

Item ** Review of Warrumbungle Waste

Division:	Development Services
Management Area:	Regulatory Services
Author:	Director Development Services – Leeanne Ryan
CSP Key Focus Area:	Public Infrastructure and Services
Priority:	PI8 Local communities have access to effective waste and recycling services

Reason for Report

This report provides information on a business improvement review undertaken internally on Warrumbungle Waste. Key areas examined under the review include transfer station arrangements, green waste management, scrap metal, commercial recycling collections and CDS (Container Deposit Scheme) arrangements.

Background

Warrumbungle Waste is a business arm of Council that is responsible for managing Council's waste services across the Shire. Prior resolutions of Council resolved that all waste collections and transfers be undertaken in-house; apart from recent changes to putrescible waste transfers from transfer stations at Baradine, Binnaway, Ulamambri, Mendooran, Coolah and Dunedoo to the landfill in Coonabarabran, all being carried out by the local contractors Coona Waste Disposals under the Skip Bin Contract.

The waste services provided by Council have altered significantly over the previous years with changes introduced to the delivery of waste services across the Shire in line with industry standards. These changes include swapping blue recycling crates with yellow lidded bins, co-mingled recycling being sorted via a material handling facility (MHF), and extraction of the container deposit scheme (CDS) items under the Return and Earn state government initiative.

Issues

As part of the review a number of key areas were considered; and are discussed individually in further detail as part of this report – these being:

1. Transfers stations – a review of current opening hours, supervision, and costs.
2. Green waste – a review of future management.
3. Scrap Metal – a review of future management.
4. Commercial recycling collections – a review of future management.
5. CDS – a review of future management

1. Transfer Stations

Opening hours

Council's transfer stations have designated opening hours and are supervised by waste services staff. The opening times for each transfer station vary and are as outlined in the following Table 1.

Table 1: Opening Days and Times for Council's Transfer Stations

Transfer Station	Days and Opening Times	Hours per week	Hours per year
Baradine	Tuesday 9.00 – 12.00 Thursday 9.00 – 12.00 Saturday 8.30 – 4.30*	13.5	702
Binnaway	Tuesday 2.00 – 5.00 Thursday 2.00 – 5.00 Sunday 8.30 – 4.30*	13.5	702
Coonabarabran Landfill and Recycling Centre	Monday 8.00 – 4.30 Tuesday 8.00 – 4.30 Wednesday 8.00 – 4.30 Thursday 8.00 – 4.30 Friday 8.00 – 4.30 Saturday 8.00 – 5.00^ Sunday 8.00 – 5.00^	84	4,368
Coolah	Monday 9.00 – 12.00 Wednesday 8.30 – 4.30* Saturday 8.30 – 4.30*	18	936
Dunedoo	Monday 2.30 – 4.30 Tuesday 2.30 – 4.30 Wednesday 2.30 – 4.30 Thursday 2.30 – 4.30 Friday 2.30 – 4.30 Sunday 8.30 – 4.30*	17.5	910
Mendooran	Monday 2.00 – 5.00 Tuesday 2.00 – 5.00 Sunday 8.30 – 4.30*	13.5	702
Ulamambri	Wednesday 8.00 – 12.00 Saturday 12.00 – 4.00	8	416

Note: *closed for lunch between 12.00 – 12.30

^closed for lunch between 12.00 – 1.00

In 2012 Council resolved to supervise transfer stations and restrict opening hours at Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran. At the time of closure, visitation patterns were studied for each site to determine appropriate opening hours for each communities needs. As a result the opening hours for each site were adopted and still exist today as demonstrated in Table 1 above.

The lunch break closing times differ, with Coonabarabran Landfill and Recycling Centre closing for an hour for lunch, whereas the other sites close for half an hour.

Coonabarabran is open earlier and closes later than the other sites, and experiences higher utilisation rates particularly more so now with the over the counter collection point relating to CDS. With one staff member supervising the centre over the weekend, it provides sufficient break-time for the staff member to eat lunch and take toilet breaks as no relief staff member is available on weekends.

During 2017, statistics were recorded for the number of patrons utilising each transfer station, unfortunately the times of the visits were not recorded. Table 2 provides the number of visits per year at each transfer station during 2017/18 and the average number of visits per hour.

Table 2: Transfer station visits during 2017/18

Transfer Station	2017/18 (# of visits per year)	Average visits per hour
Baradine	2,950	4.2
Binnaway	2,766	3.9
Coolah	3,460	3.6
Dunedoo	4,016	4.4
Mendooran	2,234	3.1
Ulamambri	766	1.8

Operation of the transfer stations during specific opening hours incurs costs to the waste business such as wages, plant hire, utility costs and infrastructure maintenance. A breakdown of the costs incurred by each transfer station for 2018/19, 2017/18 and 2016/17 financial years is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Transfer station costs for the past 3 years

2018/19 Transfer Station Costs (for the financial year)						
Transfer Station	Wages (includes O/T and casuals)	Plant Hire	Utilities	Infrast. Main.	Contracts	TOTAL
Baradine	\$52,446	\$27,363	\$1,781	\$2,095	\$21,564	\$105,249
Binnaway	\$67,501	\$24,730	\$0	\$5,258	\$18,180	\$115,669
Coolah	\$57,143	\$19,893	\$1,954	\$215	\$34,643	\$113,848
Dunedoo	\$45,398	\$8,132	\$4,557	\$110	\$34,552	\$92,749
Mendooran	\$47,018	\$8,945	\$1,278	\$2,703	\$30,704	\$90,648
Ulamambri	\$20,206	\$3,937	\$0	\$0	\$12,120	\$36,263
TOTAL	\$289,712	\$93,000	\$9,570	\$10,381	\$151,763	\$554,426

2017/18 Transfer Station Costs (for the financial year)						
Transfer Station	Wages (includes O/T and casuals)	Plant Hire	Utilities	Infrast. Main.	Contracts	TOTAL
Baradine	\$52,509	\$17,479	\$184	\$0	\$0	\$70,172
Binnaway	\$67,038	\$27,735	\$0	\$268	\$373	\$95,414
Coolah	\$58,777	\$19,804	\$416	\$3,110	\$1,598	\$83,705
Dunedoo	\$71,476	\$18,071	\$5,111	\$992	\$0	\$95,650
Mendooran	\$48,289	\$14,678	\$132	\$0	\$0	\$63,099
Ulamambri	\$24,185	\$1,998	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$26,183
TOTAL	\$322,274	\$99,765	\$5,843	\$4,370	\$1,971	\$434,223

2016/17 Transfer Station Costs (for the financial year)						
Transfer Station	Wages (includes O/T and casuals)	Plant Hire	Utilities	Infrast. Main.	Contracts	TOTAL
Baradine	\$48,410	\$10,183	\$188	\$0	\$0	\$58,781
Binnaway	\$64,016	\$20,576	\$0	\$0	\$909	\$85,501
Coolah	\$57,836	\$14,186	\$942	\$0	\$1,894	\$74,858
Dunedoo	\$60,634	\$14,744	\$6,273	\$105	\$1,864	\$83,620
Mendooran	\$46,040	\$11,231	\$136	\$0	\$1,591	\$58,998
Ulamambri	\$29,630	\$5,746	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,376
TOTAL	\$306,566	\$76,666	\$7,539	\$105	\$6,258	\$397,134

Table 4: Average cost per hour to run transfer stations per town during the past 3 years

Average cost per hour to run transfers stations during 2018/19			
Transfer Station	Cost per year	Hours open per year	Cost per hour
Baradine	\$105,249	702	\$149.92
Binnaway	\$115,669	702	\$164.77
Coolah	\$113,848	936	\$121.63
Dunedoo	\$92,749	910	\$101.92
Mendooran	\$90,648	702	\$129.13
Ulamambri	\$36,263	416	\$87.17

Average cost per hour to run transfer stations during 2017/18					
Transfer Station	Cost per year	Hours open per year	Cost per hour	# of visits for the year (as per Table 2)	Cost per visit
Baradine	\$70,172	702	\$99.96	2,950	\$23.78
Binnaway	\$95,414	702	\$135.91	2,766	\$34.49
Coolah	\$83,705	936	\$89.42	3,460	\$24.19
Dunedoo	\$95,650	910	\$105.10	4,016	\$23.81
Mendooran	\$63,099	702	\$89.88	2,234	\$28.24
Ulamambri	\$26,183	416	\$62.93	766	\$34.18

Average cost per hour to run transfers stations during 2016/17			
Transfer Station	Cost per year	Hours open per year	Cost per hour
Baradine	\$58,781	702	\$83.73
Binnaway	\$85,501	702	\$121.79
Coolah	\$74,858	936	\$79.97
Dunedoo	\$83,620	910	\$91.89
Mendooran	\$58,998	702	\$84.04
Ulamambri	\$35,376	416	\$85.03

From the above Table 1 it can be viewed that Coolah Transfer Station opens the most hours out of the transfer stations at 18 hours per week and Dunedoo is very similar at 17.5 hours per week.

Ulamambri has the lowest opening hours at 8 hours per week.

Table 2 demonstrates that visitation at Dunedoo is the highest with 4,016 patrons for the year during 2017/18, and Coolah at 3,460 is well utilised by the community.

On the other hand, Ulamambri is the least utilised with 766 visits for the year.

Table 3 and Table 4 provide costs of running the transfer stations for the past three years. Higher costs are identified during 2018/19 and can be attributed to the contract for

use of skip bins at the transfer stations. During 2016/17 and 2017/18 skips bins were not utilised and were reintroduced as of May 2018.

Fluctuations in costs across the transfer stations during the three (3) year period can be attributed to additional plant and staff required during times of fire outbreaks in green waste piles, installation of firebreaks and tidying up onsite as required.

The initial requirement for Dunedoo to be open on more days than the other transfer stations was due to the site being utilised as a recycling centre. As recycling and sorting were relocated to the MHF in Coonabarabran during 2017, specific sorting and baling of recycling no longer occurs at Dunedoo. The opening times at Dunedoo should be reviewed and are able to be consolidated.

In place of recycling, Dunedoo's recycling centre now supports a CDS collection point that is accessed regularly by the community in the southern end of the Shire and surrounds. Since inception of the CDS approximately 50,000 containers per month have been collected at Dunedoo. Dunedoo currently opens for 6 days a week. Providing the facility is open for 8 hours on the weekend and 10 hours during the week to meet the requirements of our CDS arrangement with Tomra Cleanaway, Council is able to modify the opening hours to limit the days, but retain the same amount of hours. It is noted the site closes for ½ hr lunch on Sunday at present giving 7.5hrs public access instead of 8. This was initially not factored into the CDS arrangements and needs to be rectified. Consolidation of the hours will assist with staffing of the facility and will provide similar service and opening days to the other transfers stations within the Shire.

Ulamambri transfer station is located 16 kms from Coonabarabran. Given the low visitation rates and the cost to keep it manned and open, closure of the Ulamambri Transfer Station should be considered by Council. Discussions with the skip bin contractor will need to be undertaken as the Ulamambri Transfer Station is included in the Skip Bin Contract. Users of the Ulamambri Transfer Station will be able to access the Coonabarabran Landfill and Recycling Centre to dispose of their wastes and recycling.

Opening hours of the other sites (apart from Ulamambri and Dunedoo) should remain the same due to patronage levels.

Proposal

1. Closure of Ulamambri Transfer Station to be undertaken during the 2020/2021 financial year.
2. Opening hours for Dunedoo to be modified to less days, but opening for 18 hours per week instead of 17.5 hours as follows;
Sunday: 8.00 – 4.30 closed ½hr for lunch (8hrs)
Tuesday: 9.00 – 11.00 (2hrs)
Thursday: 8.00 – 4.30 closed ½hr for lunch (8hrs)
3. Opening hours for the Transfer Stations at Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah and Mendooran to remain the same as current.

Supervision of transfer stations

As part of the review for waste services, consideration was given as to whether each transfer station should continue to be supervised or not. To gauge industry standard, contact was made with a number of Council's across the region, and Table 5 below provides information from the Councils contacted and the configuration of their waste facilities.

Table 5: Other Council Waste Facilities – supervised or not and problems noted

Council	Facility Name	Type of facility	Opening Times	Supervision
Mid Western	Mudgee	Transfer station Landfill MRF	Mon – Fri (8.00am – 5.30pm) Sat – Sun (8.00am – 5.00pm)	Yes – supervised
	Gulgong	Transfer Station	Mon – Fri (8.00am – 4.30pm) Sat – Sun (8.00am – 5.00pm)	Yes – supervised
	Kandos	Transfer Station	Mon – Fri (8.00am – 4.30pm) Sat – Sun (8.00am – 5.00pm)	Yes - supervised
	Birriwa	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day, with key access available from Gulgong.	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Goolma	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Ulan	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Home Rule	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Wollar	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Bylong	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day, with key access available from Kandos.	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Cooyal	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Queens Pinch	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Lue	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Hargraves	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos

	Windeyer	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
	Ilford	Transfer Station	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, constant problems with mess and asbestos
Gilgandra	Gilgandra	Waste Facility	Mon-Fri (9.00am to 5.00pm) Sat, Sun (10.00am to 4.00pm)	Yes – supervised
Parkes	Parkes	Waste Disposal Facility	Mon-Fri (9.00am to 5.00pm) Sat, Sun (10.00am to 4.00pm)	Yes – supervised
	Peak Hill	Transfer Station	Mon-Fri (9.00am to 5.00pm) Sat, Sun (10.00am to 4.00pm)	Yes - supervised
	Alectown	Landfill	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, but identified in strategy for change over to supervised transfer station
	Bogan Gate	Landfill	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, but identified in strategy for change over to supervised transfer station
	Gunningbland	Landfill	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, but identified in strategy for change over to supervised transfer station
	Yarrabandai	Landfill	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, but identified in strategy for change over to supervised transfer station
	Trundle	Landfill	7 days week 24 hours/day	Not supervised, but identified in strategy for change over to supervised transfer station

Problems faced by Council's with unsupervised sites include;

- Fires – leading to issues with EPA
- Dumping of hazardous materials (mainly asbestos) on a regular basis.
- Wastes dumped well in front of the tipping area and not in designated areas.
- Wastes not separated and recyclables co-mingled with putrescible materials.
- Sites are open to abuse and dumping of incorrect material types is rife.
- Scavengers climb in bins and throw stuff out.
- Planning is underway for several sites to be supervised in the near future.

One particular Council has a full-time clean-up crew travelling around their Shire dealing with the untidy state of their unsupervised transfer stations.

Changes to asbestos legislation in the near future with the draft NSW Asbestos Waste Strategy 2018-22 will introduce more stringent controls for asbestos waste material such as larger fines and jail time for illegal dumpers, if caught. The draft strategy seeks greater involvement from Council's to assist management of asbestos through various means such as creating more practical options for safe and lawful asbestos waste

disposal, seeking cheaper ways to lawfully dispose of asbestos waste, raise awareness, increase education and change behaviour of asbestos waste generators, and closing loopholes on operators who do the wrong thing.

Unsupervised transfer stations may provide an avenue for illegally dumped asbestos waste to be passed onto Council, in essence making Council responsible for the product once it is on our land.

Council has had a number of occurrences of illegally dumped asbestos at our transfer stations since the introduction of the after hours access for facility users via the “holes in walls” structures.

Overall, the supervision of Council’s transfer stations is operating satisfactorily and should continue if Council is prepared to continue accept the costs to the waste business as outlined in Tables 3 and 4.

Proposal

For supervision to continue at Council’s transfer stations.

2. Green Waste

Increasing green waste piles at transfer stations and the landfill are problematic due to risk of fires in the summer months. In the 2018/19 Budget Council provided an allowance for green waste management. For the first time, Council registered an interest with Netwaste for inclusion in bulk tendering for chipping services. The tender was granted in November 2018, and Council placed a service request for chipping of Council’s green waste stockpiles. As of mid January 2020 all green waste piles had been chipped at all Council’s waste facilities.

The introduction of green bins for green waste collection at kerbside is an area that requires considering in the future. The inclusion of a green waste pick up service via 240l wheelie bins could be costed for future budget considerations.

Proposal

A greenwaste pick up service via 240lt wheelie bins be investigated and costed across the LGA.

3. Scrap Metal

Scrap metal piles at Council’s transfer stations and landfill contain considerable amounts of scrap metal. Due to very low prices for scrap metal over the past years Council has opted to stockpile reserves and not to cash in scrap metal until prices increased.

At present, the price for scrap metal is increasing. During low times, the price can plummet to \$20/tonne, and during high times is known to reach in the vicinity of \$120/tonne.

With the price currently increasing, it is timely for Council to consider sale of the stockpiles. This in turn will raise waste income, and assist to tidy the waste sites in each community.

Proposal

That Council authorise the General Manager to negotiate sale of scrap metal reserves from Council’s waste sites, with income going back to Warrumbungle Waste.

4. Commercial Recycling

Collection of commercial recycling is undertaken by Council's waste staff. The general procedure for collection is labour intensive and requires staff to collect woolpacks full of recyclable materials from commercial businesses and relocate to the MHF in Coonabarabran. Woolpacks are dragged or lifted onto a hydraulic tailgate lifter attached to a small truck, and stacked for transport. The manual collection service is offered to all towns within the Shire and requires waste staff to pick up from business premises. The runs are as follows;

Southern

Coolah – Monday, Wednesday

Dunedoo – Tuesday, Thursday

Northern

Binnaway – Monday

Coonabarabran – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Baradine – Monday, Wednesday, Friday

The commercial recycling runs are undertaken separately in the south and north. One waste officer utilising a small truck is allocated to the northern run, and one operator and truck in the south.

Commercial recycling costs for the last three years are provided below in Table 6.

Table 6: Commercial recycling costs for 2018/19, 2017/18 and 2016/17

Commercial Recycling Costs 2018/19			
Location	Wages (includes O/T and casuals)	Plant Hire	TOTAL
Baradine	\$14,934	\$8,046	\$22,980
Binnaway	\$5,431	\$2,682	\$8,113
Coonabarabran	\$32,585	\$21,457	\$54,042
Coolah	\$14,968	\$11,460	\$26,428
Dunedoo	\$13,202	\$4,806	\$18,008
Mendooran	\$4,060	\$3,203	\$7,263
TOTAL	\$85,180	\$51,654	\$136,834

Commercial Recycling Costs 2017/18			
Location	Wages (includes O/T and casuals)	Plant Hire	TOTAL
Baradine	\$5,854	\$4,010	\$9,864
Binnaway	\$2,102	\$1,006	\$3,108
Coonabarabran	\$25,962	\$17,964	\$43,926
Coolah	\$18,476	\$12,560	\$31,036
Dunedoo	\$11,827	\$7,095	\$18,922
Mendooran	\$6,259	\$3,097	\$9,356
TOTAL	\$70,480	\$45,732	\$116,212

Commercial Recycling Costs 2016/17			
Location	Wages (includes O/T and casuals)	Plant Hire	TOTAL
Baradine	\$4,653	\$2,729	\$7,382
Binnaway	\$1,619	\$759	\$2,378

Coonabarabran	\$26,771	\$17,690	\$44,461
Coolah	\$22,445	\$14,126	\$36,571
Dunedoo	\$9,423	\$6,440	\$15,863
Mendooran	\$7,115	\$5,001	\$12,116
TOTAL	\$72,026	\$46,745	\$118,771

Commercial recycling costs over the past three years cost on average \$123,939 per year, with the 18/19 financial year costing \$136,834.

As per Council's 2018/19 Operational Plan and Delivery Program, commercial recycling collection incurs a charge of \$223 per year, with the residential recycling collection charge being included in the residential putrescible waste collection fee. According to the plan the commercial recycling charge is incurred by 329 users. Those users of the commercial service incur one commercial charge with unlimited amounts of recyclable materials being placed out for collection by Council staff.

In accordance with 2018/19 Budget Council incurred charges valued at \$73,367 for commercial recycling, and expended \$85,180 in wages to provide the collection service. Plant costs have been omitted from commercial recycling charges in previous years leading to an additional \$51,654 being incurred during the last financial year. This has led to a shortfall in income to cover the cost of the service for at least the past three years.

On this basis, for Council to continue providing commercial recycling in its current format, the annual charge would need to be increased to meet the costs to provide the service. Meaning the service is likely to require increasing upwards to at least \$416 to cover costs; an estimated increase of \$193 per user (based on the 2018/19 financial year and does not include increases relating to CPI and award increases as expected in the following years.

The commercial recycling service utilising woolpacks is very labour intensive and carries considerable WHS risks associated with manual handling. Staff are required to lift and swap full woolpacks for empty woolpacks increasing risk of work related injury due to lifting heavy articles. Council is seeking to reduce WHS risks from the waste business and limit workers compensation claims. Fortunately, minimal contamination is present amongst the commercial recycled products.

In some instances, businesses have requested yellow lidded mobile garbage bins (MGB) as their recycling collection container. The number of businesses with this arrangement is very minimal (less than 10). For these businesses, their recycling is collected via Council's compactor truck and limits manual handling being a more satisfactory arrangement for Council. The yellow lidded MGB's are emptied from kerbside similar to putrescible waste collection.

If Council provides yellow lidded MGB's instead of woolpacks, the costs could be reduced for local businesses. This would mean that the recycling charge could be similar to that incurred by residential customers whereby the recycling charge is included in their putrescible waste charge. If this was the case, there would be no additional recycling charge for non domestic users or businesses, providing they pay for a putrescible waste charge.

It is proposed that businesses be offered commercial recycling through use of a yellow lidded MGB's; these could be up to 360l in size. The bins could be emptied by Council's compactor truck on a set day for each community in line with residential collections. For

some businesses it maybe impractical to use a yellow lidded MGB, and alternatively, businesses could make their own arrangements to transport commercial recycling to transfer stations.

Transport of commercial recycling from the transfer stations will need to be considered by Council if we opt out of the woolpack service to each business. The increase in commercial recycling at our transfer stations will increase if businesses deliver their own cardboard and recyclables to transfer stations. Many of the large cardboard products will not fit into a yellow lidded MGB, therefore being unable to be collected and transported via compactor truck. Larger recycling items such as cardboard are placed into 1,100l portable skip bins at Council's transfer stations. Staffing levels for collection of commercial recycling will need to be reviewed if the woolpack recycling service is ceased.

Proposal

That Council ceases the supply and collection of woolpacks for commercial recycling during the 20/21 financial year, and commercial businesses be offered yellow-lidded recycling bins that will be collected fortnightly by Council similar to residential recycling arrangements.

5. CDS (Container Deposit Scheme)

Council introduced the CDS into its operations during 2017. The scheme was implemented through collecting eligible items from sorting recycling on the MRF, as well as providing over the counter collection points (one at Dunedoo and the other at Coonabarabran) as part of the daily gate duties undertaken by staff whilst manning the gate at these facilities.

To date the scheme has been very strongly supported and utilised by local residents, as well as attracting usage from residents in surrounding LGA's and across the region.

Aside from undertaking over the counter collections whereby Council receives 3.9c per container, Council also receives income of 10c per item collected from the MRF. CDS income and expenditure for the past two financial years is provided as per the following Table 7.

Table 7: CDS Income and Expenditure for 17/18 and 18/19 Financial Years

Financial Year	Income	Expenditure	Net Result
18/19	\$309,674	\$247,004	\$62,670 Profit
17/18	\$131,884	\$78,572	\$53,312 Profit

Table 7 demonstrates the CDS has generated profits for the last two years in the vicinity of \$50,000 - \$60,000 annually. It is expected that this trend will continue with over the counter sales increasing as acceptance of the scheme is further embraced by the local communities across the LGA and within the region.

At this stage, expenses (as per Table7) reflect the cost to Council for the reimbursement of funds to customers for containers received. The staff member manning the gate at each facility has absorbed the CDS into their daily activities, meaning salaries and wages have remained costed to gate duties and not separated for CDS activities.

It is recommended that Council continue to operate the CDS at the Coonabarabran and Dunedoo Transfer Station.

Proposal

That Council continue to operate the CDS at the Coonabarabran and Dunedoo Transfer Stations.

Financial Considerations

Current Costs and Prior Years

Warrumbungle Waste continues to develop and realign with industry standards, with a number of changes being undertaken over the past years. Some significant changes include the introduction of yellow lidded bins and phasing out of blue recycling crates, introduction of the MRF for sorting co-mingled recyclables and the introduction of the CDS. Budget and expenditure allocations require further coding to precisely reflect operating areas.

Generally, the business over the past four (4) years has trended positively, with losses incurred during 2016 and 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorses the closure of the Ulamambri Transfer Station during the 2020/2021 financial year, with the proposed changes being notified to the community via a public consultation phase for 28 days, and a further report be provided to Council on submissions received after the consultation phase has ended.
2. Endorses the modification of the Dunedoo Transfer Station opening times to three (3) days per week; being eighteen (18) hours in total instead of 17.5 hours as follows;
 - Sunday: 8.00 – 4.30 closed ½hr for lunch (8hrs)
 - Tuesday: 9.00 – 11.00 (2hrs)
 - Thursday: 8.00 – 4.30 closed ½hr for lunch (8hrs)

with the proposed changes being notified to the community via a public consultation phase for 28 days, and a further report be provided to Council on submissions received after the consultation phase has ended.
3. Supports the opening hours for the Transfer Stations at Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah and Mendooran to remain the same as current.
4. Continues to provide supervision at transfer stations during opening hours.
5. Costs and investigates the provision of a green waste pick up service via 240lt wheelie bins within the townships across the LGA.
6. Authorises the General Manager to negotiate sale of scrap metal reserves from Council's waste sites, with income going back to Warrumbungle Waste.
7. Endorses the cessation of the service to supply and collect woolpacks for commercial recycling during the 2020/2021 financial year, with commercial businesses be offered yellow-lidded recycling bins that will be collected fortnightly by Council similar to residential recycling arrangements, with the proposed changes being notified to the community via a public consultation phase for 28 days, and a further report be provided to Council on submissions received after the consultation phase has ended.

8. Continues to operate the CDS (Container Deposit Scheme) at the Coonabarabran Waste and Recycling Centre and Dunedoo Transfer Station.