

Post Exhibition - Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy

File No: 2025/399247

Summary

The Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy (Waste LAP) helps to minimise amenity impacts associated with residential and commercial waste management and collections in the public domain.

The policy outlines residents' responsibilities for managing residential waste in a public place, businesses' responsibilities for managing and collecting commercial waste in a public place and waste management activities undertaken in public places that require approval.

On 12 May 2025, Council resolved that the draft Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy (Waste LAP) be placed on public exhibition for a period of 42 days and for a further report to be submitted to Council following public exhibition with any recommended changes.

The City has now completed the public exhibition process which occurred from 21 May 2025 until 2 July 2025. In response to the public exhibition, 15 submissions were received and reviewed with no changes proposed to the LAP. A summary of submissions and the City's response is detailed in Attachment B.

This report is seeking Council's adoption of the Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the submissions received from the community on the exhibited draft Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy, as shown in Attachment B to the subject report;
- (B) Council adopt the Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy as shown at Attachment A to the subject report; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy, to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

Attachments

Attachment A. Managing Waste in Public Places - Local Approvals Policy

Attachment B. Engagement Report - Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy

Background

1. The Managing Waste in Public Places - Local Approvals Policy (Waste LAP) covers activities related to waste management throughout the City of Sydney. It seeks to address the impacts waste issues can have on the community and establishes requirements that help to minimise amenity impacts associated with residential and commercial waste collections.
2. The Waste LAP is a Local Approvals Policy, dealing with the management of the placement of waste in public places in accordance with section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993.
3. The Waste LAP must be reviewed after each Council election and replaces the 2022 Waste LAP.
4. The Waste LAP is prepared in accordance with Part 3 s.158 of the Local Government Act 1993 and supplements provisions of this Act and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 by specifying:
 - (a) the circumstances in which a person is not required to obtain a particular approval from the City of Sydney
 - (b) the criteria which the City of Sydney must consider when determining whether or not to grant approval to a particular activity and
 - (c) other matters relating to approvals not dealt with by the Act or Regulations.
5. Activities related to waste management can impact the community in a number of ways. Uncontrolled waste and recycling in public places can negatively impact the environmental amenity of streets, lanes and footpaths. These activities have the potential to obstruct, interrupt and endanger pedestrian and traffic movement as well as create environmental pollution. The Waste LAP aims to minimise these impacts in a sensitive, sustainable and effective way.
6. On 12 May 2025, Council resolved that the draft Managing Waste in Public Places Local Approvals Policy (Waste LAP) be placed on public exhibition for a period of 42 days and for a further report to be submitted to Council following public exhibition with any recommended changes.

Public exhibition

7. The draft Waste LAP was placed on public exhibition for 42 days from Wednesday 21 May 2025 to Wednesday 2 July 2025.
8. The public notice of the exhibition was through the City of Sydney website with links to the Sydney Your Say website on the existing Waste LAP page.
9. An electronic copy of the document was made available to the community through the City's Sydney Your Say website, which had 426 page views and 87 document downloads.

10. Notification of the public exhibition was included in the City's Sydney July Your Say eNewsletter, sent to 5,122 subscribers. Further email notification was sent to key stakeholders groups which included Waste Contractors and Recyclers Association of NSW (WCRA), Sydney Water, Transport for NSW, Residents and Businesses.
11. A total of 15 submissions were received during the consultation period (13 submissions were received via the Sydney Your Say website and 2 submissions were received via the Sydney Your Say email address).
12. The 15 submissions have all been reviewed, with no changes proposed to the LAP.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

13. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This policy is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 2 - A leading environmental performer - This policy aims to reduce illegal dumping, litter and reduce stormwater pollutant loads to the catchment. By providing the community with guidelines about how to effectively utilise the City of Sydney's waste collection services, the City of Sydney will maximise collection of recyclable materials and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.
 - (b) Direction 3 - Public places for all - This policy seeks to improve accessibility by providing requirements on maintaining a continuous accessible path of travel. The policy also seeks to support our objective to keep streets clean.
 - (c) Direction 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - This policy seeks to improve the amenity on the City of Sydney's streets for pedestrian and cyclist safety by providing requirements on the safe placement of residential and commercial bins.
 - (d) Direction 9 - A transformed and innovative economy - Waste management is one of the City of Sydney's key health and amenity activities. Effective waste management and activities are essential to ensure the City of Sydney is maintained to a world class standard for residents, business and visitors.

Organisational Impact

14. This policy has no foreseen impacts on service levels, staffing, facilities, processes or other impacts to the organisation.

Risks

15. The Waste LAP sets out clear requirements for residents and businesses to help minimise the amenity impacts associated with waste management and collection on the public way.

16. The endorsement of the Waste LAP is within the City of Sydney's risk appetite statement which states:
 - (a) We recognise the critical importance of environmental protection and sustainability in our operations and decision-making. We are committed to minimising our negative impact on the environment and striving for a more sustainable future.
 - (b) The policy aligns with our minimal appetite for non-compliance with environmental laws, regulations and industry standards.
 - (c) Our risk philosophy is centred around achieving a balance between innovation, community and user satisfaction and risk management, ensuring that we meet our strategic objectives while maintaining a robust control environment.

Social / Cultural / Community

17. The placement of residential and commercial bins in public places is an on-going concern to residents and businesses, particularly with regard to public safety, public amenity and the high incidence of illegal dumping around bins. The Waste LAP's guidelines and requirements gives Council the tools to manage these issues, as far as is possible within the current legislative context.

Environmental

18. The Waste LAP will assist in improving the appearance and amenity of streetscapes and footpaths by establishing requirements designed to reduce the incidences of illegal dumping and inappropriate management and storage of waste.
19. Dumped waste and litter can be caused by businesses not disposing of their waste appropriately. The Waste LAP addresses this by allowing the City to request evidence of a valid and current commercial waste contract and by providing guidelines about bin requirements, their use, placement, and waste collection times.

Economic

20. The City does not envisage any additional economic impact with the implementation of this policy.

Financial Implications

21. There are no budget implications associated with the implementation of the Waste LAP.

Relevant Legislation

- 22. Local Government Act 1993
- 23. Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- 24. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- 25. Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021
- 26. Food Act 2003
- 27. Roads Act 1993
- 28. Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)

Critical Dates / Time Frames

- 29. 14 September 2025 – Last day for the Waste LAP to be approved.
- 30. Under the Local Government Act 1993, local approvals policies must be reviewed within 12 months after each Council election.

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