

4.5 NAPPY RECYCLING TRIAL (Simon Hill: File No. ENV 17)

Responsible Director: Jarrod Doake

RECOMMENDATION

That Council;

- 1. Notes the information provided on conducting a trial into disposable nappy recycling.*
- 2. Resolves not to proceed with a proposed Nappy Recycling Trial in 2022-23 due to the reasons outlined in this report.*
- 3. Authorises the CEO to re-allocate available funding from the 2022-23 budget for the proposed Nappy Recycling Trial to other priorities as appropriate.*

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the potential risks identified in the proposed Nappy Recycling Trial project and to seek support from Council to not proceed with the trial due to project risks.

BACKGROUND

Council supported a budget bid for \$100,000 in the 2022/23 budget to investigate, and if supported, conduct a trial for Monash residents to recycle disposal nappies.

DISCUSSION

The proposed project model developed by officers was for Council to part subsidise Monash residents to recycle disposable nappies with a local company (Provider).

The trial was planned to enrol 500 residents with children in nappies, provide a fortnightly or weekly collection of nappies from the household for a period of 16 weeks and recycle the nappies into a reusable product. A local provider was sought to conduct the trial on Council's behalf.

After assessing the limited benefits from conducting such a trial and in consideration of the project risks outlined below, it is considered that Council should not proceed with the trial as this time.

PROJECT RISKS

There are several risks identified with funding a trial project of this nature, including:

- Limited providers in this market
- Infancy of this technology and service
- Uncertain end market for recycled product
- Potential stockpiling of product
- Suspension of the trial
- Expectations set by Council to the community regarding this service going forward

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Nappy Recycling Trial if successful has the potential to meet the goal of the Waste Management Strategy (2017-2026) to increase waste diversion from landfill.

CONSULTATION

Officers have consulted with available provider/s, maternal and child health and industry networks.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Such a trial could assist families reduce their landfill and manage the disposal of nappies.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A budget bid of \$100,000 is available in this year's budget for this trial.

CONCLUSION

That Council does not proceed with a Nappy Recycling Trial.