

## ALTERNATIVE WASTE TECHNOLOGY ATT 2 – CONSULTATION

### Internal Consultation

A “Council Workshop on Alternative Waste Technologies” was held on 28 November 2011 to inform Councillors, Council Executive and Council officers of the AWT options. The key questions and comments raised from the workshop included:

- Implementation of a 2 bin system (regardless of whether it is mixed waste compost or thermal treatment) requires a 20–25 year contract term and locks Council into that system approach for a long-term, thereby diminishing flexibility in the way resources are recovered.
- A 3 bin system with composting may be the first step, followed by energy from waste in the future. There needs to be flexibility in the system to change as technology improves.
- A 3 bin system will present difficulties for bin storage at Multi Unit Dwellings and narrow lots.
- Thermal treatment of mixed waste provides a good outcome in terms of extending the landfill airspace. A cost benefit analysis of the options is required that takes into account the landfill airspace capacity and future deferment of a greenfield landfill.
- Need to consider tailoring collection services for different dwelling types (i.e. rural residential versus urban residential)

### External Consultation

The project team has sought inputs from the private sector through a market sounding process to assist in the project development and ascertain the market’s interest and capacity in the project delivery. Six organisations currently operating a range of AWT technologies in either Australia or globally were interviewed based on a consistent set of questions. These organisations included:

- Thiess Services
- Sita
- Transpacific Industries
- Anaeco
- Phoenix Energy
- Veolia Environmental Services

The findings from the market sounding are contained in the *Sunshine Coast Council: Alternative Waste Technology Options Review*

### Community Engagement

Community engagement conducted during the development of the *Waste Minimisation Strategy 2009–2014* involved participation from 511 community members. In conjunction with the community feedback, the Waste Taskforce developed the *Waste Minimisation Strategy 2009–*

2014 with the highest priorities being:

- strong support in achieving the waste goal of 70 per cent diversion
- technology selection to follow the waste hierarchy to maximize the highest and best uses for waste streams
- recovering the resources of organic waste from domestic residents that can't be utilised at home
- Sustainability Park, Caloundra South to be the preferred location for establishing an AWT.
- decisions on an AWT to be finalized in 2012 to enable linkages with the new collection contract that will be released to the market in 2012.

In November 2011, Council conducted two concurrent community engagement programs to generate and seek broad feedback on community attitudes towards AWT. The engagement approach consisted of:

- “Garbo-dialogue” – 3 separate scenario based workshops were held with the same group of 25-30 residents to generate a conversation about the key objectives of the project. The participants were a representative group reflecting the diverse demographic of the region, and
- online forums complimented the focus group, with a print, radio and online advertising campaign commencing on 3 November and directing the community to participate and respond to a series of questions relating to waste diversion, AWT and 2 bin versus 3 bin waste collection systems.

The community engagement report is included as an appendix within the *Sunshine Coast Council: Alternative Waste Technology Options Review*.

Key themes emerging from the focus group and online forum include:

- A large proportion of the community has limited knowledge or exposure to AWT. There will need to be clear communication of what an AWT is, its role and the level of community behavioural change required.
- Reducing waste, recycling and reducing landfill all ranked above high in importance and commitment.
- There is a belief in some sections of the community that AWT will be a revenue generator for Council. (This will need to be addressed in future communication as the revenue from the sale of processed material does not cover the operating costs.)
- Changes in bin systems are likely to impact household behaviour which will require a systematic and ongoing promotion and education campaign.
- Different household types prefer different collection systems. For some households, cost will be a major consideration.

- Cost influenced the community preference for a 2 or 3 bin collection system. The more expensive 2 bin system was less popular when considering cost.
- Willingness for a mandatory 3 bin system ranged between “probably not” to “would strongly consider it”. There was no clear community wide preference for a 3 bin system

Workshop participants, given the background on Sustainability Park, understood why it had been chosen as the preferred site. Workshop participants were less sure the wider community would be supportive. Particular care will be required when engaging residents in the neighbouring areas.