



BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL



5 September 2024

Marcelle Psaila
Unit Head, Joint Waste Procurement
Major Projects Branch
NSW Environment Protection Authority

By Email Only: marcelle.psaila@epa.nsw.gov.au

Dear Marcelle

Letter of Intent - Mid North Coast Joint Waste Processing Procurement Approach - Bellingen Shire Council, Nambucca Valley Council, Kempsey Shire Council, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council

Bellingen Shire, Nambucca Valley, Kempsey Shire, and Port Macquarie-Hastings Councils have identified an opportunity for regional collaboration for the management and processing of waste to maximise the economies of scale for the benefit of the respective communities.

The opportunity has arisen due to the close alignment of expiry dates for current waste processing contracts. Organic waste and dry recyclables from the Port Macquarie Hastings and managed by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council with the current contracts expiring in August 2026. Organics and dry recyclables from the Bellingen Shire and Nambucca Valley LGAs are currently processed at a Coffs Harbour City Council facility, with the current contracts expiring in March 2027. Previous discussions between Nambucca Valley Council, Bellingen Shire Council and Coffs Harbour City Council have indicated that Coffs Harbour City Council are currently focused on local waste challenges and not looking to collaborate on a regional basis.

The four councils are all supportive of progressing a regional approach for processing dry recyclables and organics at the Cairncross Waste Management Facility as part of new service contracts that Port Macquarie-Hastings Council are currently procuring. Councils' collection contracts also have similar alignment of expiry dates, and while discussions for a regional approach have largely been focussed on processing contracts, councils may decide to investigate a joint approach for these collection contracts as well.

Following this letter, the councils will work together on developing an in-principle agreement, in the form of a Council adopted Memorandum of Understanding, which would set out the framework of formalised arrangements.

As outlined by the EPA, there is a current opportunity to access funding to support this approach under the Joint Procurement Funded Support program. Councils intend on submitting a grant application(s) to support the delivery of this regional procurement approach.



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All four councils will continue to strive for best practice and cost-effective waste services for our communities that can contribute to meeting the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy's targets.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Griffioen".

Mark Griffioen

General Manager - Bellingen Shire Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bede Spannagle".

Bede Spannagle

General Manager - Nambucca Valley Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Milburn".

Craig Milburn

General Manager - Kempsey Shire Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr Clare Allen".

Dr Clare Allen

CEO - Port Macquarie Hastings Council