

6. Draft Waste Services Policy

SF/3484

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report presents for consideration the draft *Waste Services Policy*.

BACKGROUND

The *Waste Services Policy* was adopted by Council at its meeting on 14 November 2018.

DISCUSSION

The *Waste Services Policy* (the Policy) is intended to be used as a guide for staff to manage the provision of waste services for the community.

The Policy details the waste management services that the Council offers to residents, businesses and other groups in the community.

A key component of waste management is ensuring the Council plays a leadership role in driving sustainable waste management and continuing to assist the community to minimise waste by increasing resource recovery and continually striving to find alternatives to landfill disposal.

The policy is being reviewed in accordance with Council's *Administration Policy Management Guidelines Policy*.

The *Council Plan 202 –2025* was adopted in November 2021. Submissions received during the community consultation process for the Council Plan identified issues that have been considered as a part of the review of the Policy.

The issues raised are discussed below.

Hard Waste

Requests were raised in relation to the introduction of an annual kerbside hard waste service for residents. The extra service would provide local residents the opportunity to dispose of the hard waste by placing the waste at the kerbside for the Council to pick-up and dispose of at the Benalla Resource Recovery Centre.

This would require the Council to engage a contractor with suitable resources (i.e. truck and manpower) to provide a service for the pick-up and disposal of residential hard waste.

The estimated annual cost based on a comparison with other councils currently providing a similar service, and on a pro-rata population basis, would be in the range of \$60,000 to \$80,000 (including disposal costs).

The service does not meet Policy objectives in relation to minimising waste or increase resource recovery.

The kerbside hard waste service has not been included within the policy as it does not meet waste minimisation objectives and is cost prohibitive.

However, the introduction of a more focussed hard waste collection in line with ‘circular economy’ objectives will continue to be explored.

Nappy Rebate

Council Plan 2021–2025 and *2022/23 Budget* submissions have requested the introduction of a nappy rebate for residents who choose to use cloth nappies rather than commercial plastic lined nappies.

Although the concept may be an incentive for the community to contribute to the quest of minimising waste and reducing waste to landfill, such as program would provide difficulties to administer and incur extra costs to the Council. As such, it has not been included in the policy.

The Policy (refer **Appendix 1**) has been updated to reflect current roles, responsibilities, services, etc. Major changes to the existing policy are highlighted in yellow.

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025 IMPLICATIONS

Leadership

- Good governance.
- High performance culture.
- Engaged and informed community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the *Waste Services Policy* will be accommodated within the existing budget.

LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that the report is consistent with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In accordance with the Council’s *Community Engagement Policy*, it is recommended that the *Waste Services Policy* be placed on public exhibition for at least 28 days with formal submissions called for to be considered by the Council.

It is proposed, due to operational nature of the policy, that community engagement be undertaken at the ‘involve’ level under the International Association for Public Participation’s IAP2 public participation spectrum as detailed in the table below:

| Level of Public Participation | Promise to the community | Techniques to be used |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Involve | We will provide information and work with the community to ensure their concerns or aspirations are reflected in the alternatives developed. Feedback provided on how community input influenced the decision. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy presented in a public report to the Council. ▪ Public Notice in the <i>Benalla Ensign</i> and on Council’s website. ▪ Draft Policy to be exhibited and feedback invited. ▪ Feedback invited via Council’s website ▪ Draft Policy made available in hardcopy for review at key locations. ▪ Submitters invited to address the Council. ▪ Council to consider submissions. |

Proposed Adoption Timeline

| Date | Action |
|------------------|---|
| 23 June 2022 | Community Consultation Opens. |
| 21 July 2022 | Community Consultation Closes at 5pm. |
| 27 July 2022 | Submissions heard at the Planning and Development Committee meeting. |
| 31 August 2022 | Submissions considered at the Planning and Development Committee meeting. |
| 7 September 2022 | Adoption of Policy at the Council Meeting. |

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any general or material conflicts of interest in this matter.

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Development Committee, acting under its delegated authority of the Council, resolve:

That the draft *Waste Services Policy* be endorsed for public exhibition for a period of at least 28 days.