

3 RECYCLING PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS TO MOBILITY AIDS AND SOFT PLASTIC WASTE TO PARK FURNITURE TRIAL - Councillor Penny Pedersen

File Number: CLM/19/1/1/6 - BP19/841

BACKGROUND:

Residents of Ryde are worried about plastic waste in our waterways; they are interested in circular economy initiatives and have a desire to recycle (and/or collect plastic from our parks to recycle). I would therefore like to propose that we collect plastic bottle caps for a prosthetic limb initiative and set up a trial soft plastic waste to park furniture project at Kissing point Park/wharf and if it is successful we consider expanding the project to sporting fields where communities gather for sport on weekends, which are also hotspots for litter.

This project will not only help clean up our parks, reduce the plastics going to landfill, and reduce our waste levy - but will provide a great opportunity for education on circular economies. If the collection infrastructure is transparent, we can see where most of the litter has come from and the community can see how much plastic is being saved from landfill.

The bottle tops can be collected for groups like Envision, a not for profit group who engage with Government bodies, long term unemployed, Job Active Network, volunteers, and a long list of community organisations to create meaningful contributions to the local community.

Over the years, with the help of thousands of long term unemployed participants, Envision have created a myriad of things, which have then been donated, throughout local communities and beyond.

The Envision Hands project is just one example of a project that recycles plastic bottle lids bound for landfill and turns them into colourful, super hero hands for children in need, mobility aids, STEM training tools, and Aged Care gadgets.

Next to plastic bags, plastic bottle tops are one of the top polluters of the oceans and environment. They create micro beads which enter the food chain and pollute our beaches.

MOTION:

- (a) That the City of Ryde staff write to a group like Envisage and other similar local initiatives to investigate how City of Ryde can support a bottle top recycling project and bring back to the Works and Community Committee a report outlining:-

Council, dated 19 July 2019, submitted on 23 July 2019.

NOTICE OF MOTION 3 (continued)

- i. Installation, alongside other problem waste collection infrastructure at the customer service centre, a collection point for plastic bottle tops.
 - ii. Placement of a sign on the collection infrastructure to explain to the community how the bottle tops will be recycled into prosthetics and other products.
 - iii. Placement of information regarding the collection and the purpose of collection on council's website, in the mayor's newspaper notice and on rate notices.
- (b) That as part of a soft plastic to park furniture trial, City of Ryde prepare a report for Works and Community Committee that investigates the costs and feasibility of:-
- i. Constructing a large, portable, transparent container/collection point for soft plastic waste.
 - ii. Transporting the collected waste to a soft plastic recycling facility.
 - iii. Commissioning the production of a park bench, item of play/exercise equipment or landscaping infrastructure for the park where the plastics were collected.
 - iv. The construction, education signage and installation of the recycled product in the park where the plastics were collected.
- (c) That any costs identified in both items (a) and (b) be funded from the EPA Waste less, Recycle more fund and if the grant applications are unsuccessful that the projects be funded from the domestic waste reserve.