

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Waste Management Update

Boomerang Bags

The Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) would like to congratulate all of the community members who were involved in the 'Boomerang Bags' initiative. Members of the community may have seen the Boomerang Bag dispensers at various retail outlets across the island. The bags have been made from recycled material and will reduce the consumption of plastic bags and result in less rubbish being burnt at Headstone Tip. The NIRC encourage the community to be actively involved as we move towards more sustainable waste management.

Proposed Waste Management Fees

NIRC wish to clarify the proposed fees for waste management. These fees are aimed to reduce the current deficit of the waste management, to highlight the importance of everyone reducing waste by the introduction of a small charge, and to implement a user pays system for waste management. The draft fees can be viewed on Council's website: www.norfolkisland.gov.nf under "Public Exhibition Documents".

The proposed fees are for general waste only, therefore there will be no charge for sorted/recycled material. If waste is separated before it comes into the waste management centre then the charge for waste will be less.

Although our resources for recycling are currently limited, the team at the waste management centre are still crushing aluminium and steel cans, shredding tyres and preparing asbestos and car batteries for export.

Argentine Ants

The Argentine Ant team have been closely monitoring the site for infestations and the WMC is now reasonably free from Argentine Ants which is an important step toward implementing reuse strategies at the centre. The team have found a number of outbreaks in recent times which they expect may have been brought into the centre. If you suspect that you may be bringing waste that is infested with ants please inform staff at the WMC so it can be treated appropriately.

As the WMC is in an ant zone it is acceptable for contaminated waste to be delivered however it is important that staff is advised so that it can be closely monitored and that we don't undo the eradication work that has been carried out over the years.

Lastly, if you have any suggestions on how to minimize waste let us know by emailing Council at regionalcouncil@nirc.gov.nf or send a letter addressed to the General Manger, PO Box 95, Norfolk Island 2899.

Lotta Jackson
General Manager

09 September 2016