

Waste Management Guidelines for MacDonnell Regional Council

Working toward Best Practice

2020 - 2023



Effective August 2012

Review conducted January 2020

Next Review due January 2022

Waste Management implementation program

2020-2023

The MacDonnell Regional Council has been involved in the development of the *Central Australian Remote Landfill Operating Manual* produced by the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) and the three Central Australian Regional Councils. The Council has continued to work with LGANT to refine this manual specifically for the communities of the MacDonnell Regional Council. These guidelines now form the basis for the development of an on-going waste management plan which provides baseline standards we will aim to achieve and in compliance with the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act* and other legislation

Intent: to achieve best practice in waste management across the Region in line with the MacDonnell Regional Council's management guidelines.

In commencing this management plan it should be noted that Council Service Delivery Centres (SDC's) do not start with equal waste management facilities and infrastructure and up until now there have been no documented practices and standards for staff to adhere to.

Some SDC's have made significant advancements in improving waste management services in the past twelve (12) years. This is in part due to initiatives by the three Regional Councils within Central Australia.

Recent site visits have confirmed that a number of SDC's have acceptable and even exceptional waste management practices. In 2019, Santa Teresa opened its new "green site" waste management facility and Areyonga completed its "brown site" rehabilitated facility.

In outlining the targets of the three year plan, we note that some SDC's have already achieved some of the service level targets. These sites will be required to continue implementing acceptable standards and practices that have not been met while moving to initiate new targets. The objective is that all SDC's will meet each service level's targets for waste management. Achieving the next service level's targets in the nearest possible time is encouraged to reach best practice management.

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Central Australia Remote Landfill Operating Manual (Revised September 2016) for use in communities of the Barkly, Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional Councils

Five top priority actions have been identified for all communities in the Region. These are primarily based on the outcomes of Public Health and Environmental Risk Assessments. These actions are to be achieved in every community by the end of the three year period that this plan applies. Refer to the Waste Management Guidelines for more information and the Work Method Statements for detailed instructions.

Priority Actions

1. Site plans for each of the community landfills
2. Address the lack of awareness of public health issues associated with waste
3. Identify, document and report the extent of asbestos contaminated material within the community
4. Develop a hazardous waste strategy
5. Safe burning practices

Three secondary actions have been identified based on the Risk Assessments. These actions are also to be addressed within the three year time frame.

Secondary Actions

1. Occupational Health and Safety
2. Chemical wastes: can cause injury and harm from contact and can be a fire hazard
3. Water contamination: harm ecosystems that rely on the water source

Actions have been classified into three subsections:

- **Collection in the Community**
- **Management at the Landfill Site**
- **Staff Management**

Year One: Immediate Actions – Reduce the Risk

Appropriate actions are to be taken to commence and complete Year One actions as per time allocations below. Some actions should be dealt with immediately so time frames are given in months.

Year One Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
Collection in the Community		
Minimum 2 collections per week	3 months	
Provide “wheelie bins” to all households	6 months	
Cease burning waste at the household level – remove all “burn bins”	6 months	
Bin stands and wheelie bins are allocated to all properties	6 months	
Bins are used correctly and listed waste is not put in with domestic waste bin	12 months	
Management at the Landfill Site		
No burning at landfill – exceptions allowed for paper and cardboard which may be burnt separately	9 months	
Secure storage of waste plant and equipment	12 months	
Staff Management		
PPE (safety wear) for all staff	3 months	
Staff are trained in the use of plant and equipment	12 months	



Year Two: Remediate Old Sites

After twelve months of addressing the high priority, high risk aspects of waste management across the Council, it will be possible to commence the remediation of old waste sites that exist around communities.

Year Two Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
Collection in the Community		
Education and community awareness initiatives	12 months	
Adequate plant is available to enable waste collection and maintenance inspections as per vehicle policy	24 months	
Management at the Landfill Site		
Each landfill site has a site plan	3 months	
Separate listed waste from landfill trench	3 months	
Identify disposal site for animal carcasses – separate from main disposal trench	3 months	
Separate all possible steel products from landfill trench	3 months	
Landfill trench is compacted and covered regularly	3 months	
Well established and signed deposit points for recyclable materials	6 months	
Remove other inappropriate items from trench	6 months	
Access to tip face is reduced to 2-3m at any one time – appropriate signage and fencing of tip face	6 months	
Appropriate Bunding along tip face	6 months	
Ensure no water is running through landfill site – drainage	9 months	
Weed control	9 months	
Fire breaks	9 months	
Landfill area is fenced	12 months	
Establish basic signage	12 months	
Signage is complete, clear and concise (refer guidelines for more information)	12 months	
Commence emergency response plan	12 months	
Staff Management		
At least one staff member in each community has a first aid certificate	12 months	

Year Three: Review and Improve

- What has been working in the last 2 years?
- What has not worked?
- Undertake an audit against the condition reports given in this plan.

Year Three Targets	Anticipated Time Frame	Completed (Y/N)
Collection in the Community		
Retrieve non-hazardous bulky goods that have been dumped at old sites around the community.	12 months	
Management at the Landfill Site		
Pest control – vermin, dogs	12 months	
Secured landfill sites with clear open and closing dates and times – full public awareness and acceptance.	12 months	
Dust suppression initiatives around landfill site, increase native vegetation	12 months	
Full elimination of bulky goods being disposed of in trenches	12 months	
Complete emergency response plan and trial	12 months	
Staff Management		
Staff are trained, enrolled in Civil Works Cert II Rural Operations	12 months	

CSCs will be required to report progress and outcomes in their monthly Landfill Audits.

Full cooperation and support with the waste management plan will deliver better and consistent standards of waste management across the Region. It will provide residents a safer, cleaner and healthier environment to live in. It will also provide staff a safer working environment.