

PROPOSED COMMUNITY WASTE MANAGEMENT FEE

NIRC is proposing a Community Waste Management Fee as part of the 2021-22 Budget. The fee is intended to contribute to costs associated with operating the Waste Management Centre (WMC) and freight and disposal of waste streams to mainland Australia.

Some key points regarding waste management on Norfolk Island are set out below.

- NIRC has spent \$1.8 million dollars on waste management in 2020-21, including over \$600,000 to operate the Waste Management Centre and almost \$1.12 million dollars on freight and disposal to the mainland. While this included the removal of some legacy waste from Island in December, NIRC is forecast to spend a similar amount in 2021-22 due to the current rate of waste generation
- NIRC's current revenue to support waste management activities is limited to the waste management levy and revenue from sales of waste tickets. These are expected to generate around \$430,000 and \$60,000 respectively. This leaves a significant gap of over \$1.3 million in costs. The proposed Community Waste Management would cover around \$450,000, a portion of this gap.
- Norfolk Island is estimated to produce around 590 tonnes of solid waste each year, of which 25% is estimated to be residual waste sent to landfill which makes up the majority of NIRC's disposal costs. Findings from a recent waste management audit has found that 60-70% of residual waste is plastic and over 30% by weight is food scraps and organics, a waste stream that should be composted and not sent to landfill.
- Similar to all local governments, a number of remote island communities around Australia currently afford dedicated waste management fees for residents and businesses. These include Lord Howe Island (\$659 per private household), where waste is delivered to a WMC, and Christmas Island (\$429 + establishment fee), which has a collection service.

NIRC proposes to apply the Community Waste Management Fee to households, businesses and tourist accommodation premises. The fee would not apply to farmland or lots with no residential or business properties. The proposed fee structure is set out below.

Land Use	Proposed Fee
Residential Dwelling	\$300
Tourist Accommodation	\$75/bed
Business	\$300

This fee structure will continue to run in parallel with the ticketed disposal system for the Waste Management Centre, where ticket prices are proposed to increase for FY22 (e.g. \$4 for 120L of residual waste). A set number of waste disposal tickets would be provided to

residents, businesses and tourist accommodation premises after paying for their Community Waste Management fee as set out below. This allocation is based on a single 120L waste disposal delivery per fortnight per residence or business. A rebate would be issued for unused tickets at the end of the financial year.

Land Use	Waste Disposal Tickets allocation
Residential Dwelling	\$104
Tourist Accommodation	\$20/bed
Business	\$104

An FAQ on the proposed fee is available on the NIRC homepage and Customer Care, with comments invited from the community during the Fees and Charges exhibition period (closing 5 July). NIRC is also working towards a waste management model that provides greater value to the community, reduces the amount of waste sent to ocean outfall and the mainland, delivers reusable products to the community and provides an updated pricing model for waste management services. A consultation paper will be developed over the coming months and distributed to the community.

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