

# WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PLAN

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## Why Do We Have A Waste Reduction And Recycling Plan?

Council has an obligation to have a Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan under the provisions of the Queensland Government's *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*. Refer to *Chapter 6 - Strategic Planning for waste reduction and recycling, Division 2 Obligation of local government for waste reduction and recycling plans*.

The Plan must be in effect for a period of at least three (3) years and must, among other things, include waste targets, details of current and proposed waste infrastructure, continuous improvement opportunities and waste generation data.

Council currently has a Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan which is available on Council's website.

*See also section 'Introduction' on p3 and 'Strategic Outcome Areas' on p16 of the WRRP*

## Why Are My Waste Management Costs So High?

Lockyer Valley's waste management services are comparable to our neighbouring regions as outlined below:

Councils are facing the difficult challenge of ensuring adequate income is obtained to ensure our waste services (primarily collections and disposals) are performing in accordance with the following:

- community expectations;
- full compliance with State environmental protection laws;
- safety;
- as effectively and efficiently as possible;
- in accordance with contractual commitments.

A Full Cost Pricing Model for waste management has recently been developed which will assist Council in ensuring the current and future costs of waste management can be effectively managed. This will ensure ratepayers are not paying any more than what they should be with respect to the waste management service.

Another significant cost to Council is the rehabilitation and management of now closed landfills. Rehabilitation of the closed landfill sites across the Lockyer Valley is estimated to cost \$26M, which is a significant cost to bear. In addition to this, Council has an obligation to continually monitor each of these sites for 30 years.

Each Council has a different methodology about how it generates income (ie, rates, fees and charges, waste levy, etc) and addresses all current and future waste management expenses so caution needs be given when trying to compare Council against Council.

*See also section 'Cost of Service Delivery' on p23 of the WRRP*

## Are Any Facilities Proposed To Close Due To This New Plan?

Council proposes to close the following waste facilities:

- Helidon from 1 July 2019;
- Lockrose and Lockyer Waters from approximately 2021 which will be replaced by the proposed new Otto Road, Glenore Grove site. Lockrose and Lockyer Waters sites are also proposed to have reduced hours from 1 July 2019.

The proposed positioning of facilities ensures that more than 85 per cent of residents are located within a 20-minute drive of a waste facility, with some localities able to access two to three facilities within a 20-minute drive. The standard benchmark in Australia for access to a waste facility is a 20-minute drive for at least 80% of residents.

*See also Appendix C 'Drive Time Analysis' on p28 and 29 of the WRRP*

## Why Close The Helidon Waste Facility?

- A review of the number of transactions at the Helidon waste facility for 2017/18 has been completed and found that the site has relatively low levels of use, especially compared to the level of staffing required to maintain current operational hours;
- The majority of customers of the Helidon waste facility have other waste facilities that they could utilise within a 20-minute travel time (i.e. Grantham, Withcott, and Murphys Creek).
- By closing the Helidon site, it will enable Council to formally rehabilitate the former landfill site in accordance with Department of Environment and Science requirements

*See also section 'Planning Future Waste Infrastructure' on p17 of the WRRP*

## When Does Council Intend To Close The Helidon Waste Facility?

Council proposes that the Helidon waste facility will close at 5:00pm, Sunday 30 June 2019.

## Which Sites Will Be Impacted By The Proposed Changing Opening Days And Times?

It is proposed that the following sites will have their opening hours and times reduced:

- Grantham
- Lockrose\*
- Lockyer Waters\*
- Murphys Creek
- Withcott

\* Note that Lockrose and Lockyer Water sites are proposed to close completely around 2021 when the proposed new Otto Road, Glenore Grove site opens.

Please refer to the tables on the next page which detail the current and proposed changes to operational hours.

*See also section 'Planning Future Waste Infrastructure' on p17 of the WRRP*

CURRENT	Withcott	Grantham	Helidon	Murphys Creek	Lockyer Waters	Lockrose
Hrs open / week	58	32	24	24	24	24
Monday	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm				9am – 5pm
Tuesday	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm			9am – 5pm	
Wednesday	8am – 5pm					
Thursday	9am – 5pm					9am – 5pm
Friday	9am – 5pm		9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	
Saturday	8am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm		9am – 5pm
Sunday	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	

FROM 1 July 2019	Withcott	Grantham	Helidon (close)	Murphys Creek	Lockyer Waters	Lockrose
Hrs open / week	36	24	0	12	12	12
Monday	9am – 1pm					
Tuesday	9am – 1pm	9am – 5pm				
Wednesday	9am – 1pm					
Thursday	9am – 1pm					9am – 1pm
Friday	9am – 1pm				9am – 1pm	
Saturday	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm		9am – 1pm		9am – 5pm
Sunday	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm		9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	

### Why Is Council Reducing The Hours At These Waste Facilities?

- A review of the number of transactions of all waste facilities for 2017/18 has been undertaken as part of the development of the draft Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan
- The review included a mapping process to ensure at least 80% of residents had access to a waste facility within a 20-minute drive of their property
- By rationalising operational days and hours based on the review, Council can maintain an equitable service level across the region and better apply the waste management budget to long-term sustainable practices
- Council has endeavoured to have all sites open during the peak times based on the 2017/18 transaction data

See also section 'Planning Future Waste Infrastructure' on p17 of the WRRP

### When Does Council Intend To Alter The Opening Days And Times To These Facilities?

Proposed changes will apply from 1 July 2019 with the exception of the construction of the proposed facility at Otto Road, Glenore Grove and the proposed closures of facilities at Lockrose and Lockyer Waters which would occur approximately 2021.

## Will The Opening Days And Times Be Changing For The Gatton And Laidley Waste Facilities?

No.

Council intends to retain the current operating days and operating hours for both the Gatton and Laidley waste facilities, as these are the major facilities and population centres.

Gatton waste facility operating hours will remain at:

- Monday – Saturday 8:00am – 5:00pm
- Sunday and Public Holidays 9:00am – 5:00pm (closed Christmas Day and Good Friday)

Laidley waste facility operating hours will remain at:

- Monday – Sunday 9:00am – 5:00pm (closed Christmas Day and Good Friday)

## Why Do I Have To Pay When I Go To Dispose Of Waste At A Waste Facility?

The waste that is collected in wheelie bins is included in the waste fees and charges on Rates Notices, and is budgeted within Council's costs to manage through a Waste Facility. Any additional waste taken to a waste facility incurs additional costs to Council to manage and is therefore charged to the individual who brings it onto the site, rather than being charged to all ratepayers. This is often referred to as a 'user-pays' system.

Some forms of waste, such as green waste and approved recycling, do not incur any additional charges at the waste facility.

## Why Do I Have To Pay So Much To Have My Wheelie Bin Waste Removed By JJ Richards?

The cost of the residential dual wheelie bin service is applied on Rates Notices and is \$277.00 per annum. This is the average of what it costs Council to run the wheelie bin service contract and manage the collected waste at the landfill or transfer station facilities. Part of this cost includes the long-term environmental management process and eventual capping of landfills in line with state government legislation.

*See also section 'Introduction' on p3 of the WRRP*

## What Impact Will This Plan Have On My Rates?

Council has introduced a full-cost pricing model which captures all income (rates, levy, gate fees, grants, etc) as well as capital (upgrade to facilities) and operational expenses (contractor costs – JJ Richards, Anuha, Council wages and plant costs, compliance – environmental monitoring, etc). The model will provide a basis to ensure financial impacts to ratepayers are managed responsibly and an adequate level of service is provided whilst ensuring all compliance obligations are met.



The Queensland Government is introducing a Waste Levy from 1 July 2019 which will result in additional costs to those who take waste directly to a waste facility.

See also section 'Introduction' on p3 and section 'Strategic Alignment' on pp6-7 on the WRRP

## Will The Waste Management Costs On Rates Change As A Result of the WRRP?

Council will consider any possible changes during the Budget preparation period each year. Any changes will be advised to residents once the Budget is finalised.

## Will Council Be Reintroducing A Kerbside Bulk Waste Collection Service?

Council does not intend to reintroduce a kerbside bulk waste collection service, based on the following:

- The cost of providing the service;
  - As it would be an additional service to what is currently provided, it would either need to be charged to all property owners as an additional part of rates – whether property owners use the service or not – or charged to the individual whose kerbside waste is being collected
- Workplace Health and Safety Considerations
  - This type of waste collection would require either manual handling of unknown and potentially dangerous items including asbestos, or additional machinery to assist with collection both of which also incur additional costs

Council supports a user-pays system for any waste generated beyond the standard wheelie bin service and encourages the sharing of resources, such as trailers, among families and neighbours to keep costs manageable.

## Will Council Be Introducing Landfill Vouchers To Ratepayers?

Council does not intend to commence a voucher system for the disposal of waste at a Council waste facility, based on the following:

- The cost of providing and administering the system;
- The likely inequities with the system (eg, should the voucher go to the land-owner or the tenants?);

Council supports a user-pays system for any waste generated beyond the standard wheelie bin service.

## Why Is A New Waste Transfer Facility Required In The Eastern Portion Of The Lockyer Valley Region? Why Do The Lockrose And Lockyer Waters Sites Need To Close In 2021?

- The current Lockrose site is on a road reserve, which Council pays a rental to the State for;
- The Lockrose site is too small for the population that it currently services;
- The Lockyer Waters site is utilised by many non-LVRC residents;

- This area is a growth corridor, and as such, a more suitable facility needs to be provided;
- The Lockyer Waters site has limited room to grow to meet increased demand over the coming years;
- By closing the Lockyer Waters site, it will enable Council to formally rehabilitate the former landfill site in accordance with Department of Environment and Science requirements;
- There is an opportunity to provide a new modern waste transfer station to customers in the eastern area of the Lockyer Valley that can meet growing demand.

*See also section 'Planning Future Waste Infrastructure' on p17 of the WRRP*

## Why Propose A New Site At The Former Quarry Site Along Otto Road, Glenore Grove?

The Otto Road site was identified as a potential waste transfer facility for the following reasons: -

- The land is already owned by Council;
- The proposed land use is compatible with the previous use of a quarry;
- It is located within the major growth area for the Lockyer Valley region;
- The site is close to major transport links;
- The site is large enough to enable the operation of a comprehensive waste transfer facility.

This proposed site will not be operated as a landfill. All general waste will be transported to an approved waste disposal facility.

*See also section 'Planning Future Waste Infrastructure' on p17 in the WRRP*

## What Waste Types Will Be Accepted At The Proposed Waste Transfer Facility At Otto Road, Glenore Grove?

It is proposed to accept the following items: -

- Domestic waste
- Recyclables
- Scrap metal
- Green and timber waste
- Batteries
- Gas cylinders
- drumMUSTER containers
- E-waste
- Waste Oil

It is also proposed to have a tip shop for the sale of items that can be re-used or repurposed.

## What Days / Hours Will The Proposed Otto Road, Glenore Grove Site Will Be Open To The Public?

No decision has been made at this time on the opening days or times of the proposed Otto Road waste disposal facility.

## Why Isn't Council Considering A New Landfill Site Within The Lockyer Valley?

The Lockyer Valley has some of the most fertile soils in the world and Council has a commitment to preserving and protecting our agricultural opportunities as much as possible, therefore it's not considered appropriate to establish a new landfill site within the Lockyer when there are other viable options.

There is significant cost not only to obtain the necessary approvals to operate a modern-day landfill, but also to the day to day operations of such a facility, and to the final capping processes at the end of a landfill's operational life.

There are other much larger, commercial landfills in relatively close proximity to the Lockyer Valley that have interest in receiving our waste (i.e. Ipswich or Toowoomba).

With the introduction of the waste levy on 1 July 2019, there will be other potential opportunities to disposal of or treat waste into the future (i.e. alternate waste technologies such as thermal treatment – incineration, pyrolysis and gasification and biological treatment – anaerobic digestion or composting).

*See also section 'Planning Future Waste Infrastructure' on p17 of the WRRP*

## What Will It Cost To Have Waste Transported Outside Of Lockyer Valley?

Prior to the transportation of waste out of the Lockyer Valley, Council will undertake a procurement process to identify the best options (including the possibility of a long-term contract) to ensure the best value for money for Council and ratepayers.

## Is Anything Going To Change With My Domestic Collection (Wheelie Bin) Service Because Of This New Plan?

There are no changes being proposed for the domestic 240 litre wheelie bin waste and recycling collection service. Council will continue with the weekly red-lid general waste wheelie bin service and fortnightly yellow-lid recycling service.

## How Can I Make A Submission To Council?

Submissions need to be lodged via one of the following:

1. In writing and addressed to:  
Chief Executive Officer  
Lockyer Valley Regional Council  
PO Box 82, Gatton, Qld, 4343; or
2. Email to [mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@lvrc.qld.gov.au) with the Subject: *WRRP Submission*; or
3. Submitted via Council's online portal (<https://lockyervalley.engagementhub.com.au/>); and
4. Received by Council by 5pm Monday 8 April 2019

Submissions must include the submitter's full name and address including at least one verifiable way of contacting you (email, postal address or phone number).



Submission form templates may be of assistance and can be downloaded from Council's website or collected from one of Council's Customer Service Centres. You are not required to use the submission form template; however your submission must include relevant contact details and reference the section of the Plan your comments refer to.

### Will My Submission Actually Be Considered By Council?

Yes, under Section 125 (5) of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011, the Council must, in finalising the plan, take into account any submissions received about the draft Plan.

### Will I Get A Detailed Response To My Submission?

All submissions will be acknowledged and considered; however, unless we need to seek clarification or more information on something within your submission, we won't provide a detailed response to you. We will definitely take into account the content of all submissions and provide general feedback to the community on how we have assessed and applied them.

### Who Can I Speak To If I Have More Questions?

Please call Council on 1300 005 872 and ask to speak with a member of the Waste Management team.