**Friday 26 July 2019**

### Surf Coast Shire recycling update

Surf Coast Shire residents should continue recycling as usual, despite Council being notified by SKM that it has ceased accepting recyclable material as of today.

SKM has advised Council that it cannot accept recyclable material at any of its sites at this time. This comes on the back of media coverage about a number of financial and compliance challenges the company has been facing.

Surf Coast Shire Council General Manager of Governance and Infrastructure Anne Howard said regular collections of yellow lid recycling bins would continue in the shire for now.

“For the time being our recyclable material will go to Council’s Anglesea landfill site which is very disappointing and our last resort. Council has been actively discussing response plans in the event that SKM might not be able to continue accepting our material, but at this time taking recyclables to landfill is unavoidable,” Ms Howard said.

“We still need people to keep separating their recyclables into the right kerbside bins in case SKM returns to operation or an alternative is found. But for now, we urge residents to only put out recycling bins for collection if they are full.”

Collection of green organics and landfill bins will remain unchanged. Anglesea’s food organics collection also remains unaffected.

“As always we urge people to reduce waste where possible. The choices we all make when we purchase our daily goods are more important than ever,” Ms Howard said.

Ms Howard said Surf Coast Shire Council is exploring a change to how it approaches the collection and processing of recyclables.

“The support of the community will be a critical factor in shifting how we deal with waste and recyclables and we are fortunate to have a very engaged and proactive community. We look forward to sharing our ideas with the community soon.”

Council will continue to work with other G21-Geelong Region Alliance councils and Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group seeking action on a longer-term sustainable solutions to challenges in processing waste and recyclables. This requires all levels of government to work together.

“For now use your yellow recycling bin as usual, reduce what you bring into your home and keep up the good recycling habits,” Ms Howard said.

ENDS

**Not for publication:**

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