

At the Council Meeting on 28 August 2023, Councillor Jude Dwight asked a question without notice, which was recorded in the Minutes of the Meeting as follows:

Councillor Dwight noted discussion in relation to Item 8.1 Egan Lee Synthetic Sportsfield Development, regarding the disposal of soil and grass clippings and asked what Council could put in place to divert all similar green or organic waste from the landfill waste stream.

The Director, Infrastructure Grant Thorne took the question on notice and noted a comprehensive answer would be provided to Councillor Dwight.

Further detail is available from the Minutes of the Meeting on Council's website at [Current agendas and minutes | Knox](#), where a link to the live-stream recording of the meeting is also available

The following response was provided by the Director Infrastructure, Grant Thorne on Friday, 15 September 2023 via email to Councillor Dwight, and copied to all Councillors:

In response I provide the following:

I want to assure you that we are committed to sustainable waste management practices, and I completely understand the importance of reducing our environmental footprint. Currently, during normal mowing operations on our 61 sportsfields, grass clippings are not collected and sent to landfill. However, it's essential to note that 32 of these sportsfields have a couch grass cover, which necessitates scarifying or de-thatching, typically on an annual basis. When we scarify these grassed surfaces, we generate approximately 30m³ to 50m³ of thatch, which comprises dead grass and root matter.

Our first preference for disposal is to use other Council sites within the municipality. We are also exploring the option of disposing of this material at former landfill sites within Knox (Cathies Lane). This organic material has the potential to regenerate over time and add to the capping layer. However, as you would appreciate there are strict landfill management requirements and other issues to consider that we are navigating, to understand if that is possible and to ensure it meets any compliance requirements.

Furthermore, we are actively discussing the possibility of processing the de-thatching material at our green waste processing facility should other disposal options become unavailable. Since we generally do not dispose of green waste from our own practices, we do not currently have a Council-generated green waste arrangement with the green organics processor. I want to emphasise that, in the past, organic de-thatching material collected during sportsfield maintenance practices has been taken to landfill only when no other suitable alternatives were available.