kerbsides. The recyclables will be mechanically separated and transferred for final processing and resale as input to new products - anticipated to be operational by 2017.

- An enclosed resource recovery facility to process two waste streams. The first, garden and food organics from kerbside collections will be processed into high grade compost for reuse by councils, agriculture, horticulture and the public and the second, domestic mixed waste from kerbside collections will be processed into recyclables and low grade compost for sale with an inert residual being disposed to Kimbriki's landfill - anticipated to be operational by 2017.

Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 13 August 2014. Page 9

Q: What will be the new collection process for the garbage bins?

A: The new waste collection system will be phased in during 2014-2015 for all households in Mosman, Manly, Warringah and Pittwater. This will coincide with the opening of the recycling facilities at Kimbriki and the permanent closure of the Belrose landfill station. More information on how this new system is solving our region's waste problem can be found here

The main changes are:

- One mixed food & vegetation bin.

The mixed food & vegetation will be converted into compost and collected weekly

- A free kitchen tidy and cornstarch bags will be delivered to all homes to collect food waste before it is placed in the bin.

- One mixed recycling bin for paper and recyclable containers which will be collected fortnightly

- A general waste bin collected fortnightly

- In units/apartments ALL bins will be collected weekly. Options will be investigated for residents with special waste needs. These could include more frequent collections for those with nappies, varying bin sizes and support for the elderly or infirm.

Q: Who is driving this strategy and when will it be available for review?

A: The Hon. Rob Stokes MP, Minister for the Environment and Member for Pittwater together with Cr Jacqueline Townsend SHOROC President and Mayor of Pittwater is behind this strategy and will be releasing the draft Too Good to Waste strategy on Friday 15 August 2014 at Kimbriki for Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah councils and community for comment. Details will be available on all Councils websites regarding the strategy and will contain a survey which will provide the community an opportunity to provide comment on the new plan and provide quality feedback.

Q: How does the draft strategy fit in with other government programs on waste?

A: The strategy is an action under the NSW Government's Northern Beaches Regional Action Plan and contributes to waste targets in the NSW State Plan NSW 2021 and the NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy.

Q: What will happen when the Belrose station closes?

A: The Belrose landfill station where our waste currently goes is filling up and due to close in 2014.

As there is no other mixed garbage landfill in our region, this waste would have to be trucked elsewhere meaning increased transport costs. Warringah Council is managing the interim disposal contract.

Q: Will plastic bags continue to contaminate the recycling process and can the State and Federal Government have Woolworths or Coles introduce compostable plastic bags the same time as the new legislation is released?

A: Degradable plastics are traditional plastics and are blended with a degradable additive which are similar to degradable plastic above, these plastics are typically blends of conventional plastic with a degradable additive. The difference you'll find between them and degradable plastic is that once the degradable additive has done its work, these plastics have been broken down to such small fragments that micro-organisms, fungi, and other creatures can consume it. Compostable plastics are a relatively new phenomenon and are by definition able to be composted. In this day and age that means it can be composted in commercial compost facilities. There are compostable plastics which are made of vegetable starches, processed and extracted vegetable materials (PLA), and compostable additives in traditional plastics.

Compostable plastic products typically cost 4 times more than their biodegradable alternatives. Minutes of the Natural Environment Reference Group Meeting held on 13 August 2014. Page 10

Unlike Biodegradable plastics above (with the exclusion of California), compostable plastics do not require exposure to the elements in order to start breaking down. What compostable plastics do require however is an environment that's suitable for bacteria and other microbes to consume it.

Note: Plastic bag is can be recycled but items such as glad wrap or plastic film is not. It will affect the machinery along with textiles and materials.

Q: Can the State and Federal Government have Woolworths or Coles introduce compostable plastic bags the same time as the new legislation is released?

A: The Government is working on introducing compostable garbage bags but they they may not be released at the same time as the legislation.

REFERENCE GROUP RECOMMENDATION

1. That the update on this item be noted.
2. That members report back to their Associations and provide an update on the Too Good to Waste Strategy and provide feedback on the Ministers Release on 12 September 2014.

(Ms Lynne Czinner / Ms Roberta Conroy)