
FRASER COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING NO. 7/20

WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2020

SUBJECT:	WASTE FACILITY NETWORK CONSOLIDATION
DIRECTORATE:	WBW AND WASTE SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DIRECTOR WIDE BAY WATER & WASTE SERVICES, Mark Vanner
AUTHOR:	EXECUTIVE MANAGER WASTE SERVICES, Umur Natus-Yildiz
LINK TO CORPORATE PLAN:	Natural Environment Manage waste in a sustainable way Deliver efficient and sustainable waste management services

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present a proposal to consolidate the waste facility network in a way that maintains Council's agreed levels of service to the Fraser Coast community while delivering significant financial savings.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Fraser Coast Waste Strategy 2019-2029 (Waste Strategy) sets a clear path for the management of waste on the Fraser Coast. The Waste Strategy is aligned to the themes and strategic directions of Council Corporate Plan, particularly focusing on delivering efficient and sustainable waste management services.

Local Government best practice benchmarking outlines that for effective waste services, more than 80 per cent of residents should be located within a 20-minute drive and 95 per cent should be located within a 30-minute drive of a waste facility. These service levels were resolved by Council in previous Waste Strategy, and were adopted in the Fraser Coast Waste Strategy 2019-2029.

Currently 93% of all properties are within a 15-minutes drive of one of Council's current waste facilities, 97% of all properties are within 20-minutes drive and 99% within 30-minutes drive of a current waste facility. Council is therefore providing and funding a level of service in excess of its defined standard.

Two options to consolidate the waste network were explored that still ensure residents on the Fraser Coast have sufficient access to waste facilities, whilst ensuring that Council provides a sustainable waste service to the community at the agreed level of service.

Option 2 is proposed in this report and includes the closure of the Burrum Heads & Yengarie Transfer Stations, and Granville, Tinana and Toogoom Landfills.

Option 2 will ensure Council continue to provide a waste network that achieves a level of service above the adopted service standard (17% above the 20-minute drive, 4% above the 30-minute drive) while delivering annual financial savings of approximately \$410,000.

3. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the consolidation of waste facilities including the closure of Burrum Heads & Yengarie Transfer Stations, and Granville, Tinana and Toogoom Landfills.
2. Approves to cease active landfill operations at Granville, Tinana and Toogoom waste facilities, while retaining the sites as emergency landfills.

4. BACKGROUND & PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

In May 2019, Council endorsed the Waste Strategy 2019-2029. The strategy outlines targets for future waste infrastructure and operational efficiency to name a few. Some of the targets outlined include identifying the best value for money approach for a waste facility that services the Hervey Bay region; increase the level of resource recovery at Council's resource recovery facilities and improve customers experience and transaction throughput at Council waste facilities.

The Waste Strategy sets a level of service for access to a waste facility at the local government best practice benchmark. This service standard requires that more than 80 per cent of residents are located within a 20-minute drive and 95 per cent are within a 30-minute drive of a waste facility.

The Waste Strategy in its Action 1.3 'Equitable service delivery across the region' includes the closure of the Burrum Heads Transfer Station and to perform a drive time analysis of waste facilities to inform decisions on any changes to the remaining waste network.

Three options have been considered in relation to providing a value for money waste facility network that services the Fraser Coast Region, as well as improving customers experience and transaction through Council Waste Facilities. These options included:

Continue to operate all existing Waste Facilities

Retain the existing waste facilities as they are within the Fraser Coast Region. This option has no additional operational impact on existing services and continues to exceed the local government best practice benchmarking by far. (see Attachment 2 – slide 7)

Option 1 - Closure of Burrum Heads, Granville and Tinana Waste Facilities

Closure of these three facilities will continue to exceed the service level requirements for the Fraser Coast Community as 99% of properties on the Fraser Coast will still be within a 30-minute drive of a waste facility.

The impact socially for closing these sites will result in 6.4% of the total transactions completed on the Fraser Coast across the three sites in 2019 will now need to be completed at remaining 8 sites. Financially the closure of these sites will result in savings of approximately \$260,000 per annum (see Attachment 2 - slides 6 and 8).

Option 2 - Closure of Burrum Heads & Yengarie Transfer Stations and Granville, Tinana and Toogoom Landfills.

Closure of these five facilities will continue to provide a network that exceeds the service level requirements for the Fraser Coast Community as 97% of properties will be within a 20-minute drive and 99% of properties on the Fraser Coast will still be within a 30-minute drive of a waste facility. The impact socially for closing these sites will result in 9% of the total transactions

completed on the Fraser Coast across the five sites will now need to be completed at the remaining six sites. Financially the closure of these sites will result in savings of approximately \$410,000 per annum (see Attachment 2 - slides 6 and 9).

5. PROPOSAL

Option 2 - Closure of Burrum Heads and Yengarie Transfer Stations and Granville, Tinana and Toogoom Landfills has been recommended in this report. Not only will this deliver a significant financial saving for the community through the waste operations budget; existing infrastructure can be distributed to the remaining sites to increase waste and recycling stream disposable options; and operational staff will then have capacity to improve the customer experience at the remaining waste facilities.

The report also recommends that landfill operations be discontinued at the Tinana, Toogoom and Granville landfills, with the sites to be retained as possible emergency landfill sites for disaster events. Standard closed landfill remediation activities will be required.

It is also worth noting that these five sites were closed during the COVID 19 period. The Waste Services team successfully managed the increased operational requirements and traffic flow at the remaining sites, whilst ensuring the overall customer experience was not compromised. This recent experience provides solace in the fact the community and Council is able to manage waste services on the Fraser Coast whilst reducing the number of active waste facilities.

6. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Option 2 will result in more than \$410,000 operational saving per annum.

The operational savings include the individual site management fees, materials purchased for the sites and waste transfers and were taken from 18/19 financial year actuals. Council staff time, IT, Communications, and other overheads have not been included in the site saving estimates. The Council resources allocated to the maintenance of these sites will undertake some of the works previously completed by contractors at the remaining sites. (see Attachment 2 – slide 5)

A review of the existing contracts for Site Management (Resource Recovery Contract) and Waste Collections (Collections Contract) outlines that formal notice of the closures is to be provided in writing, however no specifications around minimum notice periods is outlined.

7. POLICY & LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Waste Network Consolidation assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Theme 1 – Planning Future Waste Infrastructure of the adopted Fraser Coast Waste Strategy 2019-2029.

The outcome of the network consolidation will maintain a network in excess of the adopted service standard with 90% of all properties within a 15-minute drive of a waste facility, 97% within a 20-minute drive, and 99% within a 30-minute drive.

8. CRITICAL DATES & IMPLEMENTATION

In preparation for the closures, the preferred closure date for the sites will be 3 months from the time Council approves the proposal. This will allow sufficient time for community communication to take place, as well as enable the Waste Services team to re-allocate resources and prepare the

sites for closure. Further information on the draft Communications plan is outlined in Attachment 4 as well as the attached closure plan for site closure plan Attachment 3.

9. CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place within Council Waste Services team regarding budgetary implications, environmental impacts, contracts, timing, maintenance at each site and customer reaction. The options were presented in Council's Concept forum on 3 June 2020 (see Attachment 2).

On 19 June 2020 the Wide Bay Water Advisory Committee resolved to endorse the proposed Option 2 consolidation of the Fraser Coast Waste Facilities Network.

10. CONCLUSION

The proposal reduction of waste facilities will enable Council to continue to meet the community waste service requirements, whilst meeting the objectives and targets set within the Fraser Coast Waste Strategy 2019-2029. There is also a financial benefit to the community with a reduction in the operational expenses to manage these sites.

11. ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - Map Comparison #4068374
2. Attachment 2 - Presentation to the Council Forum 3 June 2020 #4061095
3. Attachment 3 - Closure /Operational Plan #4068000
4. Attachment 4 - Draft Communications Plan #4065525