

MM-4 MAYORAL MINUTE - COUNCIL'S BULK WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I would like to bring to Council's attention information pertaining to our bulk household waste collection service following recent issues experienced in Rhodes.

In 2014 Council formed a Waste Steering Committee to inform and determine any changes (to the then existing waste collections services) that should be included in the current waste collection services contract which commenced in October 2015.

The Committee determined a waste consultancy firm should be engaged to consult with the community to inform changes to the bulk household waste collection service. Residents unanimously responded that they did not want any fee increase to services however they did seek an increase to the current bi-annual bulk household collection. As a result Council proposed a number of possible changes to the bi-annual collection within the 2014 Waste Collection Services Tender that was awarded to SUEZ in mid-2015 for a period of 9 years and 9 months, ending in June 2025.

Upon review of resident comments from the 2014 community consultation, the Waste Steering Committee determined the most appropriate way forward was to increase the bi-annual collection to three collections with an additional user pays collection service after a 'bedding down period' of 6 months for the new waste collection services contractor. Due to impending Council amalgamations changes to the bulk household collection were placed on hold in 2016. In 2017 the State Government announced that the City of Canada Bay would no longer merge with neighbouring Burwood and Strathfield Councils. As a result of the announcement Council staff commenced negotiation with SUEZ with a view of implementing an increase to the service in 2018.

In areas that accommodate large estates and multi-unit developments, the volume of bulk household waste generated is understandably far greater due to population density and the popularity of the service. In such areas, Council has sourced additional collection vehicles from the waste collection contractor to ensure the collection is undertaken within a shorter period.

As Council would be aware, the volume and placement of bulk household waste in Rhodes, has recently been highlighted by the media. Several properties placed bulk items that were not in keeping with Council guidelines provided to residents and as such the placements hindered pedestrian access. In response to this issue, Council approached building managers and initial investigations indicate cleaners from certain developments were responsible for a large amount of bulk items placed on the footway for collection.

To assist building managers, residents and cleaners within multi-storey developments, Council will produce additional educational materials outlining expectations for when bulk household waste items are presented on the street and the goods that can be included. We are also exploring, where possible, to collect bulk items from residential basement carpark areas and will provide additional trucks slightly earlier than the scheduled collection to collect any bulk items placed outside early.

The collection of the recent bulk household waste in Rhodes was completed within the agreed timeframes with Council's waste contractor.

In the third quarter of 2017, Council commenced a review of its Development Control Plan (DCP) waste controls, which includes bulk household waste storage and collection, to ensure Council's waste controls reflect world best practice. We are expecting a number of submissions from waste professionals, with the full review expected to be completed within 2018.

We will continue working with our current waste collection contractor in reviewing the bulk household collection.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive and note the report.