



TWEED
SHIRE COUNCIL

Mayor: Cr K Milne

Councillors: P Allsop
R Byrnes
C Cherry (Deputy Mayor)
R Cooper
J Owen
W Polglase

Late Agenda

Ordinary Council Meeting Thursday 7 February 2019

held at

**Harvard Room, Tweed Heads Administration Building,
Brett Street, Tweed Heads**

commencing at the conclusion of the Planning Committee meeting
which commences at 5.30pm.

Principles for Local Government

The object of the principles for Tweed Shire Council, as set out in Section 8 of the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Bill 2016, is to provide guidance to enable council to carry out its functions in a way that facilitates a local community that is strong, healthy and prosperous.

Guiding Principles for Tweed Shire Council

(1) Exercise of functions generally

The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by Tweed Shire Council:

- (a) Provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
- (b) Carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
- (c) Plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
- (d) Apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
- (e) Work co-operatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
- (f) Manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
- (g) Work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
- (h) Act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
- (i) Be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

(2) Decision-making

The following principles apply to decision-making by Tweed Shire Council (subject to any other applicable law):

- (a) Recognise diverse local community needs and interests.
- (b) Consider social justice principles.
- (c) Consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.
- (d) Consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
- (e) Decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

(3) Community participation

Council should actively engage with the local community, through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures.

Items for Consideration of Council:

ITEM	PRECIS	PAGE
LATE ITEMS		5
LATE REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES		5
7	LATE [CNR-CM] Zero Waste Strategy - Regional Investigations into Energy from Waste	5

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LATE ITEMS

LATE REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

7 LATE [CNR-CM] Zero Waste Strategy - Regional Investigations into Energy from Waste

SUBMITTED BY: Waste Management

mhm



Leaving a Legacy
Looking out for future generations

LINKAGE TO INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK:

- 1 Leaving a Legacy
- 1.3 Utility Services
- 1.3.1 Rubbish and Recycling Services - To collect, recycle and dispose of residential and commercial waste, manage landfill sites and deliver community education so as to divert rubbish from landfill.

ROLE: Provider

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation made up of the Mayors and General Managers of the Northern Rivers Councils have identified sustainable energy, water and waste as one of the five key regional priorities. Tweed Council has also adopted a resolution at the March 2018 meeting to develop their Integrated Waste Strategy with a focus on targeting Zero Waste.

In developing the framework for the Integrated Waste Strategy it has become apparent that targeting Zero Waste will require some form of process to deal with residual waste as well as placing a much greater focus on the processing and diversion of waste. As a result Tweed Shire Council, North East Waste and the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation have made commitments to investigate Alternative Waste Technologies that will achieve less to landfill, support a circular economy and to target zero waste.

Council's Waste Management team has been maintaining regular contact with Richmond Valley Council in relation to a proposed regional Energy from Waste (EfW) project that was the subject of a presentation to the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) on 3 December 2018 by Japanese company Pacific Consultants.

An opportunity has now been presented to Council to have an officer attend a study tour to consider the merits of Energy from Waste first hand and to see how these plants operate. The visit will allow a tour of a number of operating facilities with discussions to be held with both the operators and people living in the area. Costs for the visit are being covered under a sponsorship arrangement and only the officer's wages for the visit will be incurred by Council.

This report seeks the endorsement of Council as this visit has the potential to add considerable value to the development of options to understand the impacts of energy from waste and how this process may add value to Councils pursuit of Zero Waste targets.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council supports the attendance by a member of the Waste Management team at the upcoming 5 day regional tour to Japan (Sunday 24 February 2019 to Saturday 2 March 2019, these dates include travel time for the 5 day tour), to investigate the merits of Energy from Waste as an option for the processing of residual waste that cannot be processed or recovered, such as that waste remaining in the red lidded bins.

REPORT:

Tweed Shire Council, North East Waste and the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation have made commitments to investigate Alternative Waste Technologies that will achieve less to landfill, support a circular economy and achieve a target of zero waste.

Council's Waste Management team has been maintaining regular contact with Richmond Valley Council in relation to a proposed regional Energy from Waste (EfW) project that was presented to the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) on 3 December 2018 by Japanese company Pacific Consultants.

The EfW project has since progressed with Pacific Consultants conducting a waste sampling program from the NRJO member councils in December 2018, the result of which will feed into the prefeasibility study. Pending the result of the prefeasibility study, they plan to submit a grant application to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) to fully/part fund a \$5M feasibility study which will firm up prospective governance models, gate fees, environmental impacts and detailed designs. In collaboration with Richmond Valley Council the consultants are meeting with ARENA next week and have been in on-going consultation with NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Department of Planning and Industry (DPI). They have recently engaged a specialist Australian consultancy to commence the initial planning process as well as a public relations company to commence a consultation plan/engagement.

As part of the project, the Japanese Government are fully funding a study tour for the key Australian stakeholders to visit a number of EfW facilities in Japan. The delegates to attend this tour had originally included officials from the NSW DPI and EPA, however they have had to pull-out due to internal State Government travel policy which prevents overseas travel within a certain period prior to an election.

As such, a space on the tour has become available and Richmond Valley Council have invited a delegate from Tweed Shire Council to attend due to our interest in the project to date and commitment to investigating Alternative Waste Treatment technologies in the region. As mentioned above the majority of the cost of the tour will be fully funded by the Japanese Government (accommodation, travel, and some meals).

This presents an excellent opportunity to investigate the proposed technology by visiting operational EfW facilities, and will benefit the organisation in understanding how this technology may assist Tweed Shire Councils commitment to a Circular Economy and the pursuit of a Zero Waste target.

Whilst Council has not adopted Energy from Waste as our preferred method for the processing of residual waste, all options should be considered in the development of the Integrated Waste Strategy if we are targeting Zero Waste as there is and will always be residual waste which for the foreseeable future can only be used as either a refuse derived fuel or placed in landfill

OPTIONS:

Council has the option to:

1. Send an officer of the waste team as a member of the working party to investigate the merits of Energy from Waste on the upcoming tour of Japan; or

2. Not allow an officer to participate in this tour.

CONCLUSION:

In March 2018 Council resolved to pursue a target of zero waste and to include this target in future Waste Strategies.

Council is in the process of developing a new version of the Integrated Waste Strategy with a focus on programs targeting zero waste. There is a commitment from the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation and the North East Waste group to investigate regional options for the processing of waste.

As part of the development of the new strategy it has become apparent that there will always be a residual in the waste stream that there is no current processing option for. This material has a potential value as a refuse derived fuel, which could be used to generate power rather than being placed into landfill.

An opportunity has been presented to allow a waste officer to attend a regional tour for 5 days to Japan to see first-hand the operations of a number of facilities operating Waste to Energy technologies and to have discussions with operators and the regulators.

This information could prove very valuable in informing the development of Council's Zero Waste Strategy and therefore the involvement of Council has considerable merit.

It is therefore recommended that Council support the attendance of a member of the Waste Team.

COUNCIL IMPLICATIONS:

a. Policy:

Corporate Policy Not Applicable

b. Budget/Long Term Financial Plan:

Indirect cost in staff time to attend the 5 day tour (Sunday 24 February 2019 to Saturday 2 March 2019, these dates include travel time for the 5 day tour).

c. Legal:

Acceptance of this offer may result in future probity issues, perceived or actual. Should probity issues arise, Council will manage the concerns in an impartial, accountable and transparent manner, in accordance with relevant Council Policies and Protocols.

d. Communication/Engagement:

Inform - We will keep you informed.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER/FURTHER INFORMATION:

Nil.
