

## Planning & Infrastructure Services

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### LATE REPORT

**G.04.7** ***RETURN & EARN - REVERSE VENDING MACHINE -  
MERRIWA***

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** Greg McDonald - General Manager

**AUTHOR:** Mathew Pringle - Director Planning & Infrastructure Services

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to consider an alternative location for the establishment of a Return and Earn reverse vending machine in Merriwa.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. support the establishment of a Return and Earn reverse vending machine within the road reserve adjoining Lot 6 DP 244849, 46 King George V Avenue, Merriwa subject to available funding, favourable community consultation and all approvals being met.
2. receive a further report on the outcome of community consultation should any objections be received.

### **BACKGROUND**

Council, at its meeting held on 27 March 2023, considered a report in relation to the establishment of a Return & Earn Reverse Vending Machine in Merriwa and resolved the following:

*That Council:*

1. *support the establishment of a Return and Earn reverse vending machine at the former driver reviver site in Merriwa (48 King George V Avenue, Merriwa, Lot 257 DP 750942) subject to favourable community consultation and all approvals being met.*
2. *receive a further report on the outcome of community consultation should any objections be received.*
3. *investigate the possibility of relocating the covered picnic table to Hacketts Lane opposite the Silo Art if practical.*

### **REPORT/PROPOSAL**

TOMRA has carried out further investigations of the former driver reviver location at 48 King George V Avenue, Merriwa and its suitability for the establishment of a Return and Earn Reverse Vending Machine. A number of issues have been identified in relation to the cost of development, proximity to residential properties and the access point being close to an existing intersection.

TOMRA has identified an alternative site within a Council road reserve adjoining Lot 6 DP 244849, 46 King George V Avenue, Merriwa that is considered to be a safer, more cost effective and more suitable location than the former driver reviver site. A locality map and site plan are provided in figures 1 and 2 below.

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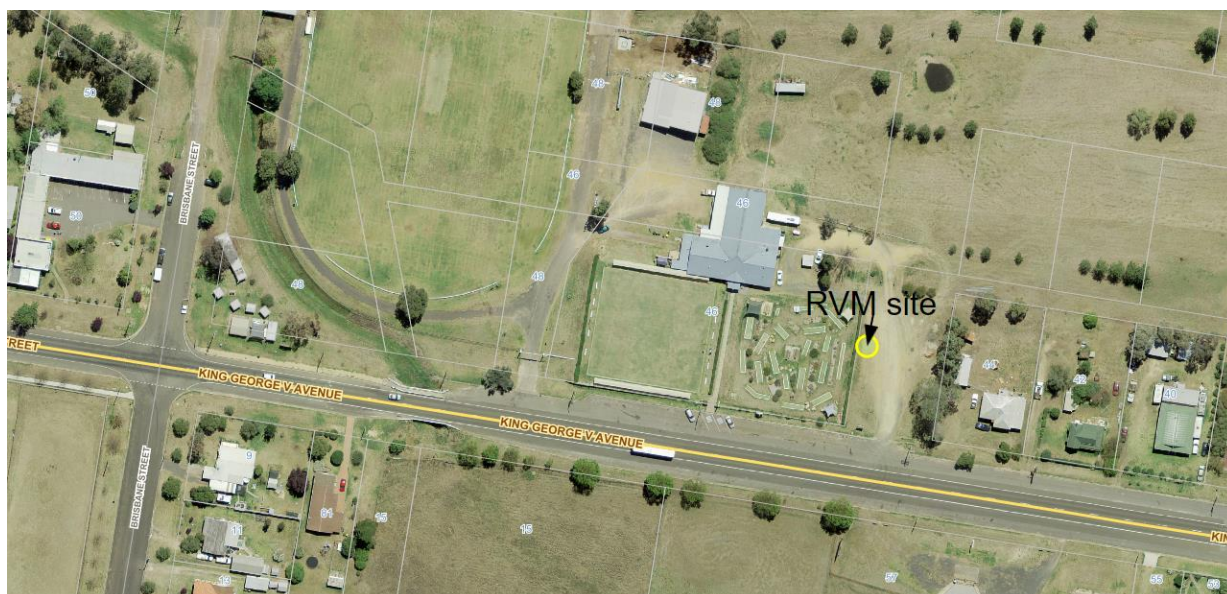


Figure 1 – Locality Map



Figure 2 – Site Plan

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TOMRA has requested Council's endorsement of the alternative site and a contribution towards the project by constructing and sealing a car park.

As with the original proposal, community consultation will be conducted prior to deciding on the final location of the RVM to provide residents in close proximity to the RVM an opportunity to raise any concerns.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Support the establishment of a Return and Earn reverse vending machine within the road reserve adjoining Lot 6 DP 244849, 46 King George V Avenue, Merriwa subject to available funding, favourable community consultation and all approvals being met.
2. Not support the proposal.

### **CONSULTATION**

- General Manager
- Director Planning & Infrastructure
- Merriwa District Progress Association

### **STRATEGIC LINKS**

#### **a. Community Strategic Plan 2032**

This report links to the Community Strategic Plan 2032 as follows:

#### **Protected Environment**

Ensuring the ongoing protection of our environment and natural resources.

- 2.1 Advocate for, facilitate and support programs that protect and sustain our diverse environment for future generations.
- 2.7 Provide efficient and effective waste and recycling services and support improved waste minimisation and recycling practices.

#### **b. Delivery Program**

- Services that promote community education in regard to waste reduction, reuse and recycling, including resource recovery.
- Involvement in regional initiatives for waste reduction and improved recycling and collection facilities.

#### **c. Other Plans**

Sustainability Action Plan

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### **a. Policy and Procedural Implications**

Nil

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### **b. Financial Implications**

The cost of installing the RVM on the site will be borne by TOMRA, however TOMRA has requested that Council contribute to the project by constructing and sealing the car park, the cost of which could be in the order of \$60,000 - \$80,000. There is currently no budget allocation for this work so the project is unlikely to proceed until funding is secured through a grant or budget allocation by Council. This is the first time during their discussion that mention of Council undertaking works of this kind has been raised.

In addition to the above, TOMRA will be required to enter into a lease and make rental payments to Council for the use of the land.

### **c. Legislative Implications**

The proposed facility may be exempt development pursuant to Section 2.23 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.

### **d. Risk Implications**

Nil

### **e. Sustainability Implications**

The proposed facility aligns with the principles of sustainability as it promotes recycling and the reduction of waste and litter.

### **f. Other Implications**

Nil

## **CONCLUSION**

TOMRA is proposing an alternative location to establish a Return and Earn reverse vending machine in Merriwa. The site is identified as the road reserve adjoining Lot 6 DP 244849, 46 King George V Avenue, Merriwa.

TOMRA has requested Council's endorsement of the alternative site and a contribution towards the project by constructing and sealing the car park. There is currently no Council budget allocation for this project so it is unlikely to proceed until funding is secured.

Community consultation will be conducted prior to deciding on the final location of the RVM to provide residents in close proximity to the RVM an opportunity to raise any concerns.

The proposed facility will promote recycling and the reduction of waste and litter in Merriwa and the surrounding area.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no enclosures for this report