



**KEMPSEY**  
Shire Council

## **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT**

9<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**DSS3**

**REQUEST FOR ACTION ON E-WASTE.**

**FILE: 260 KNS (NRN) {Folio No. \*} }**

### **SUMMARY:**

Council at its meeting on 10 July 2007 considered the recommendation of MM2.

That Council request the NSW government to require manufacturers to collect and recycle waste computers (e-waste) as enabled under the Waste Avoidance and Recovery Act 2001.

Council resolved

1. *That this matter be deferred until the next meeting to allow further information to be obtained.*
2. *That details of computers dumped at the waste depot be obtained and that Council seek information from the DECC regarding their data on dumped computers.*

Australian Governments, Federal, State and Local, have been working with the electrical and electronic industry to facilitate the establishment by industry of product stewardship schemes to collect and recycle used equipment known as E-waste.

E-waste is the waste stream identified and being generated from today's technical age. The many and varied products range from computers, TV's, fax machines, printers to mobile phones, hand held radios, portable mapping units and DVD players etc, etc.

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

The one issue is that all of these items have a short operational life and ultimately finish up as a waste item. The question is what to do with it when finished.

In recognising and addressing the problem locally, a process was implemented with the IT section (Jim Dumay) and the Waste Coordinator in January 2007. In-conjunction with the personnel at the Kempsey Waste Retrieval and Disposal Facility (KWR&DF) site, KWR&DF started a collection process and disposal program. This program relied upon the items coming in being identified and separated from the general waste stream going to landfill. Although not perfect, it started to generate some

benefits via diversion of items finishing up in landfill. The items collected were relayed to community groups who worked with the items for community benefit. The negative side was that some of the items once cannibalised ultimately finished up in the waste stream again.

The ratio was not high and overall the items run at an average of around 20 computer items a month plus other equipment. Most other E-waste items do not come in as separate items. Most E-waste items are delivered via the general waste stream either through our own waste collection trucks or via the contactors dump bins. Where identified, the items are separated for recycling.

Discussions have been held with the Midwaste group and Department of Environment Climate Change (DECC).

Very little of the increasing amount of electrical and electronic waste being used in Australia today is being recycled, with most of it ending up in landfill, representing a significant loss of non-renewable resources.

E-waste generated from households is a particular concern due to the lack of knowledge on the volumes held or current household disposal behaviour. Limited research from DECC reports indicates that households can and do store large quantities of E-waste items which will have significant planning, cost and disposal implications if moved into the current waste stream.

The Midwaste group have addressed the problem by seeking out suitably qualified collection and disposal contractors.

Through the Midwaste group we have entered into a collective agreement with Transpacific who will collect our "Hazardous Waste" and other goods identified as required under the DECC Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001. Transpacific recycle the E-waste.

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001 discussed issues regarding E-waste and how it may deal with the problem in 2001. There are two main items out of that Act that have been actioned. The first was the Extended Producer Responsibility Priority Statement 2005-2006 that is current, and the second was the conducting of two surveys on a) Household Electrical & Electronic Waste Survey, September 2005; and b) "Recycle It" Computer Collection Pilot published October 2004. These documents are being reviewed by Midwaste as part of the combined recognition and approach to the issues.

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***The removal of E-waste from the landfill extends its life.***

- ***Social***

***Nil***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

*Given there is a cost to collect, transport and dispose of the items it is recommended to monitor the costs for the 2007-08 budget period and review and/or set fees in the 2008-09 budget "Fees & Charges" to cover such costs.*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*Nil*

- *Director's Review*

*Issues concerning E-waste are being progressively addressed by the Midwaste group. A nominated contractor collects E-waste for recycling. A position is being forwarded on Extended Supplier Responsibility Schemes.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Kempsey Shire Council continue with the current arrangements to divert as practicable E-waste from the landfill operations so as to comply with the DECC requirements.**

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**K N Smith**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**