

FROM THE COAST

Waste Facility or Tip?

You've probably noticed that whenever anyone related to the Shire refers to where our rubbish ends up, we use the term "Waste Facility" as opposed to "Tip". Believe it or not, it's not just local government speak to try and make a smelly facility sound attractive. There is a difference between the tips of old and a state of the art waste facility Council aims to provide the community.

The old tips were little more than throwing rubbish in a hole which had all sorts of consequences for the environment, the health and safety of workers and the community, and filled the hole quickly without much thought as to how long it would take the products to break down. As a result tips would fill and a new location would be quickly needed to start the whole process again.

The Wylie Bay Waste Facility is near the end of its life and will close operations by August 2019 which is why selecting a site for a new state of the art waste facility has been an ongoing priority for Council.

The new facility will have the capacity for inert and green waste recycling, increasing community recycling and reuse capability, and the ability to incorporate future waste technology (such as waste to energy), as it becomes available. This will minimise the use of landfill and lengthen its useful life. A focus on diverting waste through organic processing and resource recovery will ensure a healthy waste management facility that will meet our current and future needs and expectations for at least the next seventy years.

The biggest challenge of course has always been where will it be? No-one likes the idea of living next to a rubbish dump, and no-one likes the idea of travelling too far to dispose of your rubbish. The fact is we need somewhere for our waste to go, so Council has committed to engaging with the community every step of the way. We can educate and encourage people to dispose of rubbish responsibly, we can reassure surrounding neighbours by ensuring the facility is clean, healthy and a fair distance from housing and we can keep our commitment to engage with the whole community to make sure we provide the best possible outcome for everyone.

Two community updates will be held this week on Wednesday 25th May, at 3-4.30pm at the Scaddan Country Club and on Thursday 26th May from 6-7.30pm at the Dalyup Recreation Hall. Everyone is urged to attend to hear up to date progress information for our new waste management facility followed by a Q&A session. Waste management is one of those things we tend to take for granted, but it is and will continue to be a critical service to our community.