How will the underground automated waste collection system work?
There will be separate waste inlets for recyclable and general waste installed in buildings and public spaces throughout the new Maroochydore Central Business District. Bins in public places within the CBD will have inlets for recyclables and general waste.

Waste dropped into each inlet will be stored in a sealed compartment below ground, or in building basements.

A vacuum pump is then activated and the waste is transported to a waste collection facility via an underground pipe network.

The vacuum system will consecutively collect each type of waste according to the system’s scheduled operation.

Where else in the world has the Envac system been installed?
Envac has a worldwide presence with more than 700 installations across Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North and South America.

How much will the system cost?
The total cost of purchasing and installing the automated waste collection system in the new city centre is $21 million. The cost of the system will be fully recovered from occupants of the CBD over the life of the system.

What are the benefits of this system?
It is a more efficient alternative to conventional above-ground waste collection. The system is expected to increase recycling rates and will create a cleaner, healthier and more attractive city centre for residents, businesses and visitors.

The use of this system will result in a significant reduction in the number of large vehicles needing to access the city centre, providing a safer and more pleasant urban environment, as well as reducing the carbon footprint associated with this essential service.

The elimination of early morning garbage collection also creates better urban living conditions.

The system is also in place in new urban developments in Stockholm, Seoul, Barcelona, London, Singapore and Beijing.
Will people have to change the way they sort or dispose of their waste?
The system will be simple to use with inlets for recyclable and general waste. Any change to the way people currently sort their rubbish will be minimal.

How does the Envac system improve recycling?
Significant increases in recycling rates have been noted at other developments with two fraction (recyclable and general waste) automated waste collection systems. This is because such systems are very user-friendly and there is no fixed limit on how much waste can be recycled – unlike recycling bins that are often filled before they are collected.

What value does it add to the CBD and properties within the city centre?
Anything which improves the quality of life enjoyed by workers, residents and visitors will make properties in the CBD more appealing. The new city centre won’t have rows of wheelie bins on footpaths or rubbish trucks on the roads. This system is the first of its kind to be installed in an Australian CBD, consistent with our commitment to ensuring 21st Century technology and innovation are key characteristics of the new Maroochydore CBD.

Who is responsible for maintenance and repairs of the system?
Council will be contracting Envac to operate and maintain the system.

This technology has a track record of increasing recycling rates The natural environment will benefit too!

Waste will be transported at 70km/h through a 6.5km system of underground pipes.