

# MEDIA RELEASE

28 August 2017

## Waste strategy discussions progressing

The top community waste issues have been discussed at the third meeting of Horsham Rural City Council's waste strategy committee.

The following key points were submitted by the community and discussed at length by the committee as progress towards Council's waste strategy progresses.

- **Green waste:** The committee recognises a strong need to introduce a green waste service, but the introduction of new services will cost money and that this must be paid for somehow. Managing the collected green waste will be a challenge, as many of the potential uses for this material involve long distance haulage.
- **Hard waste:** The committee raised some concerns about the risks of hazardous materials being left on kerbs for collection. These materials could pose a risk to the community and staff involved in collection. Despite this, it was considered that a form of hard waste collection service should be available for people with limited abilities. There is also a place for "street garage sales" to help reuse some hard waste.
- **Rural collection:** The committee supported the potential to expand recycling services in rural areas, but recognised that it might not be economic to service all areas. The committee considered a green waste collection was unlikely to be justified in rural areas.
- **Bin sizes and frequency:** There was much discussion and a range of views about what size bins should be provided and how often they should be collected. A strong message was that the pattern of collection needs to be easy to remember so that people don't put out the wrong bin on bin nights. The committee considered that if extra services are provided, e.g. a green waste collection, then the main waste bin could potentially be smaller.
- **Transfer stations:** The committee heard that the introduction of waste and recycling services in some rural areas has reduced the demand for rural transfer stations. Greater publicity should be given to the availability of free drop-off of recyclable materials at these sites.
- **Kenny Rd transfer station:** Experience from other areas suggests that improvements could be made at Kenny Rd to increase the volume of recyclable materials dropped off, with an incentive provided so that only the weight of waste material that goes to landfill would be charged for. An improved "tip shop" would also help the re-use of some unwanted goods.

The committee also discussed providing waste services for people with limited abilities and managing commercial food waste.

Feedback on any of these issues, or other waste issues is welcomed, and can be provided by email to [council@hrcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@hrcc.vic.gov.au), or via Council's Facebook page.

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