

REMINDER TO RESIDENTS:

Keep waterways, easements & drains clear

Illegal dumping costs millions of dollars in property damage across the region. Cairns Regional Council would like to remind residents that dumping green waste and household rubbish in local waterways, easements and drains is increasing the risk of flooding to their properties and those of their neighbours.

Council receives many calls from concerned residents every year regarding dumped palm fronds and vegetation in waterways, easements and drains.

The wet season is approaching so now is a good time to start clearing your easement or drain to avoid flooding during the wet season.

Property owners and those people responsible for maintaining easements and drains, must not cause any obstructions to stormwater flowing in Council easement drains. This is particularly important where trees and vegetation have been planted. Of particular concern is where drains meet side property boundaries. In many cases side fences constructed across the easement allow rubbish and vegetation to accumulate and block the flow of stormwater.

Property owners should be aware that they can be held liable by adjacent property owners for damage caused by an illegal obstruction in an easement or drain.

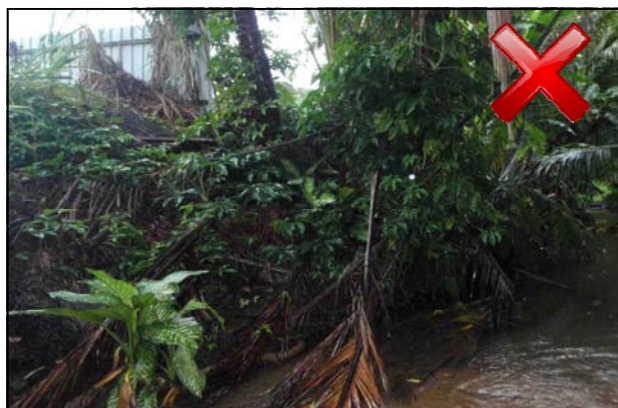
Residents also have obligations under the Health Act to keep your property free from the accumulation of rubbish, which could encourage vermin and/or mosquito breeding. This includes checking whether there are any other obstructions to drainage (such as raised garden beds, stored materials or densely planted vegetation etc) which may adversely affect the purpose of the easement.

Council may issue a General Offence Notice for non-compliance with these laws which carries a maximum penalty of \$1500.

Council encourages residents to report anyone illegally dumping waste into waterways, easements or drains so appropriate action can be taken.

Please contact Cairns Regional Council on **(07) 4044 3044** if you require further information or would like to lodge a report.

Council looks forward to working with you to ensure your property is not at risk of damage from flooding caused by illegal dumping of waste in waterways, easements or drains.



For further information please contact
Cairns Regional Council on **(07) 4044 3044** or email
feedback@cairns.qld.gov.au.