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MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL DELIVERING MORE WASTE SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Coonamble Shire Council will directly operate the kerbside garbage collection service throughout the Shire from 1 July, rather than through a contractor.

This will give the service greater responsiveness to customer's needs and mean the Shire will have a single, integrated service from collection to landfill.

The move to direct operation of the kerbside collection is one of the many changes Council has made to waste service operations since December 2023.

The most significant has been improvements to the Coonamble landfill site that Council took over at that time. The site has seen dramatic changes, including major tidy up, more effective management of different waste types and better environmental compliance.

Mayor Tim Horan said, "Council is pleased with the significant improvements in our waste service operations over the past four months. The transformation of the landfill site has been amazing to watch and something we should all be proud of."

The change of kerbside collection from a private contractor to in-house collection is the next major improvement to be implemented.

"This will give us greater control and the ability to deliver further operational improvements", the Mayor said. "It will also mean we will have one integrated operation between waste collection and the landfill, allowing us to control and enhance the end-to-end waste process."

All businesses and households receiving Council kerbside garbage collection services will shortly receive a letter advising that the services will be provided by Council rather than a contractor from 1 July 2024.

Letters to businesses and households will specify the number of bins currently registered and being paid for collection, advising that only this number of bins will be collected unless Council is advised of any additional services wanted.

Council conducted a review of waste and recycling in 2023 and adopted a range of strategies to improve operations.

This included the establishment of regular audits to better align service charges with the actual services provided and used by customers.

The initial audit revealed that some businesses and residents are putting out more bins for collection than they are paying for. In addition, some businesses are receiving a second weekly collection service that they are not paying for. This is unfair on other residents and businesses whose rates must make up the shortfall.

Businesses and owners will be advised of the current number of paid weekly bin services for each property. They will be given the option of either paying for any additional services or advising Council that they no longer want any additional unpaid services.

General Manager Paul Gallagher said “Council’s waste operations will be continuously improved, and this is another important step on that journey.”

“Our funds are always scarce and we must ensure ratepayers get value for money and that our operations are as efficient and effective as possible.”

Community input is welcome through the ‘Have Your Say’ link on the homepage of Council’s website.

Paul Gallagher
GENERAL MANAGER