

Waste Management Proposals

As part of Norfolk Island Regional Council's proposed Operations Plan for FY21/22, there are a number of activities identified for waste management. This media release is to notify the community of these activities, including changes to the way NIRC seeks revenue to fund its waste management operations. The activities include:

- Closure of Headstone Waste Facility to the public – Note, this will allow better segregation of waste currently going to Headstone to ensure plastics and other compactable refuse is not incinerated and deposited into the ocean. However, it does not remove the ongoing need to use Headstone for bulky waste items, which will be operated by NIRC staff only.
- Bulk waste receipt at the Waste Management Centre, including timber, builder's waste, steel and other large items.
- Delivery of green waste to the Waste Management Centre at no cost
- Pilot of an updated domestic and commercial waste management system, supported and funded by a mainland waste management provider in partnership with the Marine Parks funding grant for development of an education video and program regarding waste management and marine plastic pollution. This system emphasises the removal of organics and food scraps from other waste streams at the household/business and simplifies segregation requirements of other waste streams. The community will be consulted on this pilot in the coming months, with any successful implementation of the pilot rolling out to future waste management activities.
- Funding Grant with the Building Better Regions Fund for \$1.4 million of improved waste management infrastructure. This grant is awaiting final assessment from the Commonwealth. The infrastructure would ensure Council can close the loop on all solid waste streams and would eventually result in the closing of Headstone.
- A Community Waste Management fee for residents, businesses and tourist accommodation. This fee would be issued on the rates notice and a nominal number of Waste Management Centre tickets would be provided in return for fee payment. Any unused tickets would be rebated to the resident, business or tourism accommodation at the end of the year to the remaining ticket value. For more information on this, please refer to www.nirc.gov.nf for more details including FAQs.
- Increasing the Waste Management Centre ticket charges to contribute to waste management revenue, which is currently deficient. Note the addition of a Community Waste Management fee and increased ticket prices, along with the existing waste levy, still will not cover the full cost of waste management operations. This will require cross-subsidisation from other council business units.
- The development and roll-out of a waste education program to the community to support positive behaviour in waste management practices.
- Establishing a Sustainability Advisory Group to provide recommendations and insight on proposed sustainability programs which Council develops or engages with.

It should be noted that future waste management practices on island will encourage and, wherever possible, enforce the delivery of all solid waste types to the NIRC Waste Management Centre. Illegal disposal and burning of residual waste, particularly plastics, have a harmful effect on human health

and the environment. NIRC will work with the community to ensure these waste types are handled appropriately moving forward, including ensuring they are segregated from waste streams requiring disposal at Headstone.

Phil Reid

MANAGER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

25 June 2021