



Media Release

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Council seeks change to kerbside waste collection services

Industry best practice, equity of service, community feedback, and reducing waste to landfill are driving factors for potential service changes when Mount Barker District Council goes out to tender for kerbside waste, recyclables and organics collection and processing services later this year.

The council confirmed service changes to be included in the tender at their meeting on Monday night to enable a cost benefit analysis of various service delivery options to be considered in the future.

The council's current contract, which expires in October 2024, includes the processing of recyclables and organics subcontracted by Solo to Visy Recycling and Peats Soil respectively. The council intends to have separate recycling and organics processing agreements from the collection contract to increase transparency and flexibility of these services.

Mount Barker District Council Mayor, David Leach said that the council is not forced to adopt the changes but the pricing will allow Council to make informed decisions on options and transition during the term of the contract if desired.

"It is important to get this pricing now as asking for it during a tender will deliver the most competitive pricing versus seeking it as a variation while the contract is running," Mayor Leach said.

The main opportunities in the council's tender are supplying Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bins to residents and businesses, and changes to the frequency of bin collection.

"Diverting food waste from landfill is one of the biggest opportunities for Council," Mayor Leach said.

"It will help Council achieve its target of reducing waste to landfill by 20% per capita by 2025. Significant financial savings and environmental benefits are made by diverting food and garden waste into the green FOGO bin.

"Current services do not adequately encourage recycling of food and garden waste.

Township residents are required to purchase their own green bin which creates a barrier to FOGO recycling. Rural residents and commercial properties are not provided a FOGO bin service at all.

A request for tender will be released in April this year with new contracts expected to be finalised in August 2023 and commencing in October 2024.

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