

ORDINARY MEETING 16 DECEMBER 2014	6.1
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NOTICE OF MOTION – CR CAREY

WASTE COLLECTION NORTH OF THE DAINTREE RIVER

NOTICE OF MOTION

I hereby give notice of my intention to move the following motion at Council's Ordinary Meeting to be held on Tuesday 16 December 2014:-

“That a comprehensive assessment and costing of a full hard waste collection service for both residential and commercial properties north of the Daintree River be carried out with a view to offering a compulsory service to all occupied properties north of the river with the application of a full cost recovery garbage collection charge applied to each property receiving a service.

That this assessment and costing be completed within a time frame which will permit consultation with the communities north of the river so that the Council is in a position to make a decision, based on the results of the consultation, whether or not to implement the collection service and charging regime with effect from 1 July 2015.”

BACKGROUND

One of the initiatives in the 2013/14 operational plan related to waste a collection service north of the river as follows:

Ref	Action	Additional resource requirements	Key Performance Indicator/Target	Timeframe	Responsible Officer
OM1	<i>Investigate options for waste collection and disposal from domestic/commercial properties north of the Daintree River</i>	NIL	<i>Development of a sustainable waste strategy that meets the needs of council, the communities and legislation.</i>	31/5/2014	GMO

In order to pursue this initiative a waste collection service was offered on an “opt in” basis to commercial properties only.

The communication from the Council's administration to businesses when the service was initially offered was as follows (shown in **blue font**):

I am writing to you as your business has been identified as a potential user of a commercial garbage collection service in the area north of the Daintree River. Council is aware of the difficulties that have been experienced by businesses and government agencies needing to transport and dispose of the larger volumes of waste generated at your premises. Council officers have been negotiating with Cleanaway to provide a commercial collection.

Cleanaway believe that they can offer a collection in the area north of the Daintree River in line with the following:-

A low and high season rate has been costed, based on one collection per week and supply of the necessary bins.

1.1m bulk bin - High Season is \$48.00 and Low season will be \$57.00.

240litre bins - \$18.00.

Understandably there will be more bins serviced in the high season allowing for the lower rate. Cleanaway does need a commitment from businesses and a certain volume of waste to make the collection viable. The collection and payment for the collection would be between Cleanaway and the business owner. Disposal cost is negotiated between Cleanaway and Council.

If you are interested in the proposed collection or have any questions please contact Joel Burgess, Territory Manager, Transpacific Industries Group Ltd

P: + 61 7 4046 7400

E: Joel.Burgess@transpac.com.au | www.cleanaway.com.au

Or alternatively contact me on the following email address: enquiries@douglas.qld.gov.au

When Cleanaway and Council are able to gauge whether the necessary level of interest in the proposal exists, then the necessary steps can be undertaken to progress the collection.

Kind regards

Paul Hoyer | General Manager Operations

The commercial waste collection “experiment” has failed primarily due to a lack of take up by businesses.

I have formed the view the “opt in” option clearly wasn’t enticing enough to generate enough interest.

The consequence of this is that the service has now ceased altogether with the result that even the hand full of businesses which did “opt in” are now without a service. The status quo as at January 1 2014 is now resumed.

In a report to the Council of 15 July 2014 it was stated as follows in respect of this initiative:

“Options were presented to Council via a workshop held June 10, 2014. Liaison with contractor and review of operations is continuing”.

It seems that there is now no service left to continue to review.

The above action OM1 required investigation of options for both residential and commercial properties. When I last discussed this initiative with the General Manager Operations some months ago he indicated that he wanted to start out with a commercial collection to try to at least get the rubbish truck travelling across the river. A sort of “toe in the water” approach.

Given it is clear that this “toe in the water” approach, which by the way I can readily accept as a reasonable initial approach, hasn’t worked, it is now appropriate to consider a different approach.

The next step in my opinion is for a comprehensive assessment and costing of a full collection service for both residential and commercial properties to be carried out with a view to offering a compulsory service to all occupied properties north of the river with a requirement to pay a full cost recovery garbage charge like the majority of us do south of the river. That is, a one in all in service.

The provision of a rubbish collection service to residents over the river is important from both a social and environmental perspective.

CEO’S COMMENT:

Council staff will prepare a report to bring back to Council in late February/early March on the ability of the current contractor to carry out a residential/commercial collection north of Forest Creek (Forest Creek has a current collection). The report will include a cost component. Council should be aware that the nature of the overhanging vegetation and road condition/construction will not allow collection in a number of areas due to safety issues and restrictions of the collection vehicles.