



LATE ITEMS BUSINESS PAPER

General Meeting

Wednesday 9 October 2019

Roma Administration Centre

NOTICE OF MEETING

Date: 8 October 2019

Mayor:

Councillor T D Golder

Deputy Mayor:
Councillors:

Councillor J L Chambers
Councillor N H Chandler
Councillor P J Flynn
Councillor G B McMullen
Councillor W M Newman
Councillor C J O'Neil
Councillor D J Schefe
Councillor J M Stanford

Chief Executive Officer:

Ms Julie Reitano

Senior Management:

Mr Rob Hayward (Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Director
Development, Facilities & Environmental Services)
Ms Sharon Frank (Director Corporate, Community & Commercial
Services)

Please find attached agenda for the **General Meeting** to be held at the Roma Administration Centre on **October 9, 2019 at 9.00AM.**

Julie Reitano
Chief Executive Officer

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L.1	Composting Subsidy Program.....2 Prepared by: Manager - Environment, Health, Waste & Rural Land Services
LC.	Late Confidential Items
LC.1	Flood Mitigation Stage 1 - Landholder Negotiations - Assessment Number 14008387 Classification: Closed Access Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 275(e) contracts proposed to be made by it.
LC.2	Request for letter of support Classification: Closed Access Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 275(h) other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.
LC.3	Review of Administrative Action Complaint (CRM 6500/2019) Classification: Closed Access Local Government Regulation 2012 Section 275(h) other business for which a public discussion would be likely to prejudice the interests of the local government or someone else, or enable a person to gain a financial advantage.

OFFICER REPORT

Meeting: General 9 October 2019

Date: 8 October 2019

Item Number: L.1

File Number: D19/93077

SUBJECT HEADING: Composting Subsidy Program

Classification: Open Access

Officer's Title: Manager - Environment, Health, Waste & Rural Land Services

Executive Summary:

At the July general meeting of Council, Resolution GM/07.2019/69 resolved that a report to be tabled at a Council meeting regarding a composting subsidy program known as *The Compost Revolution*.

Officer's Recommendation:

That Council:

- a) Does not not participate in the *Compost Revolution* a project partnership between Randwick City Council, Waverley Municipal Council, Woollahra Council and the NSW Environmental Trust; and
- b) Develop an advisory group that has representation from community groups, business, Council waste officers and interested residents whom will be responsible for developing initiatives that will
 - reduce waste to landfill

Individuals or Organisations to which the report applies:

Are there any individuals or organisations who stand to gain a benefit, or suffer a loss, (either directly or indirectly) depending on the outcome of consideration of this matter?

(Note: This is to assist Councillors in identifying if they have a Material Personal Interest or Conflict of Interest in the agenda item - i.e. whether they should participate in the discussion and decision making).

Compost Revolution program has been developed in partnership using funding from NSW Environmental Trust (waste levy revenue) by three major Sydney based local governments – Randwick City Council, Waverley Municipal Council and Woollahra Council. To be a member of the program, Council would be paying an annual subscription fee plus a bin to door service.

The individual residents would benefit from the program via a reduction in compost bin costs, and Council would have a reduction in the amount of waste being presented at its landfill sites – thus reducing waste operational costs.

However, individual resale business within the region have the potential to suffer a loss, as the 'on-line' platform to purchase your preferred composting and or worm farm bins are purchased out of the Region.

Acronyms:

Are there any industry abbreviations that will be used in the report?

Note: This is important as particular professions or industries often use shortened terminology where they refer to the matter on a regular basis. However, for individuals not within the profession or industry it can significantly impact the readability of the report if these aren't explained at the start of the report).

Acronym	Description
<Insert Acronym>	<Provide details>

Context:

Why is the matter coming before Council?

Whilst trying to purchase a compost bin for their own use, Councillors became aware of a New South West *Composting Subsidy Program* implemented in a joint project by three local governments of Woollahra, Waverley and Randwick.

The three Council Regional Environment Program was established in 2010, with funding from the New South Wales Environmental Trust (waste levy).

To meet requirements of the new *Waste Reduction and Recycling* legislation, any programs that assist and or encourage its community to reduce the amount of waste being delivered to landfill is a positive process.

Background:

Has anything already happened in relation to this matter?

(Succinct overview of the relevant facts, without interpretation)

The compost revolution makes it easier for all residents to turn food scraps into a matter that can enrich soil and or become a soil fertilizer, reducing the amount of matter ending up in landfill and reducing gas emissions at the same time.

It is reported that about half of household waste going to landfill is made up of compostable organic material. Therefore using home composting systems will significantly reduce the amount of matter going to landfill.

The program is currently working with 31 local governments across Australia, is an award winning platform which inspires, educates and equips households so they can recover their food waste. The online fun tutorials and integrated ordering system allows residents to choose their composting gear and have it delivered straight to their door.

The program started in 2010, and was expanded Australia-wide in 2012, as a partnership between the three Councils and social venture Revolution Apps, which is rapidly scaling the impact of the program under licence from council partners.

In the past seven years, the program has grown to become Australia's largest community of composters and worm farmers with over 45,000 households joining. It is believed to have diverted 11,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and avoided almost 18 Million kgs of CO2 – equivalent greenhouse gas emissions. The program is reporting that it has saved Councils and its rate payers in excess of \$2.5 million in waste management costs.

The process:

1. Council signs up and chooses which products and the percentage off recommended retail price it would like to offer its residents to incentivize uptake.
2. The organization sets up a custom council-branded website with unique URL for the registered Council. (the organization will provide training and support)
3. Spread the word among the member Council's residents with targeted outreach through Facebook and Google to help drive uptake, and can assist your outreach efforts with engaging *Compost Revolution* marketing materials to maximize uptake by residents.
4. Residents complete a fun online 10 minute tutorial and quiz to learn all they need to know about composting, worm farming or bokashi.
5. They order and pay for their equipment via *Compost Revolution* e-commerce platform.
6. Council approves every order, so it has control of its budget for the project. *Compost Revolution* take care of the rest, including home delivery, resident support, and invoicing.
7. *Compost Revolution* keep residents engaged with composting and gardening tips, engaging social media, sustainable promotions, and events so they know they are part of a bigger sustainable community – and keep composting long into the future.

It is reported through information on their website, that most councils have cut labour time and costs by 85% (on line platform, tutorials etc. within the current scheme) compared to the traditional rebate based system, so no matter how successful the program the Council workload remains the same.

Legislation, Local Laws, State Policies & Other Regulatory Requirements:

What does the legislation and other statutory instruments include about the matter under consideration? (Include an extract of the relevant section's wording of the legislation – please do not just quote the section number as that is of no assistance to Councillors)

The proposed program fulfills the requirements of the State's Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011

Extracts below:

Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011

3 Objects of Act

The objects of this Act are the following—

- a) to promote waste avoidance and reduction, and resource recovery and efficiency actions;
- b) to reduce the consumption of natural resources and minimise the disposal of waste by encouraging waste avoidance and the recovery, re-use and recycling of waste;

- c) to minimise the overall impact of waste generation and disposal;
- d) to ensure a shared responsibility between government, business and industry and the community in waste management and resource recovery;
- e) to support and implement national frameworks, objectives and priorities for waste management and resource recovery.

9 Meaning of waste and resource management hierarchy

The waste and resource management hierarchy is the following precepts, listed in the preferred order in which waste and resource management options should be considered

- (a) AVOID unnecessary resource consumption;
- (b) REDUCE waste generation and disposal;
- (c) RE-USE waste resources without further manufacturing;
- (d) RECYCLE waste resources to make the same or different products;
- (e) RECOVER waste resources, including the recovery of energy;
- (f) TREAT waste before disposal, including reducing the hazardous nature of waste;
- (g) DISPOSE of waste only if there is no viable alternative.

Council Policies or Asset Management Plans:

Does Council have a policy, plan or approach ordinarily followed for this type of decision?

What are relevant sections of the policy or plan?

(Quote/insert the relevant section's wording / description within the report)

MARANOA REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Executive Summary

- i. Seek to reduce per capita waste generation by increasing waste diversion and recycling in appropriate stages to work towards state objectives and targets; and
- ii. Development of local reuse options for appropriate diverted materials

Input into the Report & Recommendation:

Have others' views or input been sourced in developing the report and recommendation to Council? (i.e. other than the report author?) What did each say? (Please include consultation with the funding body, any dates of critical importance or updates or approvals required)

Information discussed via telephone with a representative of *Compost Revolution*. Further information was to be emailed through to Council, however to date this has not occurred.

Local re-sale businesses – compost bins/worm farms

Funding Bodies:

Is the project externally funded (or proposed to be)? If so, are there any implications in relation to the funding agreement or grant application. (Please do not just include names)

Not applicable at the time of compiling this report.

This Financial Year's Budget:

Will the matter under consideration impact how much Council collects in income or how much it will spend? How much (\$) ? Is this already included in the budget? (Include the account number and description).

If the matter under consideration has not been included in the budget, where can the funds be transferred from? (Include the account number and description) What will not be done as a result?

The proposed program will impact this years budget, as there were no considerations within the current financial year's budget for a program such as the *Compost Revolution*.

Should Council agree to become a member of the *Compost Revolution*, it will need to consider the percentage incentive for the purchase of compost bins, and the type of bin that would be made available to its residents.

Future Years' Budgets:

Will there need to be a change in future years' budgets to cater for a change in income or increased expenditure as a result of Council's decision? How much (\$)? (e.g. estimate of additional maintenance or operating costs for a new or upgraded project)

There will be a need to change future years budgets should Council wish to participate in a program that would be a financial incentive to its residents when purchasing compost bins and or worm farms.

Impact on Other Individuals or Interested Parties:

Is there anyone who is likely to be particularly interested in or impacted by the decision, or affected by the recommendation if adopted? What would be their key interests or concerns?
(Interested Parties Analysis - IS9001:2015)

Should Council approve the recommendation – there would be a number of residents interested in a program that will reduce waste going to landfill, a number of businesses (Queensland Health/Senex) reducing food waste and other general waste going to landfill.

By reducing waste matter going to landfill, will reduce Council's processing cost of compacting and burying waste at landfill's.

Local re-sale businesses will be interested in the supply of composting and worm farm equipment for the local area, and how they may form a partnership with Council and the community in the process of reducing waste to landfill.

Risks:

What could go wrong if Council makes a decision on this matter? (What is the likelihood of it happening and the consequence if it does) (List each identified risk in a table)

Risk	Description of likelihood & consequences
Financial	Compost Revolution Program – does not support local business Council financial outlay within the community may not result in positive composting by all clients – there is certain processes that must be undertaken to ensure a positive outcome.
Non delivery of equipment	Should Council decide to partner the <i>Compost Revolution Program</i> – loss of purchased equipment within Australia Post is a possibility.

Worm – death	Delivery of live worms through Australia Post potentially high risk – death of worms. Worms need to be kept at a medium temperature and kept moist
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Advice to Council:

What do you think Council should do, based on your skills, qualifications and experience, your knowledge of this and related matters, and the facts contained in the report?

(A summary of what the employee thinks Council needs to hear, not what they think individual Councillors want to hear – i.e. employees must provide sound and impartial advice – the employee's professional opinion)

The *Compost Revolution* does not support local businesses that sell appropriate compost equipment, as such the finances to support the program would be benefiting re-sale business outside the community.

It is more beneficial to encourage a local group, whom will champion ideas within the community to reduce waste going to landfill, of which one program could be similar to that of the Compost Revolution – with the exception that Council would provide a financial incentive to its clients to purchase through local outlets within the Region.

Programs that require funding arrangements may be suitable under the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program – Stream Three. Such programs have the following assessment criteria:

- Contribution to the development of an improved, more robust resource recovery and biofutures industry, for example how the activity will move a project to assist toward Queensland transitioning to a circular economy (40%)
- Viability of the project, for example the applicant has good access to feedstocks and the financial evaluation is sound (20%)
- Project delivery and risk management, for example the applicant is resourced to successfully manage the activity and future stages of the project (25%)
- Value for money, for example the degree to which the project delivers value for money to the Queensland Government through economic, social, environmental and or regional benefits to Queensland (15%).

Recommendation:

What is the 'draft decision' based on the advice to Council?

Does the recommendation suggest a decision contrary to an existing Council policy? If so, for what reason?

(Note: recommendations if adopted by Council become a legal decision of government and therefore must be clear and succinct about the action required by employees (unambiguous)).

Does this recommendation suggest a decision contrary to an existing Council policy? If so, for what reason?

Council has a number of groups that provide advice on programs and or projects, the recommendation falls within this process – is not contrary to Council's policy and or procedures.

Link to Corporate Plan:

Corporate Plan 2018-2023

Strategic Priority 1: Getting the basics right

1.5 Manage waste generated by and delivered to our towns

1.5.2 Extract recyclable materials where it is economical to do so, to minimise waste going to landfill.

Supporting Documentation:

Nil.

Report authorised by:

Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Director - Development, Facilities & Environmental Services