**Friday 2 August 2019**

**Recycling update following SKM insolvency**

Today the Supreme Court of Victoria declared SKM Recycling to be insolvent when the company was unable to demonstrate a solution to its financial challenges.

Recyclable material collected at the kerbside across the Surf Coast Shire has been going to the Anglesea landfill since 26 July 2019 when SKM ceased its operations. With the Supreme Court decision, this practice will continue until Council can find an alternative solution.

“Council knows that the community will be discouraged by this news and is working closely with other G21 Councils and the Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group on alternatives. We are encouraged by the businesses in the region that want to help. All possibilities are being explored, we just don’t have an answer yet,” said General Manager Governance and Infrastructure Anne Howard.

“We continue to urge people to reduce waste where possible. Be mindful when you shop and minimise the waste you take home. You can go the extra yard by separating your recycling items taking them directly to our transfer stations,” Ms Howard said.

Up to half a cubic metre of sorted materials will be accepted free of charge at the transfer stations. Separated paper, cardboard and metals can be delivered to Anglesea, Lorne or Winchelsea stations. Council is exploring temporary alternatives for communities without a nearby transfer station.

For now, residents who can’t get to a transfer station should continue to sort recyclables into kerbside bins as usual. This helps Council to track what is taken to landfill and will help when an alternative solution is found.

“Obviously this is a poor outcome for the environment in the short term. We also know people are worried about the cost of taking recyclables to landfill because it’s more expensive. For now, Council is not passing this cost onto to the community but will advocate with others to have the State Government’s landfill levy waived for the recyclable materials. Beyond that, Council’s waste charges can’t be properly reviewed until the future service delivery is solved,” said Ms Howard.

“Council is already exploring longer term recycling strategies and solutions and will provide more information as it becomes available.”

Stay up-to-date with developments on Council’s website [**www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au**](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au) and Facebook page **@SurfCoastShireCouncil**.

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**Not for publication:**

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