

ITEM 20

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR BLAKEY - STYROFOAM WAFFLE POD MANAGEMENT

Councillor Blakey has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council note that styrofoam waffle pods as used in building slabs are prone to being dispersed by wind, and when this happens they have a serious impact on our waterways, farmland and the environment.
- 2 Council notes that the current voluntary code of practice for waffle pod use and storage is insufficient to secure them during seasonal high winds.
- 3 Council write to the NSW Minister for Better Regulation and the Environment Minister outlining the serious pollution incidents that have occurred under the voluntary code of practice, and seek their support to investigate solutions such as -
 - a Mandating a compulsory code of practice for the storage and use of styrofoam waffle pods.
 - b Significantly increasing fines for non-compliance.
 - c Replacement with void forms made of sustainable materials such as cardboard, or recycled plastics and other materials.
 - d The phase out of styrofoam in waffle pods.
- 2 Council support the following motion to the 2019 Local Government NSW Conference that Local Government NSW –
 - a Recognises that styrofoam waffle pods cause serious wind blown pollution, see newspaper link [here](#).
 - b Is concerned that the current voluntary code of practice is insufficient to secure styrofoam waffle pods on building sites.
 - c Is concerned that the clean up of wind blown styrofoam is a major burden on council resources.
 - d Lobbies the NSW State Government to seek solutions to the use of styrofoam in waffle pods in building slabs.”

Background provided by Councillor Blakey -

Void forms serve an important role in the construction of a building slab. When concrete is laid out directly on top of the soil, there is a risk that the material will seep into the ground. This can lead to an unstable base that could potentially affect the integrity of the structure. A void form helps to prevent that from happening. When it is placed between the soil and the concrete, the void forms allows the concrete to set on a stable surface without the risk of it sinking into the ground.

Void forms can be made of styrofoam, honeycomb shaped cardboard, recycled hard plastics or some other material. Green Building accreditation incentivises the use of void forms alternatives to styrofoam waffle pods.

Since July 2019, Council staff have retrieved over 350 cubic metres or 1000 full sized waffle pods from farmland, roadways and waterways adjoining building sites at Wongawilli. Through the Rise and Shine program Council has supported the initiative of volunteers to host a community clean-up day. Citizens have also reported numerous waffle pod wind-blown pollution incidents to Council through the Report It app. Council inspectors have also visited building sites to check the storage security of waffle pods. Despite these actions, windblown waffle pod pollution is happening again and again, each time there are high winds.