

Council Policy **GARDEN WASTE RECYCLING SERVICE**

Corporate Plan Reference:	<i>Our environment is protected, enhanced and valued by the community</i>
Endorsed by Council:	20 June 2019
Policy Author:	Manager Waste and Environmental Health

1 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This Policy regulates the provision of a garden waste recycling service to the Noosa community.

2 OUTCOME

The provision of a garden waste recycling service is part of Council's long-term waste strategy. The service incorporates the collection of garden waste and the reuse of this green waste to create blended soils and Australian standard compost.

The implementation of the service provides a range of outcomes including:

- Diversion of organic waste from landfill
- Reduced consumption of landfill airspace
- Increased lifespan of the landfill
- Reuse of a valuable resource for a community and commercial benefit
- Reduced impact of the State Government waste levy commencing 1 July 2019

3 SCOPE

This policy applies to all premises including but not limited to, single domestic residences, duplexes, commercial and industrial premises, multi-unit accommodation and resorts, within the defined garden waste service area identified in the eleven maps attached to this policy.

The policy may also apply to properties within five kilometres of the defined garden waste service area where services can be provided optionally.

4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THIS POLICY

In 2016, Council developed a Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2016-2024 (*the Plan*) in accordance with the State Government's *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.

The Plan provides the guiding principles for this Policy as well as being a pathway for Council to achieve the specified target of recycling 55% of domestic waste to landfill by 2024 as provided for in the State Government's *Queensland Waste Avoidance and Recycling and Resource Productivity Strategy (2014-2024)*.

This reduction cannot be achieved without the introduction of a garden waste recycling bin for the separate collection and processing of garden waste to reduce waste buried in landfill.

This policy also seeks to ensure Council meets its obligations under the Federal Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA).

To ensure compliance with the CCA, Council has given an undertaking to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) that it will exempt properties from its standard garden waste recycling service (upon request of the owner) where a commercial gardener or other service provider removes garden waste on behalf of the owner for a beneficial reuse and the garden waste is not discharged to landfill.

5 POLICY STATEMENT

Under this Policy Council will provide the following garden waste recycling services to the Noosa community.

5.1 Defined garden waste service area

The following minimum garden waste service level is to be provided within the 'defined garden waste service area, in addition to general waste bin and yellow lidded recycling bin services.

Single domestic dwellings

- 1 x 240 litre lime lidded garden waste recycling bin collected fortnightly.

Duplexes – for each duplex unit serviced separately

- 1 x 240 litre lime lidded garden waste recycling bin collected fortnightly.

Duplex with a shared waste collection service

Shared service between 2 units

- 1 x 240 litre lime lidded garden waste recycling bin collected fortnightly.

Commercial and Industrial Premises

- 1 x 240 litre lime lidded garden waste recycling bin where garden waste is regularly being placed into a general waste bin

Resorts and Multi Unit Developments

- Sufficient 240 litre, 360 litre, lime lidded garden waste recycling bins to prevent garden waste being placed into a general waste bin, or
- Sufficient 240 litre, 360 litre or 1,100 litre lime lidded garden waste recycling bins if the premises are located within the coastal townships from Noosa Heads to Peregian Beach or within the townships of Noosaville and Tewantin.

5.2 Additional Service Capacity

Within the defined garden waste service area, where the owner or occupier receives a garden waste service but "regularly" places garden waste into a general waste bin, the Council may require the owner to provide additional garden waste collection capacity (i.e. upgrade to 360 litre bin/s or provide additional 240 litre bin/s, or 1,100 litre bulk bin/s) to prevent garden waste being disposed to landfill.

5.3 Optional garden waste recycling service

An optional garden waste recycling service is available to domestic, commercial, industrial and multi-unit developments within the 'optional garden waste service area'.

The owner of premises within the optional garden waste service area may apply for a garden waste recycling service to be provided to their premises. Occupiers who are not the owner require the owner's permission.

5.4 Invalid garden waste recycling service

An invalid garden waste recycling service may be requested by an owner or occupier of premises receiving a garden waste recycling service, where there is no person on the premises physically capable of presenting a bin on the footpath for service on collection day.

Council may require the owner or occupier to provide a medical certificate to confirm their incapacity to maneuver a garden waste recycling bin to the defined collection point on the footpath.

5.5 No limit on the number of garden waste recycling bins

There is no limit to the number of garden waste recycling bins that can be requested by the owner of a premises, provided the owner agrees to pay the relevant cost for each garden waste recycling service provided.

6 SERVICE FREQUENCY AND BIN PRESENTATION

Garden waste recycling bins (240 litre and 360 litre) will be serviced fortnightly on the normal general waste collection day, but on the opposite fortnight to the yellow lidded recycling bin service. Garden waste bulk recycling bins (1,100 litre) will be serviced weekly on the normal service day.

Garden waste recycling wheelie bins must be presented at the kerb by 6am on service day, placed adjacent to the general waste bin, but spaced more than 500mm apart.

At commercial or industrial premises or multi-unit development where the waste collection contractor has agreed to service general waste containers on the property, the owner may be able to arrange for garden waste recycling bins to be collected on the property.

The contents of the garden waste recycling bin will be emptied into a garden waste collection vehicle and transported to the Resource Recovery Facility at Eumundi Road where the garden waste will be processed (mulched) for reuse.

7 SERVICE EXEMPTIONS

The owner of premises within the defined garden waste service area may apply for an exemption from the garden waste recycling service where the following criteria applies:

- the owner or occupier engages a service provider to perform a gardening service at the premises to either mulch and use on site or remove all garden waste to a resource recovery facility, or to another location for an approved reuse of the resource. The service provider must supply a written undertaking that achieves compliance with the exemption criteria mentioned in this section; or
- the parcel of land on which a single dwelling is located is 400m² or less in area; or
- the parcel of land containing two duplexes is located on a parcel of land less than 400m² in area.

8 TERMINATION OF EXEMPTIONS IN THE GARDEN WASTE SERVICE AREA

Where Council has exempted a property from the requirement to receive a garden waste recycling service because another service provider (i.e. gardener) is diverting the garden waste for a beneficial reuse and no service provider provides a regular service for the removal of garden waste:

- the owner of exempted premises must request a Council garden waste recycling service be provided.

9 CONTENTS OF WASTE BINS AND GARDEN WASTE BINS

9.1 Use of General Waste Bins for Garden Waste Disposal

Within the garden waste service area, garden waste must not be placed into a general waste recycling bin unless the owner has been exempted from receiving a garden waste collection service, because it is not possible to supply the service to the property.

9.2 Contamination of Garden Waste Recycling Bins

Where the owner or occupier of premises with a garden waste recycling service contaminates the contents of a garden waste bin with 'excluded waste' or 'prohibited waste', Council may remove the bin from service to protect the integrity of the garden waste material for processing and reuse. Where a bin is removed from service no refund of the fees paid for the service will be made and the service charge will continue for the remainder of the financial year.

The service will only be reinstated if the owner or occupier can assure Council that the future provision of the service will not result in contamination of the bin with excluded material.

10 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Waste Management Section is responsible for the provision of the services under this policy under general direction of the Manager Waste and Environmental Health.

The Council's waste collection contractor is responsible for the delivery and servicing of garden waste recycling bins at the owner's property.

Council's customer service staff will receive and answer inquiries and complaints about the service where possible or refer the inquiry to the Waste Management Section.

11 DEFINITIONS

Defined garden waste service area means the area defined by Council resolution where Council has agreed to provide a garden waste collection service.

The area is broadly identified as the urbanized areas of coastal and hinterland townships (excluding Kin Kin) and also excludes the majority of the Noosa rural area.

The area is defined on eleven maps attached to this policy, "Identifying properties inside the boundary of the townships that are included in the defined garden waste service area"

Excluded waste means dirt, soil, gravel, concrete, plastic or plastic bags, plastic garden pots and any other material that would contaminate the contents of the garden waste recycling bin and prevent its marketability for reuse after processing into mulch or compost.

Garden waste means organic material from the garden such as grass clippings, leaves, light branches to 50mm diameter, twigs and sticks, palm fronds, bark, sticks, provided the weight of the 240 litre bin does not exceed 70 Kg for a 240 litre bin or 85 Kg for a 360 litre bin.

Garden waste recycling bin means an approved waste container being a green 240 litre or a 360 litre wheelie bin or a 1,100 litre low noise bulk bin, with a lime coloured lid specifically designated to receive "garden waste" and be collected from the kerb, or on property at commercial premises by special agreement.

Garden waste recycling service means the provision by Council of a 240 litre or 360 litre garden waste recycling bin and the collection of the contents of that bin fortnightly on the normal service day for a waste collection service, but on the opposite week to the yellow lidded recycling bin service, or in the case of a 1,100 litre bin the contents collected weekly on the normal service day.

Garden waste bulk recycling service means the provision by Council of an approved 1,100 litre low noise bulk recycling bin the contents collected weekly on the normal service day.

Invalid garden waste service means a Garden Waste Service provided to a property where one or all occupants are deemed (based on medical evidence) to be unable to wheel a garden waste recycling bin to the kerb for collection. The bin must be located in a fixed location approved by Council. The collection contractor wheels the bin to the collection vehicle, empties the contents and returns the bin to the fixed location.

Optional garden waste service area means the area within 5 kilometres of the defined garden waste service area. Owners of property within this optional service area can apply for the service. The area may be extended beyond 5 kilometres from the defined garden waste service area if Council's Waste Collection Contractor agrees to provide the service.

Optional garden waste recycling service means a garden waste recycling service that can be requested by the owner (or owner's agent) for:

- Any premises that are within 5 kilometres of the defined garden waste service area.

Single unit domestic dwelling means for the purpose of this policy a self-contained dwelling on a separate parcel of land and includes each semi-detached dwelling in a duplex building.

12 RELEVANT LEGISLATION

The Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (CCA) Queensland Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011

Queensland Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulations 2011 Environmental Protection Regulations 2008 (Chapter 5A) Councils Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan 2016 – 2024

Version control:

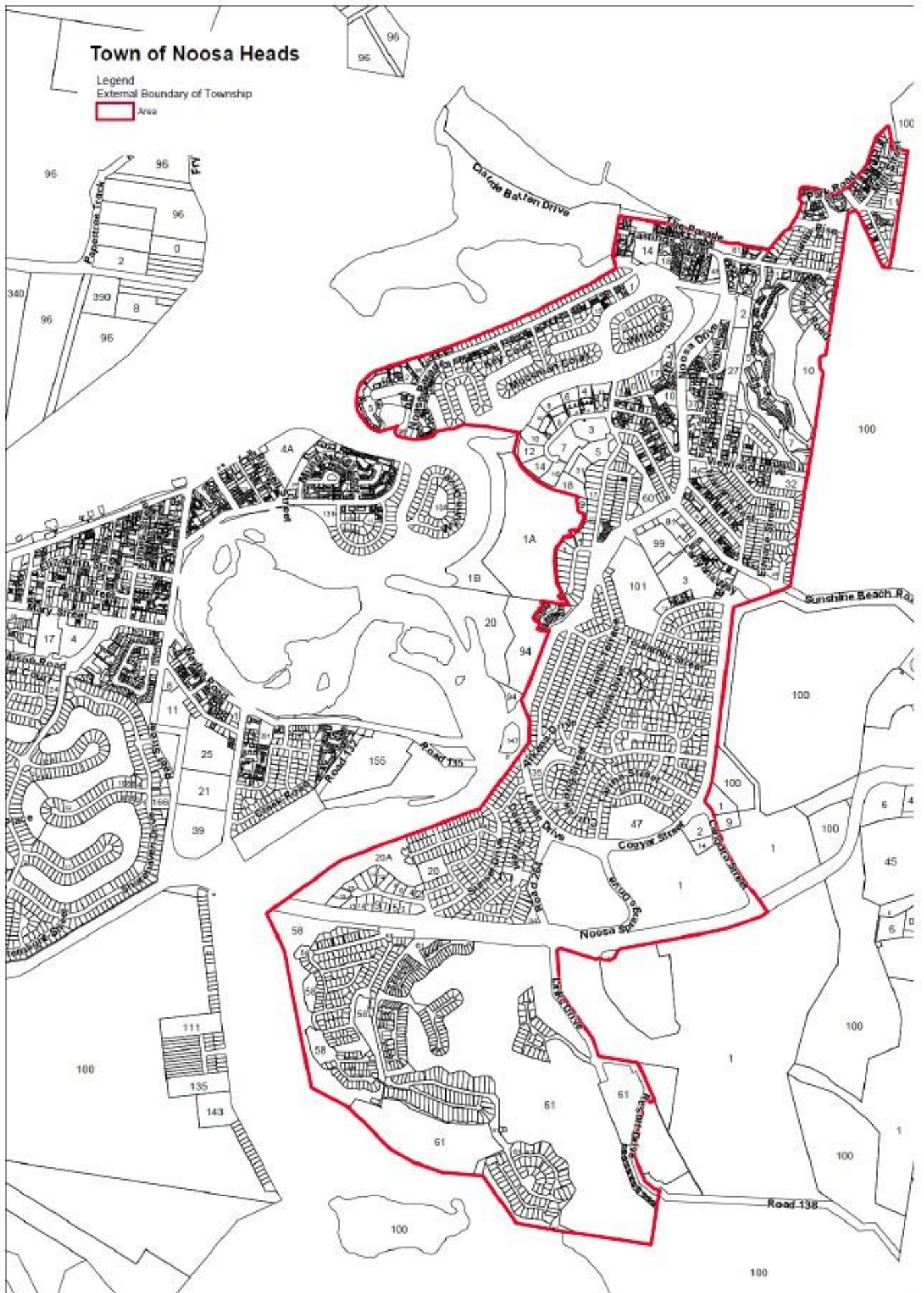
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1.0	New policy		Council	20/04/2017
2.0	Revision	Y	Council	20/06/2019

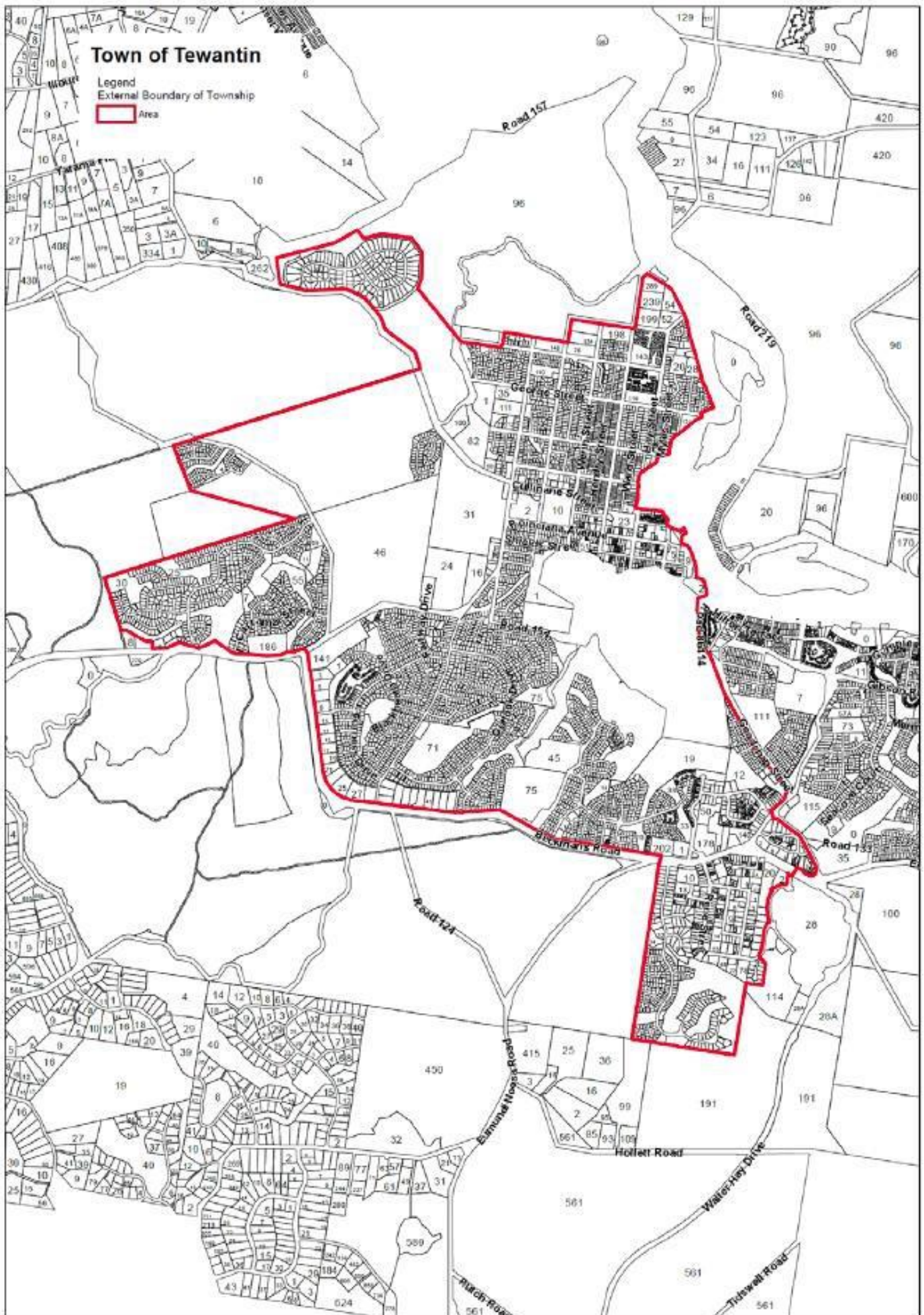
Defined Garden Waste Service Area

11 Maps - Identifying properties inside the boundary of the townships that are included in the defined garden waste service area.

Town of Noosa Heads

Legend
 External Boundary of Township
 Area





Town of Sunshine Beach

Legend
External Boundary of Township
Area







