

Waste Loads to Headstone

At the beginning of April, staff at the Waste Management Centre starting baling all cardboard waste for export. So far 24 bales weighing between 300 to 400kg each have been airfreighted to Brisbane for recycling. This represents another big part of the island's waste stream being diverted from the headstone facility. The recent waste audit conducted by Marine Plastic Solutions in early December estimated that the island produces 177.6 tonnes of cardboard waste annually. This has freed up a lot of space at Headstone.

What we are finding though is that a lot of waste is being delivered to Headstone that should be processed through the Centre particularly soft plastics and general waste. If we can squash it, package it or it can blow away then it shouldn't be taken to Headstone. We need the communities help to reduce the impact that burning waste has on the Marine Park and the surrounding environment.

Waste Management Staff are going to be looking more closely at the truck loads that are being delivered to Headstone. If items such as general waste, cardboard, cans, ewaste or soft plastics are found hidden in truckloads of waste they have been instructed to charge the customer a \$100 fee for an unsorted load as per Council's fees & charges.

If you are ever unsure if an item should be taken to Headstone feel free to contact the Waste and Environment Office on 22609 or email pj.wilson@nirc.gov.nf.

To assist in better managing the site, Council have engaged a local contractor to construct a cage for burning waste and reduce the likelihood of unburnt waste being blown directly into the sea. The construction is subject to the availability of materials.

Plans are also being drafted to shut Headstone to the public in the next financial year, meaning all waste streams will be brought into the Centre. This will allow for further segregation of the larger waste items and provide an opportunity for the public to reuse items that are currently taken straight to Headstone.

To date this financial year Council has spent roughly \$800K on exporting a range of legacy and operational waste streams. Nearly 500 tonnes has been sent out already and we expect another 70 tonnes before July this year. Please see below the breakdown of waste streams that have been exported.

Waste Stream	Tonnes
Residual Waste	266.1
Asbestos	117.4
Waste Oils	74
PET Plastics	9.6
Aluminium Cans	4.5

Steel Cans	6.5
Ewaste	8
Chemicals	8.6
Cardboard	8.4
Total	498.2

PJ Wilson

TEAM LEADER WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT

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