



# "WAR ON WASTE"

This information is provided to all ratepayers of Wudinna District Council and contains important details of proposed changes to kerbside collection and refuse/transfer site operations.

Please do not feel intimidated by the length of the below information. We have attempted to provide you with sufficient detail on how the reviewed system will affect your household and it is recommended you take the time to read it.

**DID YOU KNOW? Australia was recently ranked in the top five waste producing nations (on a per person basis) in the world. Each Australian family contributes enough rubbish each year to fill a three bedroom house from floor to ceiling!**

Environmentally responsible waste management is a key outcome identified by Council in their Corporate Action Plan. We need to ensure our waste management operations are optimised toward zero waste strategies and viable recycling practices. To achieve this goal, Council has recently undertaken a review of operations with a particular focus on kerbside collection and refuse sites.

Over the coming months we will be undertaking consultation with ratepayers on the proposed changes, how they will affect operations and the associated costs. This consultation will include the provision of initial information, a survey being mailed/available online to all ratepayers and feedback on engagement outcomes.

## What are the Proposed Changes?

### Kerbside Collection

- Introduction of a mechanised waste collection service where each eligible household will receive collection of WHEELIE BINS - 140L for general waste (weekly) and 240L for recycling (fortnightly).
- Kerbside collection will continue within the townships of Wudinna and Minnipa.
- Installation of bin bank sites in Yaninee, Pygery, Kyancutta and Warrambooboo to allow residents to have their household (residual) waste and recyclables collected. Bins will be required to be at the bin bank location for collection.
- Re-introduction of a RECYCLING collection service in hope of minimising the amount of household waste entering landfill.
- Ability for retail businesses to be included in the collection round (a service not previously offered).



To reduce collection costs, Council will work with District Council of Elliston to contract a waste service provider to undertake a joint collection round. Recyclables are likely to be processed locally in Streaky Bay or Port Lincoln and residual waste will be deposited at the Wudinna Refuse Site.

### Changes to Rating System

As a result of the proposed changes, Council will move towards a "user pays system" rather than collecting revenue through general rates for kerbside waste collection and use of the refuse sites. The *Local Government Act 1999*, enables Council to levy an annual charge for providing domestic waste management services on all parcels of rateable land for which the service is available, whether or not it is actually used.

Initial calculations indicate service recipients could be likely to pay an annual service charge of **\$220**. This is equivalent to approximately **\$4.22 per week**.

### Refuse Sites

- Users of any refuse/transfer site in the district will be required to pay to dispose of their waste at the site using a VOUCHER system.

- Council are planning on offering one FREE day per month (eg. The first Sunday of every month) where users can dispose of their waste for free.
- All current sites will remain available to the public but opening hours will be restricted and the site will be supervised.
- A review will be conducted after the first year of the mobile garbage bin collection service to determine if any of the transfer sites can be closed.

User charges are yet to be confirmed but proposed costs suggested in the review are shown below. In comparison to neighbouring Councils, these costs are very reasonable.

<b>General Unsorted (Residual) Waste (incl. Green Waste)</b>	
Car Boot - Sedan, SUV, Station Wagon	\$5
6x4 Trailer, Ute, Tray Back or Van	\$10
Larger Trailer or 6x4 Trailer with Cage	\$15
Other – Trucks, etc. (based on cubic metres)	\$15 p/m <sup>3</sup>
E-Waste (TVs, Microwaves, Computers, etc.)	\$5 (small) \$10 (large)
<b>Recyclables (sorted and delivered to correct area)</b>	
Newspaper, Glass, Plastic Bottles, etc.	Free
Scrap Metal (incl. Fridges, Freezers & Washing Machines)	Free

## Where to Next?

Council staff will distribute a hardcopy survey to all ratepayers over the coming weeks to gauge opinions on the proposed changes and interest of ratepayers in the smaller townships/rural properties on their inclusion in the waste collection round. An online version of the survey will also be made available.

The survey will be open to all ratepayers and residents of the Wudinna District Council and we are requesting for one survey per household be completed and returned. If you own a property within our Council area but have a tenant, it would be greatly appreciated if you could please advise them of the proposed changes and encourage them to complete the survey on behalf of their household.



## Frequently Asked Questions

Some of your questions and/or concerns may be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) below.

### **When will these proposed changes come into effect?**

Anticipated to commence in July 2018.

### **What do we get for our rates and service charges?**

The changes to the kerbside waste collection will actually result in an increase in service to properties within townships. Those who are eligible to receive the service will be provided with a 140L mobile garbage bin for residual waste and 240L for recycles.

General Council rates cover some, but not all, Council services. Waste management collection for kerbside/bin bank collection, disposal to landfill and the disposal levy will be covered through a waste collection service charge. Waste management treatment and disposal for waste administration, EPA licence, landfill management, transfer site management and associated costs are recovered through the general rate stream.

Should Council wish to include rural households (outside of townships) that will have to take their waste or recycling bins to a bin bank for collection, they will be entitled to pay a discounted service charge based on the distance to the collection point.

### **The collection schedule and cycle will change; how will I know when and which bins to put out?**

Council will provide a waste collection calendar annually to all ratepayers. These will be mailed out prior to the commencement of the new service and also be available on Council's website and Facebook page.

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### **Is Council doing this to save money?**

No, Council is doing this to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill and to reintroduce the opportunity to recycle. There will be additional costs incurred from the initial implementation and education relevant to the program which will reduce and be eliminated over time.

Council is aiming to minimise the ever increasing cost of sending waste, some of which is recyclable and recoverable, unnecessarily to landfill.

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### **I'm on a rural property and we don't get our property serviced by collection so we're really getting the short end of the stick!**

Wudinna District Council is largely a rural landscape with many unsealed roads. It would not be economical or environmentally sound to have a dedicated waste truck driving the long rural road network in sparsely populated areas to collect one or two bins. Properties who are not eligible for the refuse/recycling collection service will not have to pay the waste collection service charge.

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### **I already receive a kerbside collection service and will now get less rubbish picked up; how will I manage?**

Council's current *Residential Kerbside Waste & Recycling Policy* allows for householders to place 3x 75L bins out for weekly collection, with a current total capacity of 225L (or 450L over a two week period). Under the new system, over a two week period the total capacity will be 520L (2x 140L residual waste and 1x 240L recycles). The sorting of your waste in to the correct bin is the key to making the most of this new service which will offer an additional 240L bin for recyclables for properties eligible for the collection service.

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### **Why change the current system? - It works for me!**

Did you know that approximately 69% of your household waste can potentially be recycled? Whilst not all of this will be recovered through our new system, at least 38% will be diverted from landfill. This will greatly assist in reducing landfill management costs and the life of our refuse site.

There are also issues with our current system, particularly from a Work Health Safety perspective. Manual handling of domestic refuse bags and bundled paper and cardboard at the kerbside presents the risk of strains/sprains, musculoskeletal injuries, cuts, puncture wounds and possible infection from waste contamination. The need to frequently climb up and down to access the truck cabs presents risks of falls, sprains and other injuries. There are very few (if any) Councils still utilising this aged method of refuse collection.

### **Who will be responsible for purchasing the mobile garbage bins? Who will own them?**

Under the new system, Council will provide each rateable property eligible for the service with one each of waste and recycling bins at no additional charge. A new policy will need to be developed and it is likely the following clauses will be incorporated:

- Council will replace a stolen or vandalised bin free of charge upon production of evidence of the stolen property being reported to the police (police report number required).
- If the bin has been damaged as a direct result of Council/Council's contractor (taking into account that all bins have a limited life and their condition will progressively deteriorate with normal use), any replacement must be negotiated between Council and the resident/ratepayer.
- If the bin has been damaged as a result of the resident/ratepayer, they are responsible for the purchase of a new bin. It is estimated that this would be a cost of approximately **\$50 to \$60 per bin**.
- Bins are Council property and will remain with the premises to which it is allocated. If a change of occupancy or ownership occurs, the bins must remain with the property. It will be the responsibility of the land agent/owner to ensure that if a rental tenant changes, the bins stay at the property.

### **When and if this happens will the collection routes be the same?**

There will be some changes to the collection routes as they are historical and are not designed for collection efficiency. The collection routes will be re-designed to be more efficient. There may be some changes to the day or time your bins are collected but the new kerbside collection calendar would be mailed out to all residents prior to the change.

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### **Are we allowed to have additional bins for waste if we want them?**

Additional bins may be available for purchase but will be subject to an extra collection service fee per annum, if needed. But with the increase in kerbside collection volume of total 70L per fortnightly collection cycle, additional general waste bins should be unnecessary in most cases due to the reintroduction of recycling. Should you believe that you will require an additional bin, please advise this information to Council staff via the survey that will be distributed.

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### **Will Council allow us the option of paying extra and having a 240 litre residual waste bin?**

No. The standard general waste bin for private dwellings will be the 140L size. The goal is to reduce waste to landfill, by diverting more recyclable waste into the recycling stream, to increase resource recovery and environmentally responsible waste management.

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### **What will you do about illegal dumping - which may become an issue if this idea goes through?**

Dumping of household and hard waste on the roadside or on private property is illegal and fines apply. Responsible residents who are accustomed to putting their waste in a bin are highly unlikely to start dumping it in the natural environment.

Most illegal dumping is of items that don't fit in a waste bin or aren't disposed of through kerbside collection, such as TV's, computers, mattresses, tyres, etc. Council and therefore all ratepayers incur the cost of removal of illegal dumped items.

Remember there is likely to be one day per month where access to the refuse/transfer sites will be FREE.

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### **I own a business and have an interest in my property being serviced. How do I be included?**

The best way to flag an interest with Council staff is to advise via the survey.

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### **If we don't want to be involved in the bin collection service but are eligible for it, will we get a reduction in rates or service charges?**

If your property is eligible for the service but you do not wish to receive it, there will be no reduction of rates or service charges. Council is able to levy an annual charge for providing domestic waste management services on all rateable land for which the service is available, whether or not it is actually used.

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## **Further Information**

If you require any further information or have any queries, please contact **Kelsey Trezise** (Works Administration Officer) by phone on (08) 8680 2002, via email [admin@wudinna.sa.gov.au](mailto:admin@wudinna.sa.gov.au) or at the Council Office - 11 Burton Terrace, Wudinna.

Please Note: Staff and Elected Members will be available to discuss the information and any other issues at the **Wudinna & Districts AH&F Show on Saturday, 16 September 2017**. Please feel free to drop by our booth!

