

MEDIA RELEASE

Waste Management Update

2023 has been a big year in the waste management space for NIRC. In August, Revolve Your World started operations on-island, transforming the way domestic and commercial waste and recyclables are received and processed. This includes the production of Resin8™ aggregate, which is soon to be used as a substitute for rock in building materials.

The operation has also enhanced the segregation of incoming waste, resulting in an overwhelming reduction in the volume going to landfill. For comparison, for the period of September to October in 2022, NIRC sent 134 tonnes of waste to landfill. For the same period in 2023, only 46 tonnes were sent to landfill. **This represents a reduction of 66%** - a fantastic achievement so early in the operation. This is despite 181 tonnes of total waste and recyclables being processed for the period.

This is an exciting outcome, which results in increased resources for the community in glass sand, aggregate and compost; dramatically increases the volume of recycled material; and reduces the overall cost for waste management through avoiding export and landfill. Operation of the carboniser to process cardboard has just begun and will only improve these outcomes.

A thank you to the community for supporting these changes to date. As The Norfolk Wave Team have relayed, there are still improvements to make and we ask users to ensure that food scraps and organics are separated from the Recyclapod stream, as well as other contaminants such as sanitary items, dirt and soil, hazardous materials, vacuum dust and ash. Food scrap buckets are freely available for pick up from the centre and can be used for swap-n-go.

Meanwhile, we have landed our major infrastructure for management of bulky waste with the BBC Emsland voyage in October and November. The Teuton Z50 shredder, JCB excavator and bobcat and several 20-foot shipping containers will now assist in clearing the backlog of bulky waste. This will take time but is an important change in how the island manages a broad variety of waste types, including demolition and construction waste, used tyres and bulk steel.

The community is reminded that disposal of waste at the Waste Management Centre, including The Norfolk Wave, is to be in accordance with guidance from NIRC and its contractors and the *Waste Management Act 2003 (NI)*. Recently, there have been instances of illegal disposal of asbestos at the centre. This presents serious health risks to the community and workers.

NORFOLK ISLAND

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People disposing of this material without the supervision of the NIRC Waste Management staff and without appropriate packaging will be prosecuted. Surveillance of the facility will be conducted to identify breaches of the legislation.

Plans continue for the development of a Community Reuse Centre. Design, planning and procurement phases are underway, with a development application to be submitted early in the new year.

There will be a formal procurement process to find a suitable operator of the centre, which we hope to have in place in the second half of 2024. This facility will divert reusable items from landfill, including homewares, electrical items, hardware and building materials. The development is in line with the Norfolk Island Waste Management Strategy, which was reviewed in early 2022.

Finally, while Revolve Your World and The Norfolk Wave team have published opening hours for the Christmas/New Year period, NIRC bulky and green waste operations will be operating at reduced hours over the period.

Opening hours are published below. Please note, this includes disposal of green waste. Green waste and bulky waste drop-off areas will be locked and unable to be accessed on closed days.



The Norfolk Wave Recycling Centre



Teuton Z50 Shredder

BULKY AND GREEN WASTE – 2023/24 CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

Saturday 23 December	Open 7am - 3pm
Sunday 24 to Thursday 28 December	CLOSED
Friday 29 December	Open 7am - 3pm
Saturday 30 December to Monday 1 January	CLOSED
Tuesday 2 January	Normal operating hours resume

Phil Reid
MANAGER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

21 December 2023