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Precis: Waste-Reduction and Procurement

Responsible Officer: Policy Coordinator

Document:

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AUTHORITY:	Council
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OBJECTIVE

The objective of the policy is to provide a structure and procedure within Council for the reduction and minimisation of waste generated, and the support of recycling initiatives through the procurement of supplies containing recycled materials content.

POLICY

Background

The former Hunter Waste Planning and Management Board and now Resource NSW require constituent Council to prepare and adopt a Waste Reduction and Procurement Policy. The policy is designed to provide Councils with a guide to ecologically sustainable waste management in Council operation.

Principles

The policy is based on the principles of the New South Wales Waste Hierarchy. The Hierarchy ranks strategies for dealing with waste according to how well they conserve natural resources. The Hierarchy is outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1 to be inserted

Policy Statement

Policy statements have been developed as part of the Waste Reduction and Procurement Policy and Guidelines.

The policy statements are:

Waste Reduction

Council recognises the need to reduce waste as a means of promoting ecological sustainability. Council will target a number of key waste types through the development of waste reduction strategies in accordance with the New South Wales Waste Management Hierarchy - avoid, reuse, recycle/process, dispose.

Procurement

Based on the premise that the intent of the Policy (1. Avoidance, 2. Reuse, 3. Recycle and Reprocess, and 4. Disposal), Council will base procurement decisions on the principle of 'value for money' over the life cycle of products rather than 'lowest cost' and will after all things are considered and being equal, give preference to, and purchase products that have identifiable environmental attributes, through the utilisation of reused or recycled materials.

Contracting

When assessing the engagement of contractors, Council will ensure that independent contractors can demonstrate commitment to effective waste management practices. Preference will be given to bids incorporating appropriate waste reduction strategies and use of recycled and low-waste products.

Educating and Involving Staff

Council is committed to training and educating staff to promote the principles of ecological sustainability as defined in the Local Government Amendment (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Act 1997. Council is dedicated to the development of an effective communication process to ensure staff understands the Waste Reduction and Procurement Policy and the Waste Minimisation Plan.

Monitoring, Reporting and Review

Council will actively pursue ways to monitor, review and report on the Waste Reduction and Procurement Policy. Council will strive for continual improvement to meet waste reduction targets and will report waste reduction results to the community.

Relevant Legislative Provisions

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001

Local Government Act 1993 (covers the procurement of all goods and services and is binding on all Local Government Authorities)

Local Government Amendment (Ecologically Sustainable Development) Act 1997

Local Government (Tendering) Regulation 1993

Trade Practices Act 1974