Report of Environment to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 19 December 2016

EN1 – Removal of Fee for E-Waste Collection at Bargo Waste Management Centre for 2016/17 Financial Year

ENVIRONMENT

EN1 Removal of Fee for E-Waste Collection at Bargo Waste Management Centre for 2016/17 Financial Year

267535 TRIM 6230

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The purpose of this report is to outline a recent change to the collection of electronic waste at Bargo Waste Management Centre, which impacts on the fees and charges for e-waste during the 2016/17 financial year.
- It is recommended that subject to the General Manager being satisfied that a suitable agreement for e-waste disposal has been entered into, the removal of the \$10 fee for e-waste at Bargo Waste Management Centre for the remainder of the 2016/17 financial year.

REPORT

Background

Electronic Waste or E-Waste is the waste generated by the disposal of computers, printers, computer and printer peripherals, faxes and televisions at their end of life.

The collection of electronic waste (e-waste) to residents of Wollondilly has been provided at Bargo Waste Management Centre since 2014. When the collection of e-waste was initially set up, the collection was done as part of the Australian Government's National Television & Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS). This scheme was set up as a Product Stewardship arrangement in 2011, which aims to reduce hazardous waste going to landfill, increase recovery of reusable materials and provide access for households and small businesses to recycle e-waste as part of an industry funded initiative.

Wollondilly joined the scheme with a company called Tech Collect. Tech Collect initially collected a large range of computer and television products as well as other small appliances, such as microwaves, toasters, irons etc. for free. Collection of e-waste under the national scheme must provide a free service to householders and small businesses.

In early 2015 Tech Collect informed Council they would no longer be able to collect our e-waste, leaving us in a precarious situation.

At short notice we joined another company; however, but this arrangement failed due to a dispute between the company and the NTCRS in 2015.



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The Waste Team starting sending e-waste to a company outside of the National Scheme and paying for the transport of the e-waste to their depot where it was being sorted. Due to the cost of transport, in the 2016/17 Fees & Charges a fee of \$10 was applied to e-waste at Bargo Waste Management Centre.

The Current Situation

A recent discussion with a metals recycling/processing company it was indicated they could provide an alternative collection service for no fee (collection and transport). The company is part of the national scheme and entering into a formal agreement with the company will provide Council with a reliable service into the future.

Entering into an agreement will provide benefit to Council in a number of ways.

Firstly, Council will not be paying for the collection or transport of e-waste from Bargo Waste Management Centre. All infrastructure required for the collection of the e-waste is provided by the company.

Council will be providing an e-waste service under the national scheme which provides lawful regulations for collectors and processors. This will give Council confidence that materials collected are being processed in a regulated and lawful way.

Council will be able to provide access to a free service to householders and small businesses, rather than charging \$10. Under the national scheme, as mentioned previously, we are required to provide a free service to the community.

Council is in negotiations to entering into a formal agreement with the company. This agreement will help manage expectations, address any perceived challenges and risks and to provide a clear understanding of respective roles and responsibilities in the provision of the service.

CONSULTATION

Previous contact with a number of companies who operate under the national scheme in 2015, indicates that providing e-waste directly to an e-waste processor, rather than a broker (such as Tech Collect), guarantees an ongoing service.



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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Due to the change from having a transport cost for e-waste in 2016/17 to having no collection or transport cost for the remainder of the financial year, we request a change to the fees currently appointed for e-waste in our fees and charges.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves, subject to the General Manager being satisfied that a suitable agreement for e-waste disposal has been entered into, the removal of the \$10 fee for e-waste at Bargo Waste Management Centre for the remainder of the 2016/17 financial year.

