	<b>COMMUNITY CONSULTATION DISCUSSION PAPER</b>	
	AGENDA ITEM	13. Matters for Discussion
	SUBJECT ITEM	WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING STRATEGY
	MEETING DATE	Saturday 24 APRIL 2021 10am - 12 pm

## 1. BACKGROUND

The Council managed dump site on Cox Peninsula Road was closed in 2015 by request from NTG in preparation for Kenbi Aboriginal Land Claim handover. Remediation of the old dump site was completed in November 2020 by Keneally at a cost of \$5.5M (funded by Federal Government).

Council has been working with Belyuen ACC and the NTG to identify an appropriate land parcel for a shared regional (Cox Peninsular) Waste Transfer Station, however this has not been secured to date.

In 2016, domestic putrescible rubbish collection and a quarterly hard waste collection services commenced in the community. Wheelie bins were initially provided by Council at a cost of \$13,000.

In 2019, the quarterly kerbside hardwaste collected ceased and Council established a the Hard Waste Compound to reduce costs and minimise risks to staff.

Terms and conditions for use of the Council waste facilities and levies applied are laid out in P38 Waste Management Policy, available on the Council website.

## 2. CURRENT STATUS

### Residential Waste

Veolia collects domestic putrescible waste from at least 220 properties in Wagait on a weekly basis. Average tonnage to landfill each week is

### **Issue: Damage to bins.**

In Q4 2020 and Q1 2021 Council received 8 complaints from residents with regard to their bins being damaged by the hydraulic lifting arms of the truck and excessive force being used when replacing the bins. Veolia engineers investigated the complaint and advised Council that the bins are brittle and at the end of their life-span, which they say is consistent with product supplier expectations for top end environmental conditions. The Council Waste Management Policy states that Council will not replace broken bins.

**Response: Council is considering providing replacement bins on the 2021-22 Fees and Charges Schedule, similar to other NT jurisdictions (see p3 Table 1.).**

### Hard Waste

Since July 2020, Council has employed casual staff to operate the compound on weekends and public holidays with strict Terms and Conditions enforced to reduce toxic and waste dumping and inappropriate use of the facility.

Two hooklift skip bins are available in the Council Hard Waste compound in Council grounds for residents and ratepayers. Residents are encouraged to leave hard waste items for others to upcycle and Council staff then periodically pack unclaimed hard waste into the skip bins for collection.

A contractor exchanges the skip bins at Councils request. Use of the facility is recorded and data indicates that it is well-used by the community.

Council will continue to support a 'Kerbside Pre-Cyclone Pickup' once a year in October.

**Issue: There is nowhere to dump toxic waste such as oils, paints, tyres etc.**

Response: Council is investigating and considering options for toxic waste including:

- working with Belyuen to establish a local user-pays toxic waste dump point that will be collected by Veolia and taken to Shoal Bay); or
- establishing the Council Hard Waste compound as a licensed facility for collecting and transporting toxic waste to Shoal Bay.

#### Green Waste

Council Green Waste compound is located adjacent to the Clopenburg Park Sportsground in Forsyth Rd and is open 24/7 for residents and ratepayers use only.

**Issue: The site is well used however the access track is in poor condition.**

Response: Additional NTG funding has recently been approved to upgrade the track and a tender is currently open for consideration (see Council website).

#### Recycling

Community recycling of 10c bottles and cans currently operates by arrangement with Envirobank through the Wagait Beach Supermarket.

**Issue: There is nowhere to dump other recyclables, not accepted by Envirobank.**

There have been several requests to Council for options to recycle other waste materials such as approved plastics, cardboard, and glass in the community.

Response: Council is investigating and considering costs of recycling options including:

- user-pays yellow-lid bins for co-mingled recycling collected and sorted by contractors once/month; and/or
- a Council managed covered storage point at the Hard Waste compound that is periodically transported to Veolia for sorting.

#### Fee Charges to Ratepayers

Council waste charges to property owners are included in the annual rates notice. In 2020-21 the total charge for waste management to each property is \$307/ year (\$5.90/week). The Wagait Shire Council Strategic Plan 2020-2025 proposes that this is increased by 5.5% in 2021-22 to accommodate increasing costs, making the annual waste levy income \$126,360 or around \$324 /year (\$6.23/week).

**Issue: Will increased levies cover costs of implementing the additional waste services?**

Response: If needed, additional funding will be sought from NTG to assist establishing new services. Council needs to make additional services sustainable and increased fees or a user-pays system are being considered.

**Issue: Why is there a flat fee for waste services across all properties, developed or undeveloped?**

Historically, NT Local Government areas have charged a flat fee per lot zoning. Recently, some jurisdictions have set tiered waste fee structures to commercial properties, or apply general waste management fees to undeveloped residential properties (see Table 1.).

Response: Council will consider options for general waste management fees for vacant, undeveloped properties that will not include a domestic kerbside waste collection service.

Table 1: Comparison fees and charges for waste management in other NT Local Government areas

<b>Council</b>	<b>General Waste Management Fee</b>	<b>Kerbside Domestic</b>	<b>Replace Bin</b>	<b>Hard/Green Waste Charges</b>	<b>Toxic Waste</b>
Wagait	307	inclusive	NA	Free (unlimited)	No
Coomalie	211	449 inc	110	Free (unlimited)	No
Katherine	127	358 inc	NA	Yes (charged)	Yes (charged)
Barkly	NA	375 inc	245	Yes – per use	Yes (charged)
Nhulunbuy	1827	inclusive	145	Yes – per use	Yes (charged)

### 3. CONSIDERATIONS and OPPORTUNITIES

There are an increasing number of national stewardship programs for ‘problem’ waste recycling of electronic and plastic goods such as batteries, phones, cameras, printers and cartridges, bottlecaps, toothbrushes, bread-tags, pens and markers, plastic packaging, coffee pods, etc.

In other jurisdictions, States and Territory Governments have implemented low-cost ‘Community Recycling Centre’ (CRC) for local use where recycling is collected and returned to the product supplier for recycling. Council is considering something similar with local (NT) CRC supporters such as Terracorp and OfficeWorks in an accessible location, to recycle our ‘problem’ waste.

#### Wagait Shire Council

- A new shelter can be created in the Hard Waste Compound as an extension of the Dog Containment area Works Compound. This could house a Community Recycling Centre (CRC) to assist with recycling of ‘problem’ waste such as cell phones, batteries, phones, cameras, printers and cartridges, bottlecaps, toothbrushes, bread-tags, pens and markers, plastic packaging, coffee pods, etc where there exists a national demand and stewardship programs are available to offset the disposal costs.
- Identify sources of funding to support new recycling and waste management projects.

#### Belyuen Aboriginal Community Council

Belyuen has arrangements in place with Veolia and Ironbark for tip remediation and ongoing management of toxic waste, which includes:

- Disposal of waste oil
- Disposal of tyres
- Disposal of steel (car bodies, scrap metal)

Costs for Wagait to share these services is currently being negotiated, but will most likely be a per/litre, kilo, tyre cost + WSC transport expenses.

#### 4. COST ANALYSIS

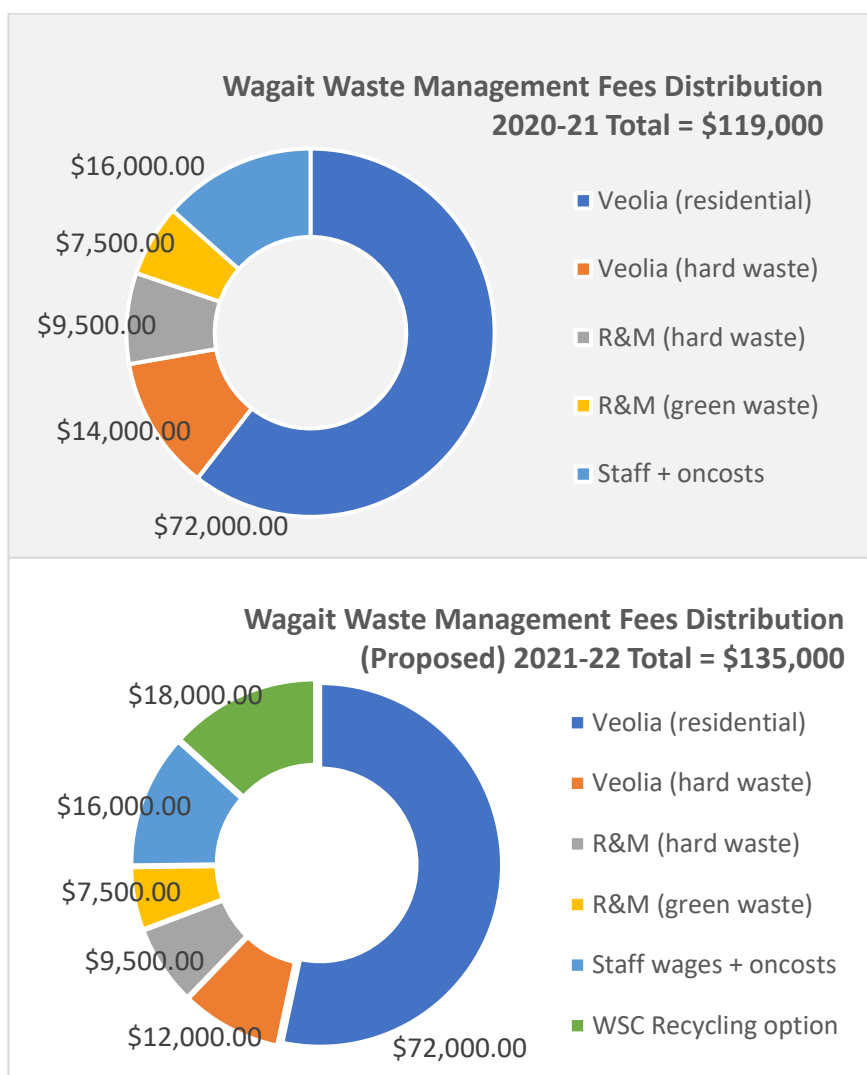
Cost variables to include toxic waste disposal and recycling in Wagait Shire Council forward planning are outlined individually in the tables below as an overall cost per annum. Council will need to consider how additional costs will be offset, by increased general waste management fees or through a user-pays system.

RESIDENT/WSC MANAGED*	\$ mth		\$ bi-mth	\$ TOTAL/pa
Card + soft plastics baler hire	300	+ WSC to transfer	450	\$ 9,000
Toxic Waste unit + bund hire	300	+ WSC to transfer	450	\$ 9,000
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>\$ 18,000</b>

\*excluding initial construction and setup of new covered storage area = \$15,000

RESIDENT/VEOLIA MANAGED*	\$ /mth	\$ TOTAL /pa
Veolia collection monthly comingled *	1810	\$ 22,990
Toxic Waste hire container + bund	300	\$ 3,600
Toxic Waste transport	410	\$ 4,920
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 31,510</b>

\*excluding initial new bin purchase cost of 300 x \$65 = \$19,500



The cost of the proposed WSC distribution model is \$8640 short of the projected income for 2021-22, which will need to be resourced in the budget or recovered through increased fees.

Other models combining a mix of WSC and user-pays contractor supported services may also be possible.