

8 April 2005

Mr Lindsay Dunstan
Engineering Services Divisional Engineer
Wollongong City Council
Locked Bag 8821
South Coast Mail Centre NSW 2521

Dear Mr Dunstan,

It has been brought to the attention of Healthy Cities Illawarra that environmental and safety issues currently exist with the collection of waste from household garbage bins.

The issue has been raised by Mr Koslowski, and Healthy Cities Illawarra feels his concerns are legitimate and warrant some action. The current practice of residents leaving their garbage bins on the edge of the nature strip for emptying by the garbage truck often means that once emptied by the truck, the bins fall over on the street, creating a safety hazard for road users as well as spilling rubbish onto the street, which becomes pollution in the storm water cycle. The problem is pronounced in areas where the nature strip is steep.

Mr Koslowski has proposed a potential solution to the problem, which involves installing a flat concrete surface (possibly a concrete paver) on which to place the bins.

We realise the resources and expense of such a project, however we believe that a pilot project involving one or two streets where the problem is most serious could be extremely useful for assessing the merits of such a program on a wider scale. Potential exists for the involvement of individuals on training programs such as Work for the Dole scheme to undertake the work with property owners. Linking the project with other environmental initiatives such as 'sustainability street' with funding from the environment fund could also be possible.

Such a pilot project would have definite benefits for the amenity and safety of the neighbourhood as well the local environment. I can be contacted on 4226 5000 or environment@healthycitiesill.org.au for further discussion.

Yours sincerely

Ben Grounds
Community Environmental Health Officer

cc. Mr Koslowski, Lisa Miller WCC