ITEM 3   IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNAL AUDIT BUREAU RECTIFICATION PLAN - POST IMPLEMENTATION AUDIT

At the Council meeting of 3 August 2015, it was recommended that the Audit Committee commission a post implementation audit of the Internal Audit Bureau (IAB) Rectification Plan related to the management of waste material derived from construction and maintenance activities. The recommendation also required the findings be reported to Council. KPMG was engaged to assess the effectiveness of the actions implemented following the IAB review and prepare a report for Council on the post implementation actions.

The Audit Risk and Improvement Committee at its meeting of 17 September 2019, endorsed the post implementation audit of the IAB Review Rectification Plan to be reported to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

1   Council endorse the post implementation audit of the IAB Review Rectification Plan noting the auditor confirmed all recommendations have been completed and implemented.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Mark Roebuck, Manager City Works
Authorised by: Andrew Carfield, Director Infrastructure + Works

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report

BACKGROUND

Council received funding under the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA)'s Better Waste and Recycling program which included an initiative to deter illegal dumping by the creation of solid barriers to deny access for dumping in known hotspots. This was implemented on the old Princes Highway near Maddens Plans in March and April 2015. Following community and media concern, Council undertook testing at the soil mounds and some of the locations where the material was sourced, it was identified that there were low levels of bonded asbestos in the mounds and the source locations.

IAB was engaged by Council on 15 May 2015 to conduct an independent review of the procedures and systems that led to the circumstances resulting in bonded asbestos contamination appearing in mound barriers, to avoid similar occurrences and address the level of future risk. In July 2015, the IAB Independent Review of Procedures and Systems of Mound Barriers (IAB Review) was presented to Council, which provided recommendations across three areas of focus:

• Illegal Dumping Infrastructure Project Management;
• Systems and Processes;
• Documentation.

In 2017, Council engaged Australian Sustainable Business Group (ASBG) to review progress of the rectification plan. ASBG found that Council had embedded waste handling procedures into the planning, design, Review of Environmental Factors (REF) and implementation of construction and maintenance activities. This review highlighted some minor non-conformances with documentation handling that was rectified through the provision of refresher training. This training also picked up staff that had started with the organisation post the original training program.
Council engaged our internal auditor in January 2019 to undertake the post implementation audit which was completed and reported back to Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in September 2019 and all recommendations were confirmed as complete and implemented.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The following Council divisions have been involved in the implementation of the recommendations and have been consulted throughout the post implementation audit.

- Director Corporate Services;
- Manager Project Delivery;
- Manager Infrastructure Strategy + Planning;
- Manager Open Space + Environmental Services;
- Manager Human Resources;
- Manager City Strategy.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal "We have a healthy community in a liveable city."

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Objective 5.5 – The public domain is maintained to a high standard.

CONCLUSION

KPMG were engaged to assess the effectiveness of the actions implemented following the IAB Review and prepare a report to Council on the post implementation outcomes of the IAB Review. There were 41 recommendations, and all were confirmed as complete and implemented.