

## **Responses to community question for people attending the public consultation meeting at Tyalgum Community Hall, 15 January 2014**

In 2013 an inquiry was made from the Councillors on an opportunity to establish a lookout at the Tyalgum Transfer Facility. The inquiry also requested officers provide financial details of the operations of the Transfer Station. A report was put to Council at the September meeting of Council which outlined those costs of running the site and which discussed the merit of establishing a scenic lookout at the site.

As a result of that report Council asked officers to consult with the community on the proposed closure of the transfer station on Boxsell Road (Tyalgum Transfer Station) and to canvas opinion on the establishment of options for a scenic lookout at the site. Council officers had to report back to the Council at the November meeting which effectively gave us five weeks to put together a consultation and to prepare a response to Council's request.

The consultation process involved Council advertising the proposal in multiple media sources and in Council receiving over 130 letters and emails as well as a number of calls received at Council. There were also five articles published in the papers and interviews of Council officers by NBN and ABC Radio, and various interviews with concerned members of the community.

The report was put back to the November meeting where Council decided to come back out to the community to seek further consultation and that this is the basis of this meeting.

The intent of this meeting was to address the issues as raised during the public consultation process and to present an opportunity for residents to put forward any issues that are not covered by that process. Any issues that we need to investigate further will be taken on notice for Council's attention.

Issues as presented

### **How can I have my say?**

There are a few ways you can have your say about the future use of the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station site.

**1. Contribute to the community discussion online**, here at Your Say Tweed, by participating in a forum or responding to a survey or poll.

**2. Come along to the community conversation:**

Tyalgum Community Hall Wednesday 15 January 2014 6.30pm to 7.30pm

**3. Make a formal, written submission to Council** via email to [tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au) or by post to:

Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station  
 General Manager  
 Tweed Shire Council  
 PO Box 816  
 MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484

All submissions must be received by close of business on Friday 24 January 2014.

**Why is Council considering the closure of the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station?**

The proposal to close the waste transfer station has been informed by a number of factors, including:

- Low usage of the facility due to the expansion of Council's domestic bin collection service (Average of less than 8 customers per weekend over the last 6 months); and
- Poor economic return - the site is currently operating at a substantial cash deficit, costing over \$70,000 a year to run, but generating an income of just \$9000 per year, an average of \$175 per weekend.

**What does the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station cost to run?**

The site is currently operating at a substantial deficit, costing over \$70,000 in outgoings alone.

A financial evaluation of the facility shows a current return of just over \$9000 per year, an average of \$175 per weekend, and this has been falling consistently for a number of years.

<b>Income</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
Disposal fees	11,030	9,762	9,642	9,087
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Salaries	26,675	32,536	29,385	29,982
Waste bins servicing	48,224	46,620	40,050	38,411
Printing & Stationary	983	364	405	160
Electricity			1,686	630
Site Maintenance	2,712	1,875	2,920	2,780
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,594</b>	<b>81,395</b>	<b>74,446</b>	<b>71,963</b>
Income as a % of expenditure	14%	12%	13%	12.6%

Source: Tweed Shire Council 2013

## **Why do tip fees cost what they do?**

Legislative requirements under the Local Government Act require councils to recover the costs of providing waste services to residents.

The Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station is not currently recovering these costs and is being subsidised by the rates of the community..

Users of both the Tyalgum and Stotts Creek facilities pay comparable fees for waste disposal.

## **When will a decision be made regarding the future use of the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station?**

Following the community conversation to be held on 15 January 2014, a report will be drafted compiling all the feedback received from the community.

That report will be presented to Council at its **20 February 2014 meeting**, at which time a resolution may be made to determine the future of the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station site.

If a resolution is made to close the facility, a reasonable period of notice will be provided to the community residents before closure.

## **If the decision is made to close the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station, where can I go to dispose of my waste?**

**Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre:** This facility is the main landfill and resource recovery centre for the Tweed Shire. It can accept general solid waste, construction waste, asbestos and a wide range of recyclable items.

[Map and directions](#) | [List of domestic and commercial charges](#)

**Household cleanup service:** A biennial (twice a year) collection is available to all Tweed residents who receive a bin collection service, to assist in the disposal of unwanted bulky items. Collection of these materials are provided from the location that residents put their bins (usually in front of each property or at an agreed collection point). [Details](#) of this service are provided on the Council website.

**Recyclable items:** Free drop off of recyclable items to the Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre. This facility is accessible year-round (closed Christmas day and Good Friday) to all Tweed residents. Items that may be disposed of include:

- household recycling (eg. glass bottles, plastic containers and bottles, paper, cardboard, metal tins)
- large metal items (eg. derelict cars through to white goods)

- paint and household chemicals
- electrical waste
- batteries
- empty gas bottles
- compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and fluoro light globes
- farm chemical containers (DrumMuster)

**If the decision is made to close the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station, where can I take my recycling?**

**Domestic and commercial services:**

- All domestic properties are provided with a 240L recycling bin, with the option to expand this to a 360L bin or order additional services at a reasonable cost.
- Single residential dwellings are able to order additional recycling services at a reduced rate.
- Commercial properties have the ability to order recycling wheelie bins through Council (240L or 360L).
- There are also a number of contractors who provide commercial recycling and waste services.

**Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre:**

Free drop off of recyclable items is available year-round to all Tweed residents (closed Christmas day and Good Friday). Items that may be disposed of include:

- household recycling (eg. glass bottles, plastic containers and bottles, paper, cardboard, metal tins)
- large metal items (eg. derelict cars through to whitegoods)
- paint and household chemicals
- electrical waste
- batteries
- empty gas bottles
- compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and fluoro light globes
- farm chemical containers (DrumMuster)

**If the decision is made to close the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station, how will Council manage illegal dumping?**

Dumping unwanted household items and green waste is illegal and subject to an on the spot penalty of \$750.

Council rangers have the ability to undertake investigations and covert surveillance in areas, which has led to the prosecution of illegal dumpers. Council also relies on community support to manage the problem of illegal dumping across the shire.

Given that the current usage of the Tyalgum Waste Transfer Station is limited to just a couple of customers every weekend, and that a number of alternatives for waste collection and/or disposal are offered by Council, it is not envisaged that any future closure of the facility will result in an increase in illegal dumping.

Further information is provided on the [Illegal Dumping and Littering](#) page of Council's website.

**Is a scenic lookout definitely going to be established if the decision is made to close the waste transfer station?**

At its meeting of 21 November 2013, Council resolved to:

*'seek(s) further consultation on the proposal in relation to the options regarding the closure of the transfer station and the proposed scenic lookout'.*

One of Council's key objectives in undertaking further consultation is to provide an opportunity for the Tyalgum community to share their ideas and preferences for the future use of the site.

The establishment of a scenic lookout is one suggestion that has been raised by the community and by Council as a possible option, but it has been raised on multiple occasions over a number of years.

All feedback received during the consultation period will be presented in a report to Council for its consideration in February 2014.

**Is it possible to have a scenic lookout and the waste transfer station at the one site?**

The co-location of both a scenic lookout and a waste transfer station on the one site is impractical as the two land uses are incompatible.

While a scenic lookout would attract locals and visitors to the area to admire the stunning views of the caldera, a waste transfer station would detract from the visual and sensory appeal of a nature-based experience.

**What other options does Council have at the site?**

The site is operated on State Crown Land and this will constrain the Council in future changes of operation at the site.