



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Backyard Burning

Council have been receiving an increase in complaints from community members who are suffering from the effects of people burning a range of wastes on their properties. These residents are concerned about the toxic fumes that are blowing onto their properties from nearby households and commercial properties burning their general waste.

The significant majority of our general waste is plastic. When plastics are burnt in open air they form dioxins and furans. These compounds are extremely harmful to human health and the environment.

Human health effects from low environmental exposures are unclear, however people who have been unintentionally exposed to large amounts of these chemicals have developed a skin condition called chloracne, liver problems, and elevated blood lipids (fats). Laboratory animal studies have shown various effects, including cancer and reproductive problems and they persist in the environment and can bioaccumulate through the food chain.

If you are burning general waste in your backyard you are not only contaminating your land but the chemicals can land on your roof and end up in your water tank.

For nearly three years now Council have been baling and exporting these waste streams so they can be appropriately disposed of in Australia so once delivered to the Waste Management Centre, it will not be diverted to Headstone.

It is in the best interest of your health and the health of the Norfolk Island community that you deliver your waste to the Waste Management Centre.

It is an offense under the *Environment Act 1990 (NI)* to emit smoke from your property if it is likely to impact on human health, so we ask members of the community to reconsider burning their rubbish and think about the impacts that these actions could have on other members of the community.

Peter Wilson  
**TEAM LEADER WASTE & ENVIRONMENT**

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