



Special Meeting of Council Agenda

Monday, 8 July 2019

5:30 PM

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,
Stuart Highway, Katherine

Notice of Meeting of Council
Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 59
of the Local Government Act

1. Welcome to the Country

I am honoured to be on the ancestral lands of Katherine's Aboriginal peoples. I acknowledge the First Australians as the traditional custodians of the continent, whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history. I pay respect to the Elders of the community and extend my recognition to their descendants who are present.

2. Opening Prayer

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

3. Present

4. Apologies and Leave of Absence

5. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

6. Reports of Officers

6.1 Waste Management Facility – Waste Charges _____ **1 - 3**

7. Meeting Close

KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT

FOLDER: Waste Management / Council Meeting / Agenda

MEETING: Ordinary Meeting of Council –JULY 2019

REPORT TITLE: Waste Management Facility –Waste Charges

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide a waste facility that delivers for the needs of the environment, community, council organisation in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

REPORT

The rationale for changing the waste fees and charges come down to a couple of basic points:

- encourage sorting of waste by users, prior to disposal at the WMF:
 - + diverts waste from the landfill, preserving the capacity and longevity of the landfill.
 - + allows for increased efficiency with recyclable waste streams.
- provide revenue for sorting mixed waste after it has been deposited at the WMF:
 - + employ staff to sort through the mixed waste (increased costs for wages, training, WHS, insurances.
 - + expand the facilities needed for doing the sorting and allowing for the multiple handling of materials.

The concepts of user pays, user self-sorting of waste streams, and recycling are not new and have been part of local government waste management best practice for decades in many parts of Australia. The use of charges to provide incentives and deterrents is a common practice. The attached table shows comparison waste charges for Darwin and Alice, as well as towns of similar population and area size from around Australia.

The original strategy behind the proposed changes to 2019/20 waste fees and charges are to:

- provide a reasonable discount for waste that has been sorted:
 - + concrete from \$ 100 /t to \$ 80 /t
 - + timber from \$ 100 /t to \$ 20 /t
- provide a disincentive for commercial operators to dispose of unsorted waste:
 - + mixed from \$ 100 /t to \$ 200 /t
- introduce a new charge for residents to dispose of unsorted waste:
 - + mixed from \$ 0 /t to \$ 50 /t
- be revenue neutral:
 - + as people choose to sort their waste in order to take advantage of the incentives and avoid the fees for transferring the onus of sorting onto the WMF staff.
 - + any funds obtained from mixed waste are used to engage additional staff and establish facilities needed to sort the different waste streams.

In 2018/19, many new waste fees and charges were introduced. This enabled an extra staff member to be employed to increase efficiency with sorting of waste and administration. It allowed for the separation of green waste, refrigeration appliances, computer hardware, tyres, whitegoods, mattresses, and batteries, that in past years, would not have been sorted and would have gone to general landfill. The changes to waste fees and charges for 2019/20, will foster the separation of concrete, masonry and road material, as well as construction timbers and pallets.

The purchase a of green waste shredder was planned for in 2018/19, as part of capital works to support the streaming and recycling of waste. Since this time an opportunity has presented itself with the Big Rivers Region Waste Management Working Group (BRRWMWG) for a multi-purpose shredder that would better address the needs at the WMF. This machine will have the ability to process sorted materials such as concrete that will then become a usable product.

KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT

The planning for the closure of the current landfill is progressing with Stage Two Assessment indicating that there is negligible leachate and emission issues to consider. The assessment of a suitable site for establishing a new landfill is also progressing with geotechnical analysis being undertaken. Planning for the new land fill site and for transforming the current WMF into a waste transfer station is scheduled for 2019/20. KTC are currently negotiating to establishing a supported employment project for people with disabilities, by enabling a recycle shop to be set up at the WMF as a social rather than commercial venture.

KTC is planning to establish a Katherine Sustainability Reference Group (mix of government, industry and community members) which will have a number of sub-committees to explore and advice the Council on a range of environmental, economic and social sustainability issues. A standing sub-committee on waste management will be a priority. KTC is undertaking research to inform a review of the Sustainability Statement and the development of a comprehensive Sustainability Plan.

The introduction of the new charges is an important process. KTC did not have the opportunity to consult widely with commercial and community stakeholders. Feedback to date has indicated a need for a period of commercial and operational adjustment and a continuing need for education and assistance around waste management practices, such as streaming, recycling and future-proofing planning for businesses. A slower phase in of the proposed charges is hence recommended.

RECOMMENDATION

That it be recommended to Council:

Amendments be made to the 2019-2020 Municipal Plan for the increased fees for the WMF to be adjusted to:

1. Remove the fee for mixed domestic waste;
2. To reduce the \$200/tonne fee for mixed commercial waste to \$125/tonne;
3. Reduce the proposed discount for sorted waste in respect to concrete to \$20/tonne from \$80/tonne;
4. Retain a greenwaste fee of \$50/tonne as per the previous budget;
5. Instigate a three (3) month delay in the proposed Waste Management Facility charges to allow for communication on the new fees.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Delegation: Andrew Wilson Manager. Environment and Compliance
Peter Schubert, Sustainability Officer
Schedule of Attachments: Comparison Table of Waste Charges

WASTE CHARGES COMPARISON TABLE

LOCATION	Pop. ,000	Area km	Dom Mix	Com Mix	Dom Green	Com Green	Metals	Concrete	Timber	Paper/Card	Plastic	Mattress	Gas Bottles	Tyres	Asbestos	Oil/Paint	Batteries	E- Waste	Recyc Gen	WG Gas
Katherine	10	7,421		100		100	20	100	100	100	100	100	50	780	500	500	F	F		60
New				125		50	20	20	20	125	125	125	50	780	500	500	F	F		60
Darwin	150	3,164	80	80	F	64		33						500	384				234	
Alice Springs	29	327	12	128	F	30				81		36	54	982	297		F	41		67
Nth Gramp, VIC	12	5,918	36	36	30	30	10	36				37	32	126 ea	10		10	F		35
Glen Innes Severn, NSW	9	5,487	25	70	10	50		40						8-27ea	150			75		50
Naracoorte Lucindale, SA	9	4,517		225		24	F					35			195			1		
Manjimup, WA	9	7,027	29	250	F	25		60				30	4	6-18ea	90					21