



MINUTE OF THE MAYOR

Dated: 24 February 2020

RE: Diverting Food Waste from Landfill

As Councillors would be aware, until recently Council paid to have household waste separated so that food scraps and other compostable material could be turned into a compost-like product used for landscaping. This process is known as alternative waste technology (AWT).

In October 2019, the State Government banned the re-use of the compost-like product and since then all residential red-bin waste has been sent to landfill. While this situation was not ideal, Council had little choice, as all alternative waste technology contractors had the same ban in place.

A recent audit of North Sydney's waste bins found that, on average, food waste comprised 40% of the bin contents. The only feasible alternative for diverting a significant proportion of our residential bin waste away from landfill is by extracting that food organic waste out of the red bin and collecting and transporting it to a dedicated food waste facility located at Camelia (Western Sydney).

I have been advised that community food waste recycling bins, located in public areas, are being used in other countries. While I can foresee problems with this type of bin in a public space in North Sydney, it may be possible to implement an organic waste bin for apartment blocks or small groups of committed residents.

I believe that Council should examine ways to improve our landfill diversion rate and a food waste collection trial with our residents should be explored. I am therefore proposing that Council staff investigate the options.

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** staff prepare a report on the options for conducting a food waste diversion trial that:
 - a.** includes information on costs and likely community interest to participate in a trial; and
 - b.** includes details on any smart phone applications that could be used to allow residents to express an interest in food waste collection in their street.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**