



**BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

Policy

Waste Disposal Following a Natural Disaster or Significant Storm Event

Information about this document

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Resolution No	13-699 of 12/12/2013
Document Owner	Director Infrastructure Services
Document Development Officer	Manager Resource Recovery
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Document History

Doc No.	Date Amended	Details/Comments eg Resolution No.
E2013/76294		For Council's endorsement to be placed on public exhibition to Ordinary Meeting 12/12/13.
E2013/83073	17/12/13	Amended as per Res No. 13-699 placed on exhibition E2013/83199
E2014/19975	22/2/2014	Adopted after close of exhibition – no submission received
E2021/43663	09/07/2021	Additional sentence at 3.1.1; "Myocum Resource Recovery Centre" updated to "Byron Resource Recovery Centre" Adopted after exhibition period. No submissions received. Resolved per Resolution 21-217
E2024/99807	02/07/2025	Policy endorsed by ET/GM with minor changes 09/07/2025.

Further Document Information and Relationships

Related Legislation	
Related Policies	
Related Standards, Procedures, Statements, documents	NSW State Emergency Management Plan

Note: Any reference to Legislation will be updated in the Policy as required. See website <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/> for current Acts, Regulations and Environmental Planning Instruments.

1. Objectives

- 1.1 To set the framework for waiving gate fees at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre following a natural disaster or significant storm event, which results in the generation of a significant amount of green (vegetative) and/or other waste and debris.
- 1.2 To provide support to the Byron Shire community in the aftermath of natural disasters and significant storm events.
- 1.3 To assist Council to meet its statutory obligations.

2. Background

After significant storm events and natural disasters Council frequently receives requests from community members to waive its fees at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre for the disposal of green and/or other waste and debris. Such requests are often made immediately after, or in some cases during, a storm, and the urgency with which decisions need to be made in this regard requires a clear and unambiguous policy to do so.

This policy has been developed to provide a clear and simple framework for a decision to be made to waive gate fees at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre for green and/or other waste and debris following a Natural Disaster or Significant Storm Event.

3. Policy Statement

3.1 Green Waste

3.1.1 Natural Disasters

Following the declaration of a natural disaster within the Byron Shire Council boundaries (in accordance with New South Wales State Emergency Management Plan) Council will accept green waste at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre free of charge from residents for a period of two weeks following the date of declaration. Residents must show proof that they are a resident of Byron Shire to be eligible. In the event of a natural disaster, bush fire or storm event, green waste will not be considered eligible under this section unless deemed appropriate by the General Manager, and may be eligible only to areas deemed effected.

The General Manager has the delegated authority to extend the period for the acceptance of green waste free of charge from residents, if following the end of the initial two week period, circumstances warrant the extension of the free disposal. The circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- The natural disaster continues for a period after the initial declaration of a natural disaster; and
- Other circumstances arise that, in the opinion of the General Manager, warrants the extension of the free disposal period.

3.1.2 Significant Storm Events

Following a significant storm event, where large amounts of green waste have been generated by a storm, the General Manager has the delegated authority to waive the green waste gate fee for residents for a period so determined. The waiver of green waste gate fees may be area based, or may apply to the entire Shire, depending on how widespread the damage to vegetation is. Residents must show proof that they are a resident of Byron Shire, and the particular suburb or locality if the fee waiver is not for the entire Shire.

3.2 General Waste and Debris

Following a natural disaster or significant storm / weatherevent, where large amounts of general household waste and debris has been generated by a storm / weather event, the General Manager has the delegated authority to waive the applicable waste gate fee for residents for a period so determined. The waiver of such fees may be area based, or may apply to the entire Shire, depending on how widespread the weather event damage is. Residents must show proof that they are a resident of Byron Shire, and the particular suburb or locality if the fee waiver is not for the entire shire.

Staff will charge the usual fee for any waste not deemed to be as a direct result of a natural disaster or significant storm / weather event.

3.3 Compliance with Environmental Protection Licences

No provision of this policy or implementation of this policy can be interpreted or allowed to jeopardise compliance of the Environmental Protection Licences governing the operation of the Byron Resource Recovery Centre.

4. Definitions

General waste and debris	non vegetative household materials and debris generated as a direct result of a Natural Disaster or Significant Storm / Weather Event.
Green waste	whole or parts of a tree or shrub including branches, logs, roots and stumps generated as a direct result of a Natural Disaster or Significant Storm Event.

Natural Disaster	a natural disaster declared in accordance with the NSW State Emergency Management Plan.
Resident	person residing in a residential property within the boundaries of the Byron Shire Council local government area.
Significant storm event	an atmospheric disturbance manifested by strong winds and heavy or torrential rain (and or hail) and usually thunder and lightning, that in the opinion of the General Manager, has caused damage and resulted in enough green and/or general waste and debris to warrant the waiving of the applicable gate fee at Byron Resource Recovery Centre.