

## PURPOSE

To establish a consistent approach for the exemption of fees from Council's prescribed waste and resource recovery services.

## POLICY INTENT

The main objective of this policy is to establish a consistent approach in respect of any exemptions to payment of Council's prescribed waste disposal fees.

## WOLLONGONG 2028 OBJECTIVES

This Policy contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal "We value and protect our environment". It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2021	Annual Plan 2020-2021
Strategy	3 Year Action	Annual Deliverables
1.2.1 Reduce our ecological footprint, working together to minimise the impacts of climate change and reduce waste going to landfill.	1.2.1.1 Develop and implement a range of programs that encourage community participation in reducing Wollongong's ecological footprint.	2 Deliver waste minimisation programs in accordance with the Waste Strategy.
	1.2.1.3 Methods to reduce emissions are investigated and utilised.	1 Continue to deploy Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.

## POLICY

The following rules will apply in relation to waste fee exemptions.

### Revolve Centre and Community Recycling Centre

Residents, including pension card holders, are exempt from the **NSW EPA Waste Levy and Council's waste disposal fee** for all recyclables accepted at the Revolve Centre and Community Recycling Centre at the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park.

### Waste Collection Events

Residents, including pension card holders, are exempt from the **NSW EPA Waste Levy and Council's waste disposal fee** at Council run events for the collection of specific waste materials. This includes hazard reduction waste, Christmas recycling and events run in partnership with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) including Household Chemical Collection events.

### Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)

The RSPCA is exempt from the **NSW EPA Waste Levy and Council's waste fee** for the disposal of dead animals.

### Community Services Exemption (CSE) holders

Council is committed to supporting charity organisations in managing waste and has assisted with the development of individual Waste Management Plans specifically tailored by the charity organisation and reviewed and approved by Council.

While sorting and recycling at site prior to transportation to the Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park (WWARRP) are encouraged, Council will provide limited recycling facilities at the Small Vehicle Transfer Station for CSE holders to utilise as identified in their Waste Management Plan.

Organisations holding a CSE are exempt from the **NSW EPA Waste Levy** under the following conditions.

- The requirements of the CSE are complied with (as determined by Council);
- The organisation holds and meets the requirements of an individualised Waste Management Plan which has been approved by Council.
- The organisation has sorted their waste prior to arriving at the WWARRP to remove reusable and recyclable waste in accordance with its approved Waste Management Plan;
- The waste is not received as a split load i.e. the waste originates from a single organisation; **and**
- The waste is sourced from the Wollongong Local Government Area.

### OR

- The material for disposal has been illegally dumped on public land (at the Organisation's premises or donation bins) and the incident has been reported to Wollongong City Council and investigated. The organisation must collect a voucher from Council prior to delivering the material to Wollongong Waste and Resource Recovery Park. A maximum cost per incident of \$3,000 (NSW EPA waste levy plus Council's waste fee) applies, after which the **NSW EPA Waste Levy** will be applied.

If the above criteria are not complied with, then both the **NSW EPA Waste Levy** and **Council's waste fee** will be applied.

### Landfill Cover Material

Cover material may be exempt from fees subject to consultation with Waste Services.

### Requests to waive fees

The General Manager has the delegated authority to determine individual requests for waiving fees for eligible Local Community Service Organisations.

### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001.
- NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041.

### REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every two years from the date of each adoption of the policy, or more frequently as required.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Role	Responsibilities
Waste and Resource Recovery Manager	Implementation of this Policy.
Strategic Projects Coordinator	Development of Waste Management Plans in consultation with Organisations with an active Community Services Exemption.

**RELATED PROCEDURES**

Wollongong City Council Waste and Resource Recovery Plan 2022.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW		
Responsible Division	Open Space and Environmental Services	
Date/s adopted	<i>Executive Management Committee</i>	<i>Council</i> 2 May 2022
Date/s of previous adoptions	7 December 2020, 14 September 2015, 14 July 2014, 12 September 1988	
Date of next review	May 2024	