

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Meeting held in the Conference Room, Operational Services Area, Level One of Civic Centre,  
10 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier, on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

### MINUTES

PRESENT: Cr I Von Stanke (Presiding Member)  
Crs P Richardson and S Mezinec

COUNCIL OFFICERS: Daryl Sexton, Director Operational Services  
Aaron Izzard, Environmental Sustainability Officer  
Carmel Ron, Environmental Sustainability Officer  
Sally Wilson, Team Leader Administration (Operational Services)

APOLOGIES: Cr Von Stanke moved the apology received from Cr Mutton be accepted.

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

### AS OBSERVERS:

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BOANDIK PEOPLES AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND WHERE WE MEET TODAY. WE RESPECT THEIR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND AND RECOGNISE THE DEEP FEELINGS OF ATTACHMENT OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HAVE WITH THIS LAND.**

MINUTES: Cr Von Stanke moved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 be taken as read and confirmed.

Cr Mezinec seconded

Carried

QUESTIONS: (a) With Notice - nil submitted.  
(b) Without Notice - nil received.

### **1. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS - Local Government Act 1999 Legislation and Regulations - Ref. AF11/1309**

*Goal:* Governance

*Strategic Objective:* Demonstrate innovative and responsive organisational governance.

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) The commencement date for the Accountability and Governance amendments to the Local Government Act 1999 was proclaimed in the SA Government Gazette on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016;
- (b) provisions that directly affect Elected Members include:
  - Conflict of Interest/Disclosure provisions
  - Informal Workshops
  - Register of Interest/Ordinary Return provisions
- (c) Corporate and Community Services Report 24/2016 was provided at the Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 (copy attached) which outlined the above provisions and the effect on Elected Members.

**Cr Richardson moved it be recommended:**

- (a) **The report be received and noted for information.**

**Cr Mezinec seconded**

**Carried**

**2. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Programme Management – Environmental Waste Management and Education Program – Environmental Sustainability Film Club - Ref. AF11/408**

*Goal: Environment*

*Strategic Objective: (i) use every opportunity to increase the level of community understanding and awareness of the necessity of environmental sustainability*

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) As part of the effort to educate and engage the community on issues regarding environmental sustainability, a variety of materials are necessary. Written materials are one avenue for disseminating information and messages to the public and form a large part of the education and engagement strategy for the City of Mount Gambier.
- (b) Whilst this approach is important, exploring other forms of communication is equally valuable. One avenue which presents opportunities for exploring ideas, conveying messages and teaching lessons is film. Films and documentaries can be used to connect a range of audiences to an idea and creates an experience which educates and engages.
- (c) As part of Council's commitment to embracing environmental sustainability and working towards making improvements in the area, the Environmental Sustainability Film Club has been established.
- (d) The Environmental Sustainability Film Club will be run in conjunction with the Mount Gambier Library and will offer a range of sustainability films and documentaries to the local high schools to begin with. As sustainability has become more emphasized in the curriculum, the Council program aims to complement the teachers' classes with an interactive and engaging excursion and exercise. The program will focus on year 8-11 students and will offer students an alternative learning experience. Apart from enhancing the knowledge and discussion of environmental sustainability among youth in our community the program can add value to the other areas of learning within the curriculum, including media studies; politics; geography and English.
- (e) The topics covered by the films will include; climate change; environment; energy; gardening; globalization; food; natural resources ; sustainable building; wild life; waste and water.

The program will be run over the 2016/2017 school year and sessions will be hosted at the Mount Gambier Library. All the local high schools and youth engagement groups in the community will be approached and offered the chance to participate. The list of possible films which can be screened will be sent out and teachers can arrange a suitable time with the environmental sustainability officer to screen the film for students/youth.

- (f) Following the first year, based on the feedback of teachers and students, the program could be expanded to the general public.

**Cr Richardson moved it be recommended:**

- (a) The report be received and contents noted.**

**Cr Von Stanke seconded**

**Carried**

**3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Solar Photovoltaic Systems Maintenance – Mount Gambier Solar System Update - Ref. AF15/319**

*Goal: Environment*

*Strategic Objective: (i) Systematically build Council as an as an environmentally sustainable organisation*

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) In 2015 a 57kW solar system was installed on the roof of the Mount Gambier Library. It was switched on at the end of May 2015. As such, it has now been operational for 12 months.
- (b) In those 12 months the system has produced over 78,500 kWh of electricity. That is enough electricity to power an average sized South Australian home for over 13 years.
- (c) Below are the figures on how much the Library solar system has reduced the Library’s electricity use by month:
  - May 21.3% reduction
  - April 27.3% reduction
  - March 63.7% reduction
  - February 32.4% reduction
  - January 35.6% reduction
  - December 32.4% reduction
  - November 40.6% reduction
  - October 38.0% reduction
  - September 25.5% reduction
  - August 17.9% reduction
  - July 15.4% reduction
  - June 11.3% reduction
- (d) That’s an average reduction of 30.1% per month. Prior to the installation Council was informed that the system would only ever produce 25-30% of the Library’s electricity needs – due to how much electricity the site uses, and the limited roof space. Hence, the system is producing on the upper end of that estimate.
- (e) Below are the estimates from the Keppel Prince tender, compared against the actual production indicated on the inverters in the Library.

	<b>Keppel Prince Estimate</b>	<b>Actual Production</b>
Expected annual total electricity production kWh (first year)	77,088	78,477
Estimated average daily kWh production (first year)	211	215

The electricity produced by the solar system is the equivalent of offsetting 44 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

**Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:**

- (a) **The report be received.**

**Cr Mezinec seconded**

**Carried**

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT – Environmental Waste Management and Education Program – Organics Attitudes and Practices Survey - Ref. AF11/408**

*Goal: Environment*

*Strategic Objective: (i) Use every opportunity to increase the level of understanding and awareness of the necessity of environmental sustainability*

The Presiding Member reported:

(a) At the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Council meeting the following resolution was passed:

*“in the 2015/2016 financial year, offer free kitchen caddies and bio-bags to the first 2,000 subscribers to the Organics kerbside service who want them, in line with Scenario 2 of the Blue Environment modelling. The approximate cost of \$15,300 to be referred to the 2015/2016 budget. This should be followed up with a survey of users, as well as random anonymous organics bin audits in October 2015 to assess the performance of the system”;*

The kitchen caddies have been purchased and distribution will commence this month.

(b) As part of assessing the performance of the 12 month trial of kitchen caddies a waste audit was conducted in February 2016. The results were reported to the Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee in April 2016.

(c) Another aspect of the performance assessment is conducting a survey before and after the trial. In March 2016 residents were surveyed regarding their attitudes and practices in relation to organic waste management. The surveys were distributed online via “Have Your Say”, and hard copies were made available at the entrance of the Mount Gambier Library.

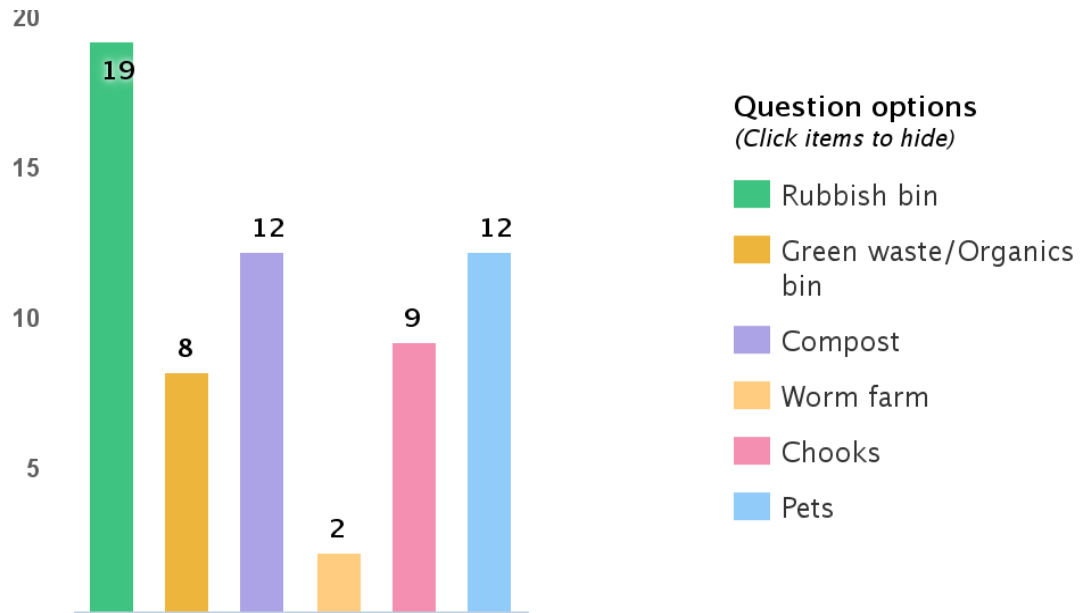
(d) In total 53 people responded to the survey. The following is a break down of the demographics of respondents:

- Female – 68%
- Male – 32%
- 18-24 – 2%
- 25-34 – 23%
- 35-44 – 15%
- 45-54 – 24%
- 55-64 – 15%
- 65+ - 21%

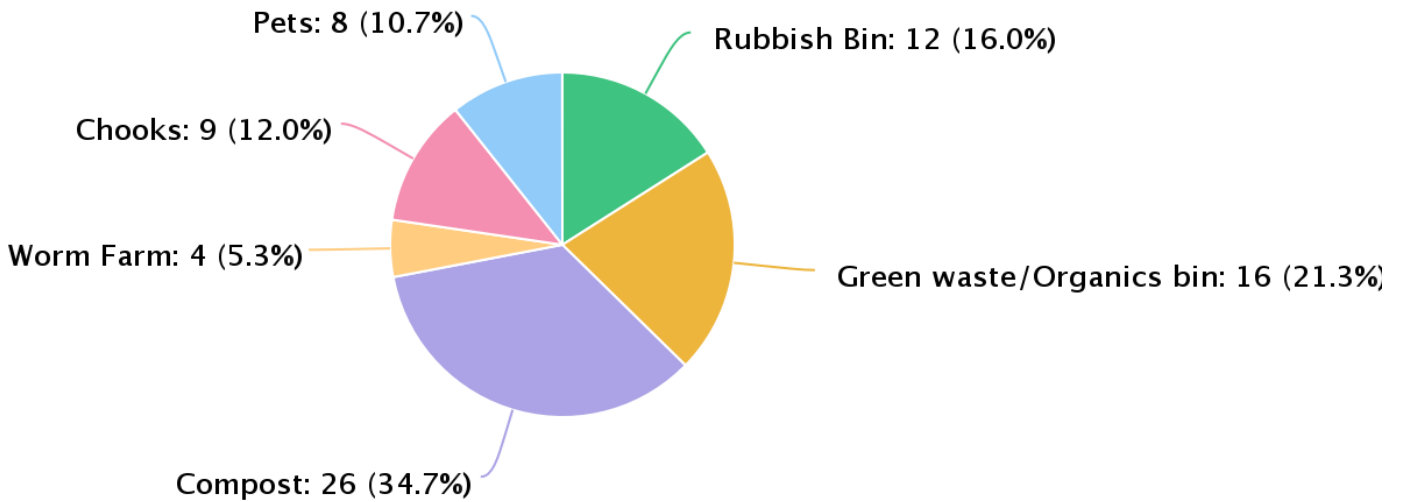
(e) The following are questions from the survey, and summary of responses:

**How do you dispose of the following organic waste items?**

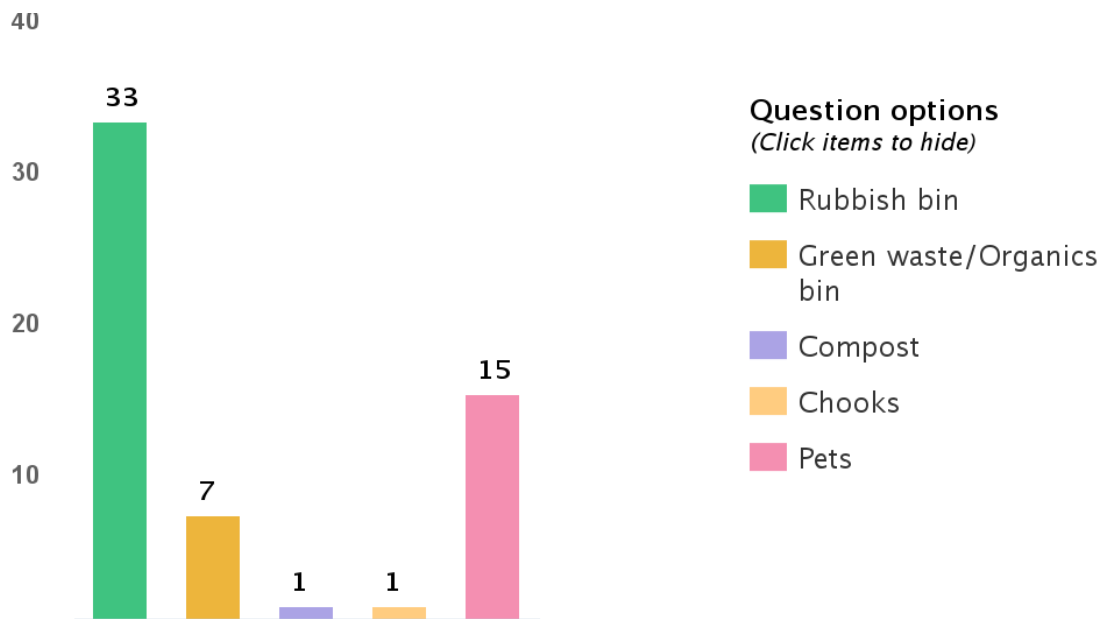
Left Overs:



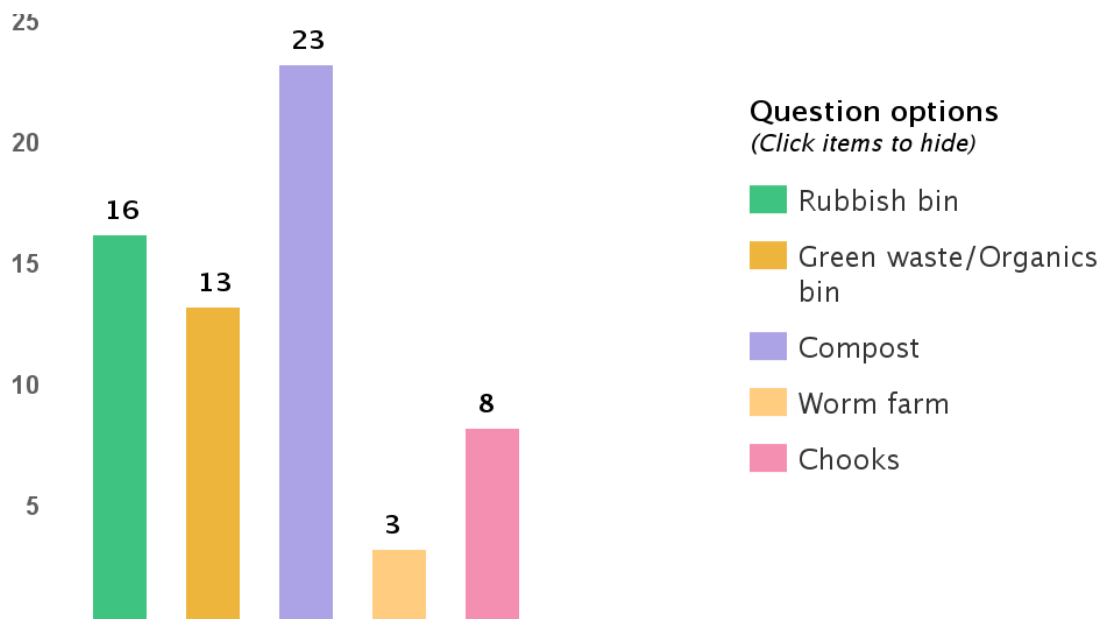
Vegetable Scraps:



Meat Scraps:

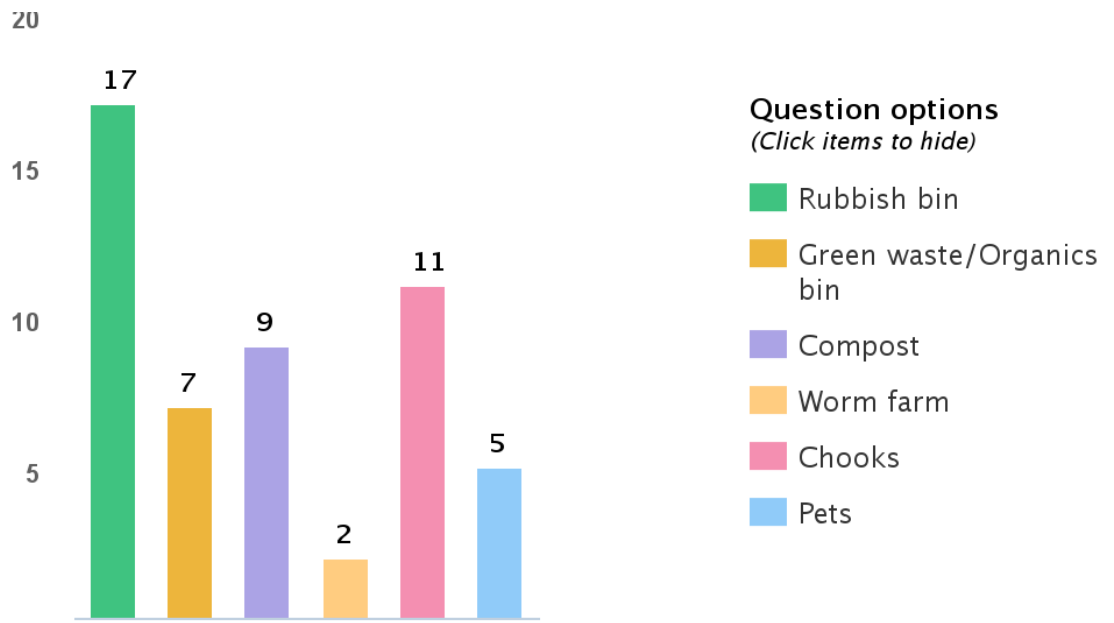


Fruit Peels:

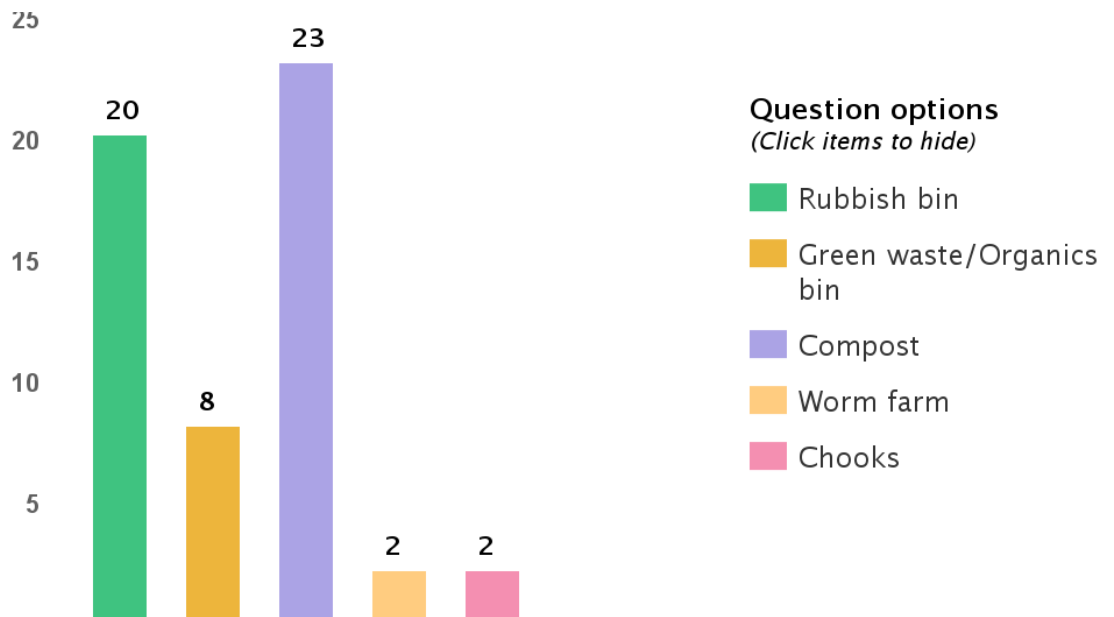


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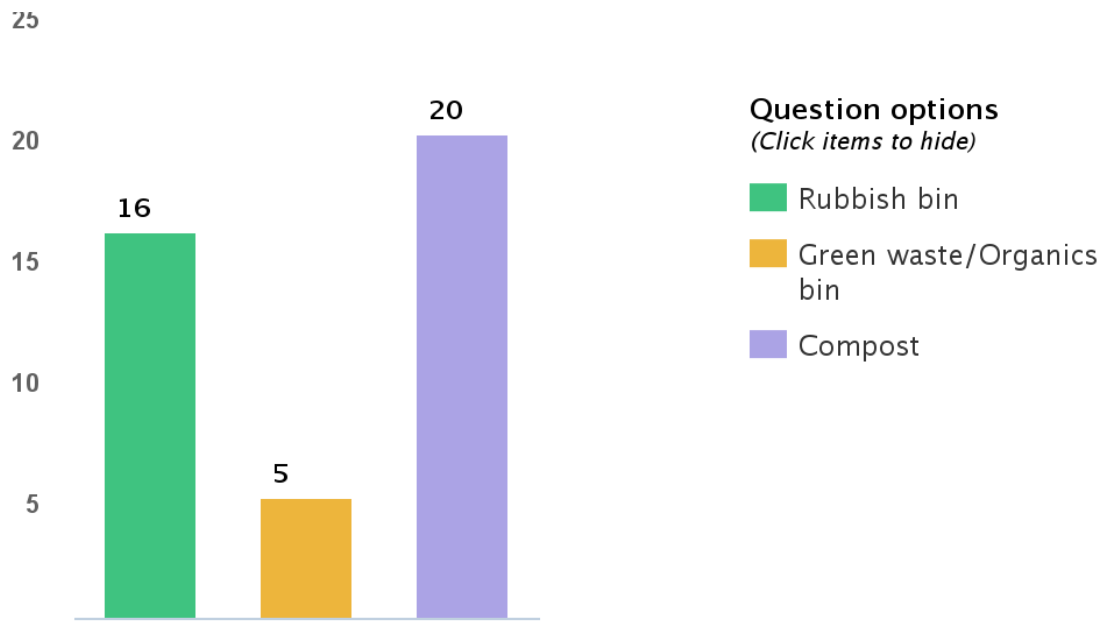
Bread:



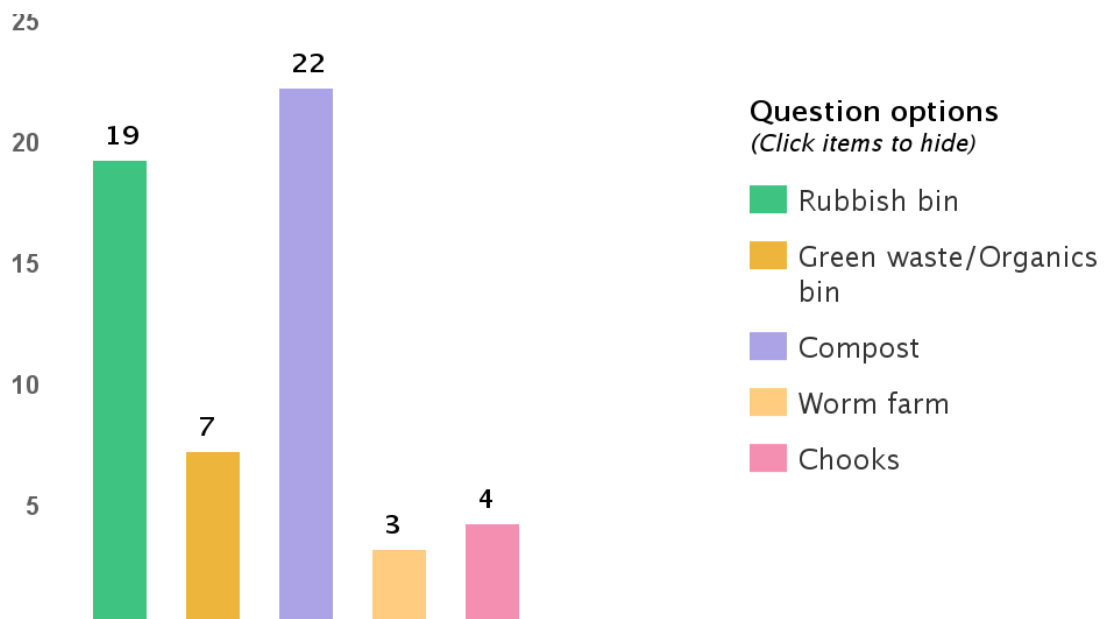
Tea Bags:



Coffee Grinds:



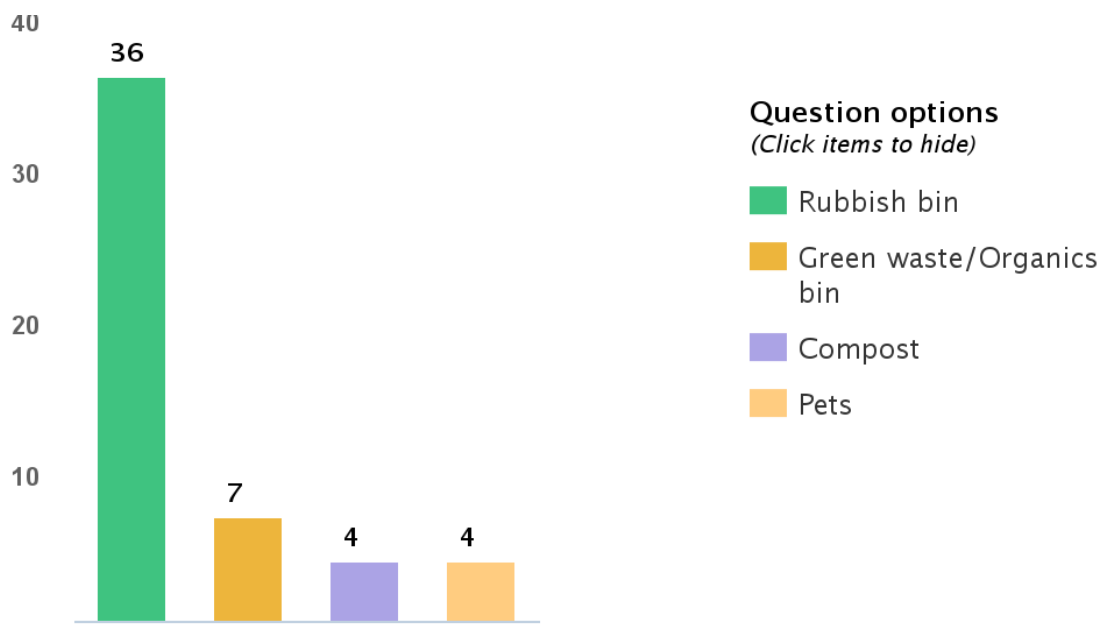
Egg Shells:



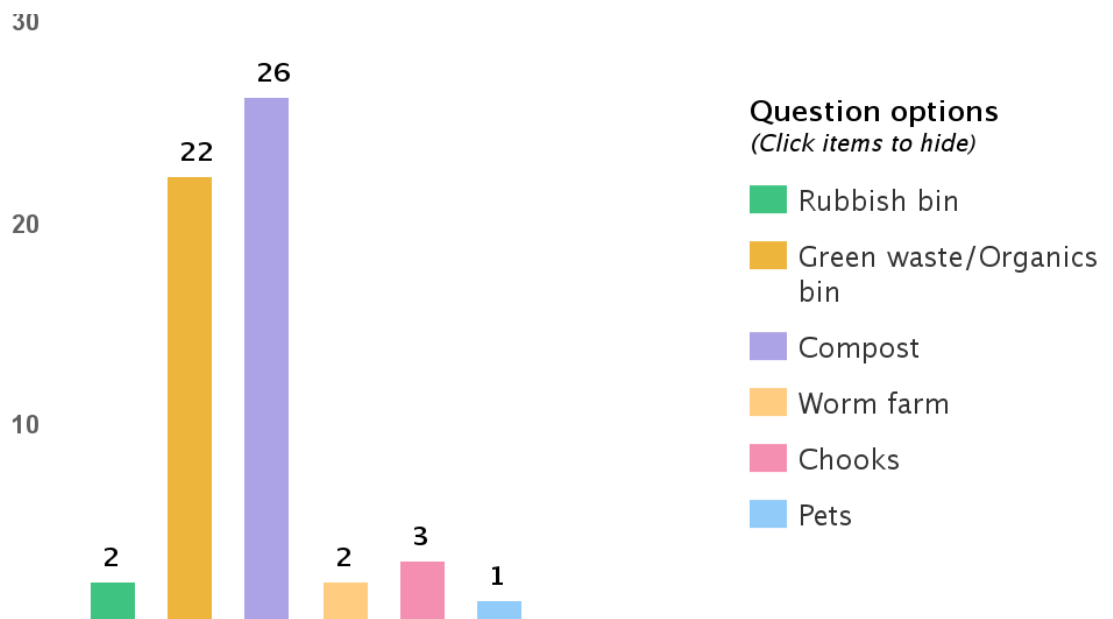


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Animal Bones:

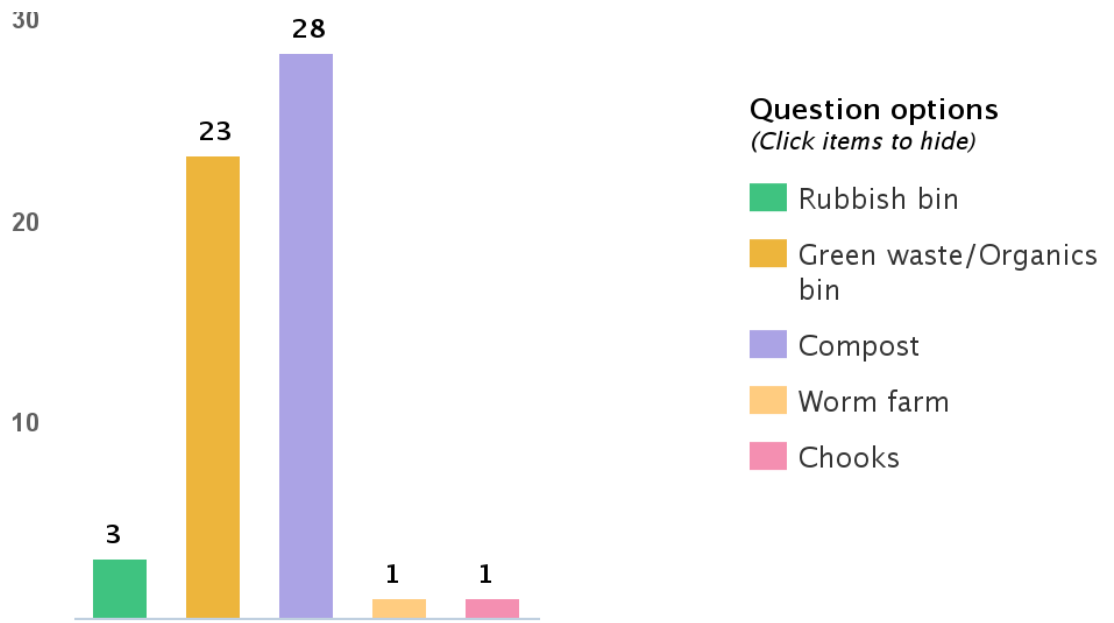


Grass Clippings:

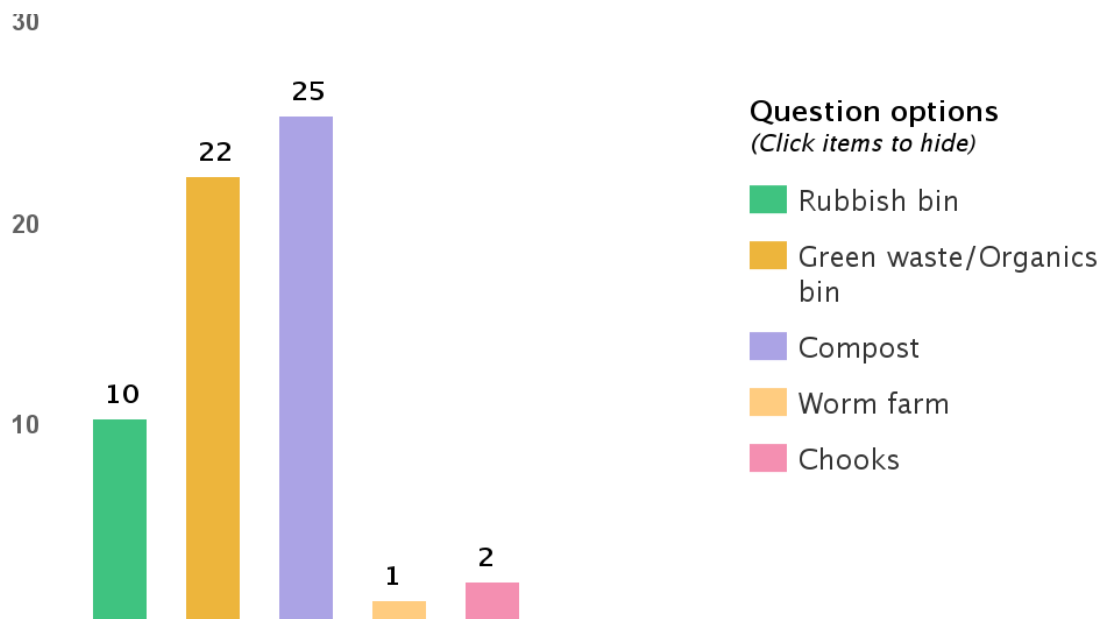


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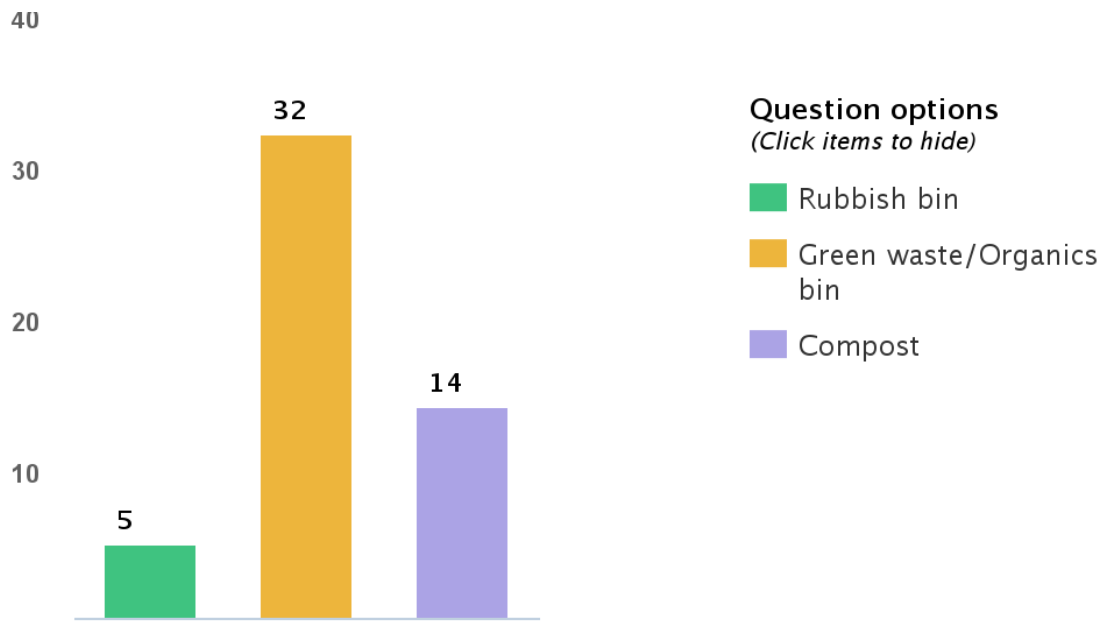
Leaves:



Flowers:

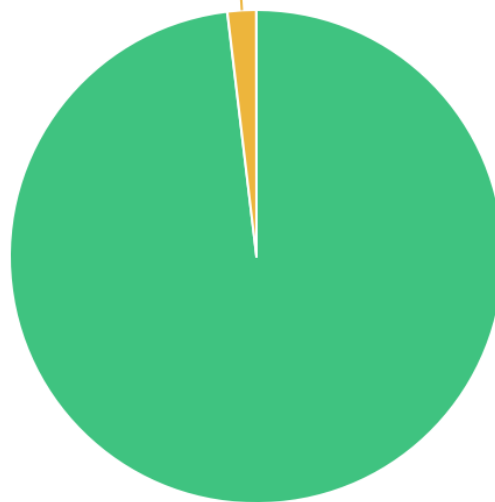


Small Branches & Twigs:



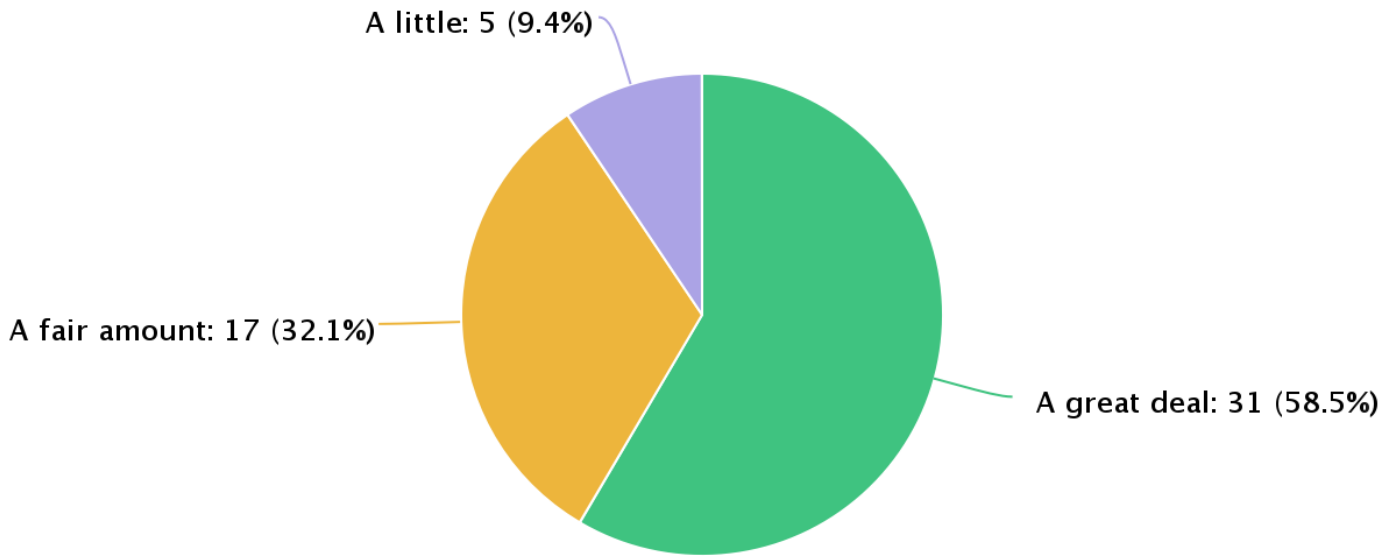
Do you believe that we should minimise the amount of waste going to landfill?

No: 1 (1.9%)

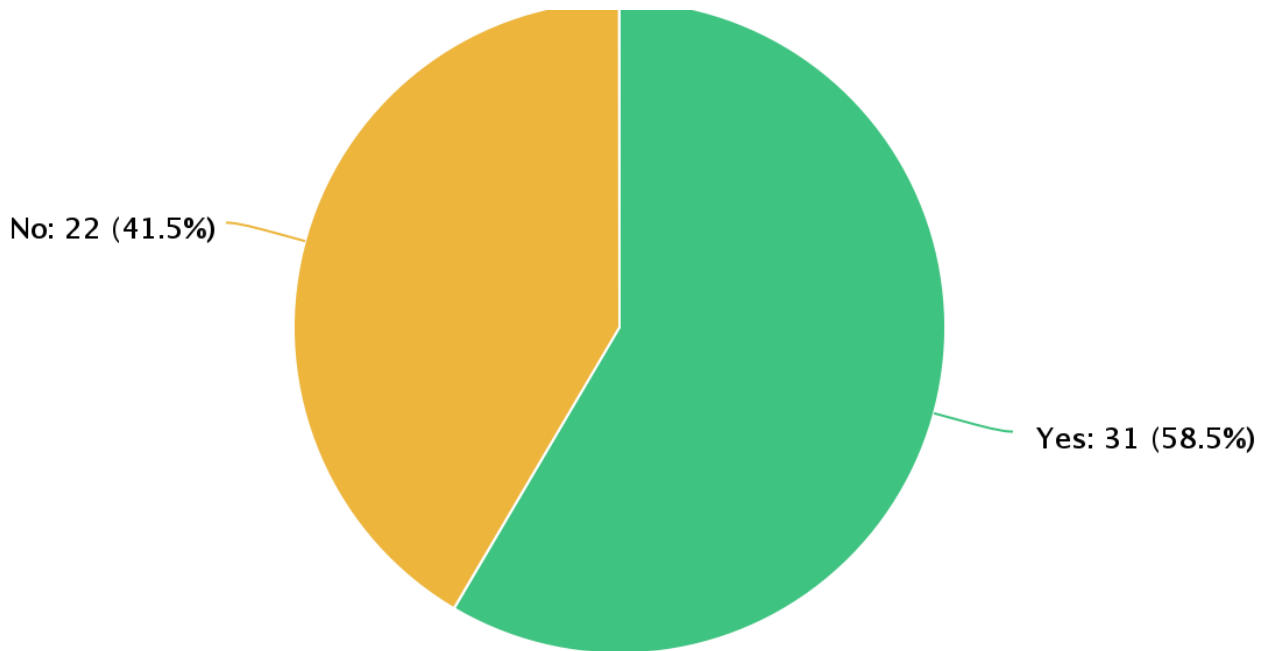


Yes: 52 (98.1%)

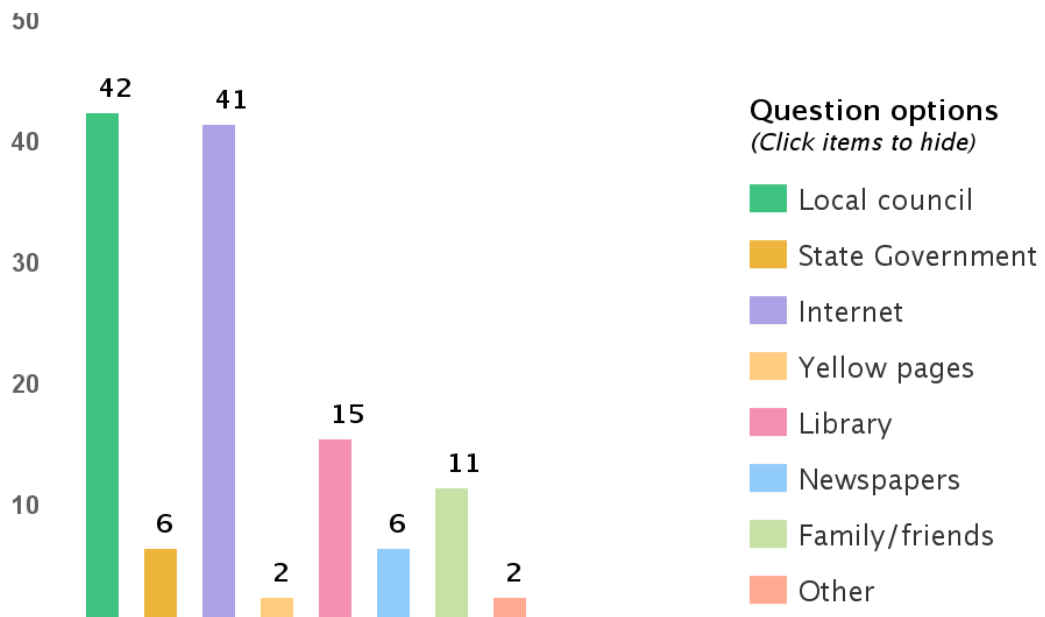
**In general, how concerned would you say that you are about environmental problems?**



**Do you purchase the Green waste/Organics bin service?**



**If you wanted more information or advice about waste and recycling, where would you start looking?**



- (f) It is encouraging that there is strong support within the community for minimising waste to landfill, and a high degree of concern for the environment. It is also encouraging that many people are not putting various organic materials into rubbish bins, but are dealing with them by other means such as Council's green organics service, or home compost. Having said that, there is clearly still large amounts of food organics being put into rubbish bins. This is not only a waste of resources, as the material can be recycled through composting and returned to the soil in gardens and on farms, it creates leachate and methane when buried in landfill – both have the potential to pollute the environment.
- (g) With regards to information about waste and recycling, clearly Council is the most prominent source of information in these matters. Thus, it is important that Council continues its strong support for waste and recycling education and provision of information.

**Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:**

- (a) **The report be received.**

**Cr Richardson seconded**

**Carried**

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - Environmental Sustainability Sub-Committee - Reports for Information - Ref. AF12/377**

The Presiding Member reported:

- (a) Environmental Sustainability Program 2016 - Project Progress

The current table outlining projects for 2016 was attached to the agenda for Members information.

**Cr Von Stanke moved it be recommended:**

- (a) **The report be received;**

**(b) item (a) as above be received and noted for information.**

**Cr Meziniec seconded**

**Carried**

**MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE** - Nil

The meeting closed at 7:42 a.m.

7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016  
AF12/377  
SW

CONFIRMED THIS

DAY OF

2016.

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PRESIDING MEMBER