

Waste Management Survey Results

The results of the recent Waste Management Survey were tabled at the August meeting of Council. The response from our community was outstanding, with a 54.5% return rate. To their credit, Council voted unanimously to support the wishes of the overwhelming (75.2%) majority that supported the establishment of a Macs Reef Road transfer station, and postpone its plans for a roadside collection service trial.

A total of 1236 survey forms were posted out to Wamboin, Bywong and Sutton Park ratepayers, and a team comprising Cr Bransdon, council staff, and a small group of community volunteers recorded the responses from the 674 survey forms that were returned. The overall results are presented on the following pages. While the data were also analysed on a 'per road' basis, to look for geographical trends within the Community, in order to protect the anonymity of respondents these results cannot be made public. It can, however, be noted that there were no particular trends relating to geographical location, except for the obvious expectation that residents who live closer to Bungendore make more use of the Bungendore tip.

It was interesting to note that current garbage collection arrangements had little bearing on support for the two proposed options. While 19.1% of residents currently use a commercial collection service, almost 78% of these did not support the introduction of a council roadside service. The major issue was that most of these people have their rubbish collected from their residence, not the roadside, and the council proposal was seen as an unacceptable service degradation.

About 10% of the respondents were not sure which option would be better, and this is reflected in the fact that while there was only 19.7% support for the proposed council service, there was 31.5% support for a trial.

Statistically, the general pattern of responses was well established after processing just the first day's forms (~10% of the respondents), and the last 15 forms, entered on the final day of processing, showed much the same pattern. This is entirely consistent with the general observation that a survey only needs a response rate of around 10% to be statistically valid. The high response rate in the present case, however, sent a very clear message to Council: this was seen within the Community as a very important issue.

Even though there was no specific request or area provided on the survey form, 151 respondents included comments, either on the survey form itself, or attached on a separate sheet. All of these comments were read, and recorded in the database that was used in the processing of results. While there was no formal recognition of individual comments, specific remarks were given due consideration by both councillors and council staff.

We are not yet, however, entirely in the clear. The transfer station proposal is still subject to the relevant development processes. Through Council's Waste Management Working Group, we will continue to monitor and report on subsequent progress.

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Vice President, WCA

1 Summary Data

Forms posted out	1236	
Responses received	674	54.5%

Note that, in the following data, totals do not always add up to 100% because not all respondents answered all questions, even when it might seem logical that they would.

2 Preferred Option

In response to the question “Which [option] do you prefer?” (only one option could be selected):

Roadside Collection	133	19.7%
Waste Transfer Station	507	75.2%

3 Support for Trial

In response to the question “Do you support the [proposed] trial?” (only one option could be selected):

Yes	212	31.5%
No	454	67.4%

4 Private Collection Service

In response to the question “Do you use O’Sullivan’s Household Rural Waste Collection Service?”:

Yes	129	19.1%
No	540	80.1%

5 Private Collection Frequency

For those respondents who indicated that they used O’Sullivan’s, their response to the question “How often do you have O’Sullivan’s collect your waste?”:

Weekly	40	31.0%
Fortnightly	76	58.9%
Monthly	9	7.0%
Occasionally	1	0.8%

6 Private Collection Service Location

For those respondents who indicated that they used O’Sullivan’s, their response to the question “From where does O’Sullivan’s collect your waste?”:

Roadside	32	24.8%
House	94	72.9%

7 Landfill Usage

In response to the question “Do you use an existing landfill rubbish tip?”:

Yes	636	94.4%
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8 Tip Location

Respondents who indicated that they used either of the two local landfill rubbish tips (respondents could nominate both sites if they used both):

Macs Reef Road	545	85.7%
Bungendore	200	31.4%

9 Macs Reef Road Tip Usage

For respondents who indicated that they used either of the two local landfill rubbish tips, “How often do you use the tip for household waste?”:

Weekly	98	15.4%
Fortnightly	125	19.7%
Monthly	161	25.3%
Occasionally	161	25.3%
(Never)	30	4.7%

10 Bungendore Tip Usage

For respondents who indicated that they used either of the two local landfill rubbish tips, “How often do you use the tip for household waste?”:

Weekly	37	5.8%
Fortnightly	29	4.6%
Monthly	35	5.5%
Occasionally	99	15.6%
(Never)	179	28.1%

11 # Bags of Rubbish per Tip Trip

In response to the question “On average, what quantities of household rubbish do you take to Council tips per visit (# of ‘standard’ plastic shopping bags)?”:

1-3	75	11.8%
4-6	104	16.4%
7-9	101	15.9%
10-12	170	26.7%
13-15	8	1.3%
16-18	13	2.0%
19-21	33	5.2%
21-24	8	1.3%
>24	87	13.7%

12 Tip Items

In response to the question “Tick every item you take to the tip (at least occasionally)?”:

General H’hold Waste	548	86.2%
Recyclable Items	494	77.7%
Batteries	153	24.1%
Building Waste	291	45.8%
Computers	123	19.3%
Furniture	169	26.6%
Green Waste	287	45.1%
Oil	172	27.0%
Paint	93	14.6%
Tyres	94	14.8%
White Goods	175	27.5%
Wire/Fencing	219	34.4%
Other Items	145	22.8%

13 WTS Usage with Collection

In response to the question “How often would you need to use a transfer station if there was a roadside collection service?”:

Weekly	39	6.1%
Fortnightly	72	11.3%
Monthly	111	17.5%
Occasionally	324	50.9%
Never	29	4.6%

14 WTS Usage without Collection

In response to the question “How often would you need to use a transfer station if there was no roadside collection service?”:

Weekly	129	20.3%
Fortnightly	155	24.4%
Monthly	170	26.7%
Occasionally	139	21.9%
Never	7	1.1%

15 Recycling

In response to the question “Roughly what percentage of your recyclables do you take to a Council recycling facility?”:

0%	96	14.2%
1-25%	54	8.0%
26-50%	66	9.8%
51-75%	26	3.9%
76-99%	234	34.7%
100%	198	29.4%

16 WTS Items

In response to the question “What items would you want to take to a waste transfer station?”:

General H’hold Waste	437	68.7%
Recyclable Items	446	70.1%
Batteries	168	26.4%
Computers	136	21.4%
Oil	169	26.6%
Other Items	203	31.9%

Responses to items 2, 3, 4 & 10 were also analysed according to the location of respondents, but in order to preserve the anonymity of individual respondents these data have not been made publicly available.

The results for Items 2 & 3 were also analysed with respect to whether or not respondents already used a collection service:

Preferred roadside collection

Total	133	
With existing service	29	22.5% ¹
With roadside service	14	43.8% ²
With house service	13	13.8% ³
No location nominated	2	
Without existing service	102	18.9% ⁴
Status unknown	2	

Supported trial

Total	212	
With existing service	41	31.8% ¹
With roadside service	19	59.4% ²
With house service	21	22.3% ³
No location nominated	1	
Without existing service	170	31.5% ⁴
Status unknown	1	

¹ As a percentage of respondents with an existing service

² As a percentage of respondents with an existing roadside service

³ As a percentage of respondents with an existing house service

⁴ As a percentage of respondents without an existing service