



MEDIA RELEASE

Planning and Environment Update

Norfolk Island Plan Housekeeping Review

A reminder that the Norfolk Island Plan 2002 Draft Housekeeping Amendment 2022 is now available for viewing. The community is invited to make comments on the Draft Plan through to Monday 28th November.

This current review has focused on 'housekeeping matters', being those matters which can improve the application and implementation of the Norfolk Island Plan 2002 (NI Plan) without major changes. It is expected that a major review of the NI Plan will take place following completion of relevant studies including the current Population Strategy. This work will inform and guide a broad overhaul of Norfolk Island land use planning strategies, anticipated to be reflected and implemented through a new statutory land use plan for Norfolk Island.

Community members wishing to make a submission may forward them by email to planning@nirc.gov.nf or provide a hard-copy to Customer Care.

Waste Management

The community would be aware that changes will be made to the current waste management operations at Council. Contractor, Revolve Your World (RYW), has been engaged to manage operations for Domestic and Commercial Waste, which is essentially all waste operations that are conducted inside the WMC shed. Changes to the receipt and processing of household and business waste will be communicated directly by RYW to the community, with engagement having already commenced with some businesses. These changes are scheduled to commence in late February 2023, pending delivery of necessary equipment to island.

Council will retain responsibility of construction and demolition waste operations, which are conducted outside the WMC shed. Some changes will be made to how this operates in 2023, including infrastructure improvements, operational hours and continuous support from NIRC staff in unloading and segregation of waste. These changes will be announced to the community well in advance of their implementation.

We look forward to working with the community and RYW in developing a leading edge model for waste management in remote communities.

Illegal disposal of asbestos

The community is reminded that asbestos waste is to be disposed of at the WMC in a safe manner and with the full supervision of Waste Management staff. Exposure to asbestos waste poses a significant risk to human health and can lead to respiratory disease.

Of late, there have been instances of asbestos waste being disposed of amongst other building waste or green waste at the WMC. This is in contravention of the Waste Management Act and can attract fines. The community is also advised there is a fee for the disposal of asbestos waste which is included in the 2022-23 Fees and Charges on the Council website.

While we are thankful to those community members who dispose of asbestos waste responsibly, we request that all community members are mindful of this issue and take responsibility for all hazardous wastes, including asbestos.

Phil Reid

MANAGER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

17 November 2022