

Let's cut out the rubbish

PLANS FOR a new waste management strategy to cut the need for landfill by as much as 70 per cent will be presented in a report to the next Armidale Dumaresq Council meeting.

Council aims to reduce the current 10,000 tonnes of metric waste per year now dumped at the Acacia Park tip to 3000 tonnes through improved management strategies.

Councillors at a workshop meeting decided to put on hold a decision to find a suitable new landfill site until the new strategy involving more recycling and separation, compaction of rubbish and composting are fully investigated.

Although the Acacia Park facility has to be replaced within two years, Mayor Brian Chetwynd said council would not be rushing into a decision until it had looked at world's best practice waste management techniques.

"There are a lot of very exciting possibilities to create a state of the art facility to meet the community's needs and address the environmental concerns of the 21st century," Cr Chetwynd said.

"We will be looking at overall strategy levels of service for waste collection from kerbside to industrial to ensure that what does eventually end up in landfill is

relatively inert.

"Waste Management techniques have been revolutionised throughout the world in the last 10 years and we want to introduce the best of them into our strategy."

Councillors heard from a number of experts including Public Works advisor, Brian Mackney, about the new options for waste management to be considered in selecting a modern landfill site.

Cr Chetwynd said if council accepts the recommendations of the report, its officers will spend the next few months investigating the best outcome for Armidale Dumaresq and would inspect the

most up to date facilities in other areas of NSW.

"No decision about a site can be made until the end of that process.

"When we have made a decision about the best facility then we will look at the best financial option for council and the ratepayers, either to resume or purchase land which best suits our purpose."

Issues such as buffer zones, noise pollution, visual pollution, prevention of leaching of materials from the site into water courses, as well as modern recycling and compaction methods will all be considered in planning the new facility, the mayor said.