

**ITEM 26 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR RICHARD MARTIN - GARAGE SALE TRAIL 2026**

Councillor Richard Martin has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council acknowledges the significant environmental, social and economic benefits of participating in the Garage Sale Trail, a national community engagement program that promotes reuse and waste avoidance, contributing to the principles of a circular economy.
- 2 Council note that participation in the 2024 event nationally diverted over 418 tonnes of waste from landfill and generated over \$3.6 million for the national economy.
- 3 An Information Note be prepared on resource recovery options including the Garage Sale Trail so these can be considered for inclusion in the next financial year’s budget as part of the planning cycle.

**Background provided by Councillor Richard Martin:**

The Garage Sale Trail, powered by over 90 local councils across Australia, is an effective, ready-made waste education and behaviour change program. It is designed to help residents reduce household waste, declutter responsibly, and participate in the circular economy by buying and selling pre-loved items while diverting materials from landfill. The event fosters community connection and supports local economic activity, with the average sale generating nearly \$500 in previous years.

Waste recovery and reuse activities like the Garage Sale Trail (typically held over two weekends in November), can be offered to residents by Council for free, thereby increasing accessibility and maximising participation. The Garage Sale Trail provides councils with all necessary promotional materials and support, requiring minimal staff time investment (an average of less than two hours per week during the promotional period).

Council’s participation in these types of waste recovery and reuse activities is consistent with Council’s Community Strategic Plan and Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2024–2034 to increase diversion rates and reduce waste to landfill and build a more connected, sustainable community. Data from past participants confirms the program’s effectiveness, with 86 percent of participants more likely to reduce waste at home after the event.