

ORDINARY MEETING	11
5 JUNE 2024	

ASBESTOS DISPOSAL GENERAL POLICY AMENDMENT

81/1/13 | #7424688

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the amendments to the Asbestos Disposal General Policy

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Not applicable.

Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council's Asbestos Disposal General Policy was due for a periodic review to ensure the continued relevance and alignment to changes in legislation. Changes to the existing General Policy are in the attachment.

Through the review, policy updates have been incorporated to ensure alignment with legislative changes to the *Environmental Protection (Regulated Waste) Regulation 2018* and the *Environmental Protection (Waste ERA Framework) Amendment Regulation 2018*.

BACKGROUND:

The policy focuses on the requirements of the general public in terms of disposal requirements at a Council facility (Portsmouth Transfer Station). Council must comply with its Environmental Authority of which ERA 57 is a standard condition.

COMMENT:

The Policy has been reviewed and revised to ensure alignment with the latest industry standards and best practices.

The two noteworthy updates being:

- A shift from limited prescriptive safety measures to a reference guide via the Qld Governments asbestos management portal which is regularly updated to the reflect contemporary standards; and
- Clarifications around the wrapping and sealing requirements for asbestos disposal.

OPTIONS:

That Council adopts the amendments to the Asbestos Disposal General Policy.

OR

That Council does not adopt the amendments to the Asbestos Disposal General Policy.

CONSIDERATIONS:**Risk Management:**

Without a general policy for the disposal of asbestos, there is a greater risk to Council in accepting asbestos from the public at waste transfer stations. Council has separate operational procedures for the management of asbestos at Council operated sites. Council does not accept commercial quantities of asbestos at waste transfer stations.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The operations at transfer stations accepting asbestos containing products needs to consider the safety of all persons involved through the process, including community members.

Natural Environment:

The general policy ensures changes with the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*, changes to Environmentally Relevant Activity 57 are reflected, and Council is acting in accordance with those changes.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

Focus 5 – Focused Council – Being a leader in local government.

Statutory:

Environmental Protection (Regulated Waste) Regulation 2018
Environmental Protection (Waste ERA Framework) Amendment Regulation 2018
Environmental Protection Regulation 2019

CONSULTATION:

Consultation has occurred with officers affected by this General Policy.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Asbestos Disposal General Policy with track changes

Attachment 2 - Asbestos Disposal General Policy – final version



Gary Everson
Associate Director Service Delivery



Mark Wuth
Director Cairns Infrastructure & Assets

Attachment 1 – Asbestos Disposal General Policy

CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL



General Policy

ASBESTOS DISPOSAL POLICY

- Intent** The ~~the intent of this~~ Policy is ~~intended~~ to provide direction to the ~~general~~ public on the ~~disposal~~ requirements for ~~the disposal of~~ domestic generated asbestos materials at ~~Council's the~~ Portsmith Waste Transfer Station. ~~This Policy is not intended does not~~ to provide ~~detailed~~ advice on ~~all aspects of~~ handling and ~~or~~ transporting asbestos waste.
- Scope** This Policy applies ~~only to~~ ~~to all~~ domestic customers ~~intending to dispose of~~ less than 175kg of asbestos ~~at~~ the Portsmith Transfer Station.

BACKGROUND

Asbestos is extremely hazardous as ~~it~~ is easily ~~released~~ ~~liberated~~ into the atmosphere and ~~if~~ ~~when~~ inhaled may cause serious health concerns, including death. People are most at risk of asbestos exposure when ~~removing or~~ renovating old houses, and ~~when handling or coming into contact with~~ damaged asbestos materials.

~~It is strongly recommended p~~ Prior to dealing with asbestos material ~~it is strongly advised~~ to consult with the ~~Queensland Government agencies listed in the Further Information section of this Policy, department of Workplace Health and Safety for the specific requirements when removing or handling asbestos, advice on the procedures and personal protective equipment needed during the demolition/removal of asbestos fixtures. It is also advised that it is best practice to use qualified contractors or suitably trained personnel when dealing with asbestos material.~~

PROVISIONS

~~Asbestos products being removed should be moistened with water to limit the potential for asbestos fibres to be released into the air.~~

~~Asbestos material must be double wrapped in heavy duty builder's plastic to prevent punctures from sharp edges and sealed to prevent the escape of air and dust. Wrapped asbestos material must be labelled in accordance with the asbestos advisory standard clearly identifying the contents and relevant safety precautions. Asbestos labelled tape may be purchased from selected retail outlets.~~

PROVISIONS

~~Prior to disposal, asbestos materials must be fully sealed in double wrapped, 0.2mm thick plastic bags or builder's plastic, sealed with tape and labelled in accordance with the asbestos advisory standard clearly identifying the contents and relevant safety precautions. **labelled with the following warning information:**~~

CAUTION – ASBESTOS**DO NOT DAMAGE OR OPEN BAG****DO NOT INHALE DUST**

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The bags must be small enough to be easily handled and lifted by the customer.

ACCEPTANCE OF ASBESTOS

Only domestic asbestos materials can be disposed at the Portsmith Transfer Station.

Fees for the disposal of asbestos materials are in accordance with weight, and a disposal limit of 175kg applies.

Asbestos materials must be declared to the weighbridge operator upon entry to the Portsmith Transfer Station. Weighbridge operators will inspect the asbestos bags to verify wrapping, labelling and weight acceptance criteria.

Weighbridge staff have the right to refuse acceptance of asbestos materials for any non-compliance including with wrapping provisions and ~~or~~ weight acceptance limits.

~~Asbestos will only be accepted at Portsmith Waste Transfer Station and must be in small manageable bundles which can be lifted by hand by the customer. The total amount being disposed must not exceed 175kg.~~

~~Asbestos products and estimated weight must be declared at the Portsmith Waste Transfer Station weighbridge upon entry to the site. Weighbridge operators will inspect loads containing asbestos to verify wrapping, labelling and weight acceptance criteria. Weighbridge staff have the right to refuse acceptance of asbestos products if non-conforming with regulatory waste handling requirements and quantity limits defined above.~~

FURTHER INFORMATION ON ASBESTOS HANDLING

~~Further information about ~~on~~ Asbestos is available from the following Queensland Government departments:~~

~~Queensland Government - Asbestos
Website: www.asbestos.qld.gov.au
Phone: 13 74 68~~

~~Worksafe
Website: worksafe.qld.gov.au
Phone: 1300 362 128~~

~~Alternatively, please contact Cairns Regional Council Customer Service Centre Ph. 1300 69 22 47 on the web at <https://www.asbestos.qld.gov.au/> or at www.worksafe.qld.gov.au. Alternatively contact the following:~~

- ~~▲ Department of Workplace Health and Safety Ph. 1300 362 128~~
- ~~▲ Department of Environment and Science Ph. 13 74 68~~
- ~~▲ Cairns Regional Council Customer Service Centre Ph. 1300 69 22 47~~

~~Advice regarding asbestos-related diseases can be obtained from the following:~~

- ~~▲ Asbestos Disease Support Society Ph. 1800 776 412~~
- ~~▲ Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia Ph. 1800 006 196~~

This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.

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Director~~General Manager~~ Responsible for Review: ~~General Manager Water & Waste~~
Director Cairns Infrastructure & Assets

ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 20/02/2002
CURRENT ADOPTION: 12/02/2020
DUE FOR REVISION: 12/02/2024
REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:



John Andrejic
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL



General Policy

ASBESTOS DISPOSAL POLICY

Intent	The intent of this Policy is to provide direction to the public on the disposal requirements for domestic generated asbestos materials at the Portsmith Transfer Station. This Policy does not provide advice on handling or transporting asbestos waste.
Scope	This Policy applies only to domestic customers intending to dispose less than 175kg of asbestos at the Portsmith Transfer Station.

BACKGROUND

Asbestos is extremely hazardous as it is easily released into the atmosphere and when inhaled may cause serious health concerns, including death. People are most at risk of asbestos exposure when renovating old houses and coming into contact with damaged asbestos materials.

It is strongly recommended prior to dealing with asbestos material to consult with the Queensland Government agencies listed in the Further Information section of this Policy, for the specific requirements when removing or handling asbestos.

PROVISIONS

Prior to disposal, asbestos materials must be fully sealed in double wrapped, 0.2mm thick plastic bags or builder's plastic, sealed with tape and labelled in accordance with the asbestos advisory standard clearly identifying the contents and relevant safety precautions. The bags must be small enough to be easily handled and lifted by the customer.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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Director Responsible for Review:

Director Cairns Infrastructure &
Assets

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John Andrejic
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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