



CAIRNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

MRF opening

State and Local Government officials, Council staff and delegates from across the Resource Recovery Industry were invited to celebrate the official opening of the CRC Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), on 21 May 2021. Mayor Bob Manning and Deputy Premier Steven Miles officially unveiled a plaque and recognised the completion of the \$14.3 million dollar facility in front a crowd including local media, VIPs and delegates from the Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Council (LAWMAC) management and resource



from 85 per cent – up from 35 per cent from previous figures.

Cairns Mayor Bob Manning said this project reaffirmed Council’s commitment to reducing waste and keeping materials out of landfill.

“There are significant environmental and economic benefits that come from the completion of this project,” Cr Manning said.

“These upgrades will not only allow us to significantly increase the recovery rate of recyclables, but also reduce the amount of waste needing to go to landfill.

“We envision all glass processed through the MRF to be used locally, building a circular economy and avoiding the need to transport more than 5000 tonnes of glass each year to South-East Queensland.

“Improved technology, combined with additional staffing, will also achieve high quality recovered cardboard, plastics, steel and aluminium.”

An additional 310 tonnes of recycling has been diverted from landfill each month since the new



Mayor Manning & Deputy Premier Steven Miles viewing the new facility from the purpose built walkway

recovery staff.

The new facility now fully commissioned, doubles Cairns Regional Council’s recycling and recovery capacity processing to 30,000 tonnes of recycling each year providing a significant jump in landfill diversion, increasing

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) stated operating six months ago.

Not only is that reducing landfill, but it means less emissions and impact on our roads as it equates to 17 less trucks travelling up the Kuranda Range to Mareeba each month to deposit waste.

The opening of the facility included the official launch of the Rediscovery Centre (also located at the MRF), Cairns Regional Council's dedicated Resource Recovery Education space aimed at Schools and Community Groups. The impressive new education room has already hosted more than 400 students, with excited participants offered a bird's-eye view of the processing plant, complemented by the use of cameras inside the machinery to see up-close how the facility works as well as fun, interactive and engaging ways to learn how to reduce, reuse and recycling waste as best as possible.



The Cairns Rediscovery Centre

“If we want to change household habits, the best place to start is through education, and particularly by arming younger members of the family correct information on recycling practices,” Cr Manning said.

The official opening was followed by a viewing of the operating facility along the purpose-built walkway (also used for School & Community tours) where delegates were able to observe the cutting-edge sorting technologies in use.

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LAWMAC MEETING DATES & HOSTS



- **22-23 July**
Barcaldine Regional Council
- **18-19 November**
Whitsunday Regional Council

Tackling Illegal Dumping



Cr Grant Mather and Cr Shane Latcham showing of one of the new campaign signs on the back of a local public bus.

In the lead up to World Environment Day, Rockhampton Regional Council launched a campaign asking residents to work with them to help tackle the issue of illegal dumping.

The campaign is supported by the Queensland Government.

Waste and Recycling Councillor Shane Latcham said that it's important our community works together.

"We're incredibly lucky in our region that so many people love and care for our environment," Cr Latcham said.

"However, there are a few individuals who seem to think they're above the rules.

"I know that illegal dumping gets on the nerves of a lot of residents who would prefer their rates didn't go toward picking up after people who should know better.

"Until now people may not have realised that they can report these dumpers – in a survey we ran recently we found that 31% of respondents weren't aware they could report the behaviour.

"This campaign is all about letting residents know that they can report illegal dumping, and that this is actually a big help to us in trying to tackle the issue.

"Reporting is incredibly simple – just give Council a call or download a free app called 'Snap Send Solve'."

Planning and Regulation Councillor Grant Mathers said that Council had also enhanced its surveillance activities.

"Thanks to the funding we've received through the Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program Grant we currently have a full time officer investigating instances of illegal dumping," said Cr Mathers.

"Already in the last few months we have had some big wins, including having nearly 1500 cubic metres of waste cleaned up by the identified offenders rather than by Council.

"With World Environment Day coming up this Saturday, I can't think of a better time to highlight the importance of really working together to preserve the natural beauty of our Region."

If you see someone littering or illegally dumping or if you find piles of dumped waste please report it.

Use the [Snap Send and Solve](#) mobile app, call your local Council's Customer Service Centre or use the online [Littering and Illegal Dumping Reporting Form](#).

Illegal dumping fines can be upwards of \$2135 for individuals and \$6672 for corporations.

Organics bin trial for Rockhampton



Rockhampton Region is set to make an exciting step toward a zero waste future with plans to roll out a trial for a kerbside organics bin later this year.

The trial is made possible thanks to funding from the Queensland Government.

Rockhampton Region Mayor Tony Williams said this is a very exciting opportunity for our region.

“I really want to thank the Queensland Government for enabling us to roll out this trial,” Mayor Williams said.

“At the moment organic matter is taking up more than half the average kerbside general waste bin.

“Not only is this bad for the environment, it really is a waste when this matter can be recovered and turned into soil, mulch and compost.

“As our community moves toward becoming a zero waste region, the way we currently handle organics is a problem that we need to solve.

“This trial will tell us if a third kerbside bin is part of that solution.”

Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon said she was pleased to support local governments to investigate new ways to recycle and reduce waste that ends up in landfill.

“We are investing more than \$750,000 to help a number of local governments – including Rockhampton – to trial green lid kerbside bins that accept household organic waste,” Minister Scanlon said.

“It’s part of the Queensland Government’s record \$1.4 billion investment to protect the environment, reduce waste and create jobs through Queensland’s economic recovery.

“We know that nearly half of the waste in an average household is organic, so this trial presents us with an opportunity to divert much of it from landfill.

“We also know that for every one job in traditional landfill, you can create three times that when you invest in recycling programs like this.

“The diverted organic waste will help create valuable products such as mulch, soil conditioner and compost.

“The data from the trials will be used to help Rockhampton Regional Council and other councils assess whether organic waste collection should be rolled out broadly across their communities.”

Waste and Recycling Councillor Shane Latcham said the organics bins will be rolled out in a few areas around the region when the trial commences.



“We’re still working out some details for this trial, but I’m sure many people will agree this is an exciting step,” Cr Latcham said.

“There will be three groups taking part – about 750 households in total.

“Some will receive a bin for food and garden organics, while others will receive one for garden organics only.

“I know there are a number of people who would absolutely love to volunteer to receive a third bin, however we want to make sure we’re getting a complete snapshot of the community, so we’ll be selecting some trial areas around the region.

“We’re still some months out from the bins hitting the kerb at the moment, and I’m excited to bring you more details as we get closer.”

Member for Rockhampton Barry O’Rourke said he was excited about the partnership between council and the Queensland Government, with systems in other states already diverting up to 83 per cent of food and garden waste from landfill.

“If successful, Rockhampton will be swapping food waste for new opportunities for business, savings for council and more jobs in resource recovery,” Mr O’Rourke said.

Minister Scanlon said the Queensland Government was committed to supporting recycling initiatives across the state.

“Trials such as these go a long way towards helping us become a zero-waste society. Investing in recycling programs is just one way we are delivering on our commitment to create a cleaner Queensland.”

This trial forms part of Council’s broader Waste Strategy, and vision to become a zero waste community by 2050. To find out more download the Rockhampton Regional Waste and Recycling Strategy available at www.rrc.qld.gov.au/rrwr

LAUGH OF THE DAY



@DumpDaze

Find @DumpDaze on Instagram & now, on Facebook.

Compost or Worm Farm system rebate

Last financial year, 67% of total waste produced in the Cassowary Coast Region, was sent to landfill. Of that total, more than 40% came from organic waste. This presents a problem. When organic material such as food scraps and garden waste is buried into landfill it alters the decomposing process and ultimately contributes to the current global climatic issues.

By compacting and covering the material, oxygen is removed forcing the food scraps and garden waste to enter an anaerobic break down process.

This process releases methane, a greenhouse gas that does a far better job than carbon dioxide at trapping heat thus contributing significantly to global warming. Methane is also highly flammable increasing risk of fires at landfill sites. The solution to these serious problems, recycle organic waste.

Aiming to reduce the amount of household organic waste going into landfill by 50% in five years, the Cassowary Coast Regional Council have developed the Composting Rebate Program.

The newly appointed Community Education Officer is helping spread the composting word at local community markets chatting to the community about different organic recycling systems helping them pick the right one for their lifestyle needs.

Encouraging the community to start recycling their food scraps and garden waste at home, the program offers each household a \$20 rebate for any compost or worm-farm system purchased.

Having the equipment is one thing, getting started a creating a new habitat is another. That's why Council created a brochure, free for everyone, that explains what composting is, along with tips and hints to keep going.

Teaming up with Johnstone River Community Garden, there have been workshops on composting for beginners and from that a video providing all the information on how to start a

compost bin, what goes into it and how to maintain it.

To get the word out into the community, Council have collaborated

with local businesses and organizations to help promote the rebate program. There are also posters, radio ads, social media posts and promotional videos.

With the combination of marketing, community engagement, educational materials and incentives for acquiring the tools, we are hoping to see an uptake in backyard composting which will reduce the amount of waste going into landfill.

The Waste team at Cassowary Coast Regional Council are excited to be offering the community a way to be part of the solution to a global climate crisis.





Townsville's FOGO Trial

Around 1,500 households in Townsville will be asked to take part in a trial of dedicated food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bins as part of Townsville City Council's efforts to reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfill.

Mayor Jenny Hill said funding for the trial, which will start in October, was included in Council 2021/22 budget.

Cr Hill said around 1,000 households would take part in a full food and garden organics trial, while around 500 houses would only trial collection of garden organics.

"Food organics and garden organics, or FOGO, bins are one option Council is exploring as we work towards our ambitious goal of zero waste to landfill while, at the same time, providing more efficient and cost-friendly services to the community," Cr Hill said.

"There has been a global shift in how waste is managed, and Council has a role and responsibility to implement new systems that improve our city's sustainability and reduce the amount of waste going to our landfills.

"The FOGO trial is an opportunity for us to collect evidence on how residents will benefit from rolling out the program city-wide and estimate what impact that will have on our landfill capacity.

"Council has provided funding in the 2021/2022 Budget because we are committed to shifting to zero waste and we need a good sample of the community to see what we would need to do to

roll out improved waste systems across the city."

Townsville Water and Waste Committee chairperson Russ Cook said audits of Townsville's waste had shown that nearly half the content placed in red lid bin were organics that could be diverted with the roll-out of FOGO.

"Council has to explore options for reducing waste to landfill, particularly as the State Government implements measures through their Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy," Cr Cook said.

"With nearly half of the content in red lid bins being made up of food or garden organics that can be repurposed into high quality products such as compost.

"The results of the trial will be carefully considered by council to see if we roll-out FOGO bins right across the city.

Cr Cook said an important aspect of the trial working was ensuring residents have access to information about how to use their bins effectively.

"For any waste management system, there is extensive engagement that needs to be done throughout the community for it to work efficiently," he said.

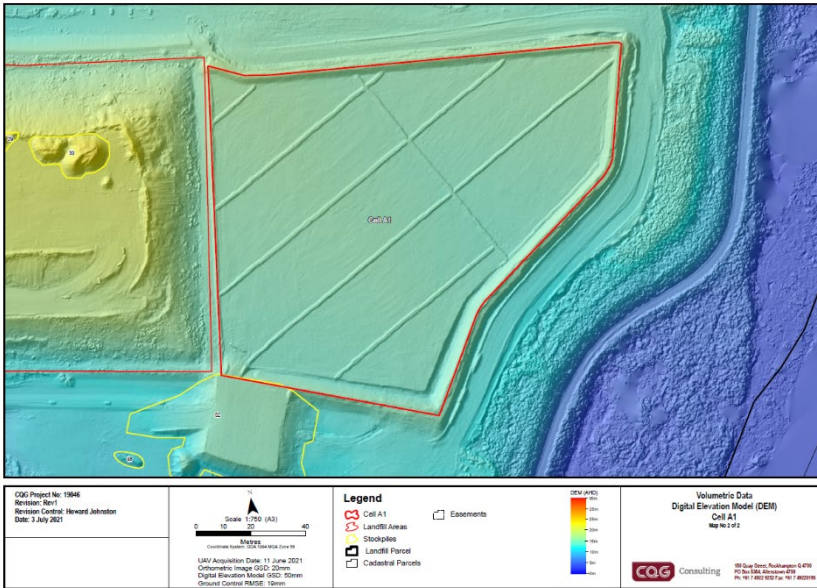
"An important aspect of this trial being successful will be a communication component to help residents understand what can and can't go in each of their bins.

"All food waste, including fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products, eggshells and more can be put into the FOGO bin.

"Garden waste such as lawn clippings, leaves, and small branches can be put into both the FOGO and GO bins."

For more information about FOGO, visit Council's website [here](#).

UAV for volumetric surveys



CQG were recently engaged by Rockhampton Regional Council (RRC) to undertake a Volumetric Assessment at the Lakes Creek Road Landfill (LCRL) using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) as part of the Queensland Waste Levy regulatory requirements. The 69 hectare site included three landfill areas, 60 stockpiles of various materials, a resource recovery area and a new cell which will come on line in the near future.

The UAV is used to collect topographic data allowing the construction of a digital elevation model (DEM) which is a survey accurate digital representation of the landfill surface. This surface is compared to last years assessment to derive a volume of waste deposited at the landfill. It is also compared with the design final surface level model (FSL) of the landfill to recalculate the available airspace for waste deposition. The stockpile volumes above the waste surface are required to account for stored materials such as scrap metal, green waste, soils and recycled construction and

demolition waste. A detailed aerial photo or orthoimage is also produced which provides an excellent snapshot of the landfill on the day of the assessment.

CQG has undertaken UAV data capture for engineering projects, annual stockpile monitoring programs, coastal erosion projects, landfill compaction and air space analysis and other applications. We use high quality industrial equipment maintained and operated by highly professional local staff. Our Spatial Analyst and UAV pilot, Jason Scriffignano is a leader in his field and has over 25 years of experience in GIS, remote sensing, photogrammetry and 3D modelling and is also a CASA certified UAV pilot. Combined with the CQG team of scientists and engineers

we can provide a highly professional service to meet the requirements of our clients.



CQG's previous experience with aerial photogrammetry using UAV data capture includes:

- UAV assessment including volumetric analysis of landfills for several councils including Rockhampton Regional Council, South Burnett Regional Council and Central Highlands Regional Council;

- Regular UAV Volumetric assessments of coal and mineral stockpiles at Gladstone and Stanwell Power stations and other mining clients;
- UAV data capture and spatial analysis for engineering works including Mackay Regional Council beach erosion rehabilitation projects, Great Keppel Island revetment wall analysis, Isaac Regional Council erosion and beach access works and Cheetham Salt sea pump jetty upgrade project; and
- Vegetation and ecological mapping projects at Port Alma, Shoalwater Bay, and several other smaller sites.

The UAV topographic data collected by CQG can achieve very high levels of accuracy enabling engineering design and precise stockpile volumetric management to be undertaken directly from the DEM. Clients regularly use the data as the “point of truth” to optimise stockpile management and to identify mass balance issues. One client is currently installing equipment aimed at improving raw material input control which has the potential to save millions of dollars over the life of the project. These issues were only identified through the use of regular accurate volumetric assessments using UAV data collection undertaken by CQG.



WRIQ

Getting better outcomes for Queensland from the levy



Within 24 months it is expected that nationally landfill or waste levies will be **generating \$1.5 billion for State Governments**. Queensland alone is expecting upwards of 7% increase to the revenue our state will be generating.

How the levy is collected, distributed back and governed varies across the country and WRIQ is leading a significant piece of work investigation what stakeholders want from state levy schemes and related grant programs.

The National Landfill Levy and Grants Review began last year, and we hope by October this year to share our results. You can read more about the project [here](#).

The project involves two streams of work:

- 1) Data collection of what revenue is generated by levies and who gets grant money (regionally, material streams and activities like building infrastructure or education or R&D)
- 2) A engagement exercise with stakeholders (members and non-members), private sector, local governments, community groups and other associations. We want to engage with you to understand how long it takes to apply for grants, are they timely, is the process working for you, what are the challenges and what ideas or suggestions you have to make it better

It is so important when carrying out a piece of work like this that we make sure regional perspectives are captured especially in a state like Queensland. I invite all LAWMAC councils and affiliates to register to take part in this study. It's expected to take 25 minutes of your time and we'll be sharing the results back in October.

It is really important we get the levy working better for regional communities, tackle issues currently underfunded or not funded but WRIQ recognises that it's not just our members that

make up the sector and want to include a range of perspective and put a broad range of ideas on the table.

WRIQ will provide a detailed breakdown of our results at the November LAWMAC meeting.

To register for this study please email: memberservices@wriq.com.au

SUBJECT: Grant Review




RESOURCE HUB

QLD WASTE LEVY REGS QUIZ for Landfill Operators

Waste Levy Regs QUIZ!

<p>Q1. How long do I have to make corrections to my Waste Levy returns?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. 1 monthb. 4 monthsc. However long I want! <p>Q3. Non waste is just non-waste. Should I record any other information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. No. The transaction tells me everything - it is non waste.b. Yes. And I need to tell DES more about my non waste.c. Yes. But I just want information for internal purposes. <p>Q5. I've rearranged my RRA and put in my Amendment Application. When can I start reporting loads into the Destination of RRA?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. As soon as the form is lodged.b. Once the form is approved.c. I need to lodge a form?	<p>Q2. Do I need to report my Drum Muster loads as having been disposed and collected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Well it's not really waste, so no.b. Heck Yes, I do!c. It never goes near my landfill, so does it really matter? <p>Q4. Which of these wastes should NOT have the Waste Class reported as RWCAT1 and RWCAT2?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Asbestosb. Tyres from Home / Residentsc. Tyres from Businessd. Oilse. Green Waste with Asbestos <p>Q6. When does the MSW Advanced Payment for Councils end?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. It's already ended, hasn't it?b. Never! Money forever! Yay!c. Well this seems like a loaded question to inspire discussion...
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resourcehub

Quiz answers on last page of newsletter...

May Workshop & Meeting & MRF Opening in Cairns

LAWMAC's second 2021 workshop and meeting, hosted by Cairns Regional Council, was a huge success with 60+ delegates in attendance on both days.

LAWMAC Chair Cr Neil Fisher (Rockhampton RC), Deputy Chair Cr Brett Moller (Cairns RC) and



Waste Manager at Cairns Regional Council Mr Steve Cosatto welcomed everyone to the Cairns region outlining Covid-Safe Plans, On-Site Registration plus personal hygiene procedures required.

Thursday's Workshop held at the Cairns Tanks Arts Centre, in what were former oil tanks from WW2 as a great example of recycling assets, included Guest Speakers -

- **Cameron Colebatch on the National Plastics Plan 2021** with National Packaging Targets and the phasing out of State & Territory Programs by 2025; FOGO and Food Waste prevention including the Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund (FWFHSF); Funding opportunities including the Recycling Modernisation Fund, the Modern Manufacturing Initiative & Waste Organics Studies.
- **Pravin Menon, DES Qld on Strategic Direction** between the Qld Waste Levy and its Policy and Programs; Illegal Dumping Partnership & HotSpot Grants Programs; Waste Data Collection Standards & Improving Business Intelligence; the Qld Single-Use Plastic Items Ban's Staged Communication Approach plus Partnering with the National Retailers Association and Council Funding Opportunities; Definition of EfW in Qld - putting together a Guideline; QWRRIR Overview.
- **Regional Infrastructure Plans and Funding Opportunities in 2021/22**
- **Simon Hawker & Bill Brett, QTC – on the COMSEQ Waste Management Plan** (11 Councils = 80% of Qld State) providing a pragmatic approach to driving Regional Collaboration in Waste Management & Resource Recovery
- **Tim Rollason, Endeavour Foundation on its Mattress Recycling FNQ Program** working with Cassowary Coast, Mareeba, Hinchinbrook & Douglas Councils to minimize Waste to Landfill breaking the contents Springs, Foam, Fabric & Felt for processing and reuse.
- **Pravin Menon and Robert Ferguson facilitated the Organic Waste Trials Workshop** with delegates forming several Sub-Groups to Workshop the topics of:
 - Education
 - Marketing & Product Development
 - Infrastructure & Services
 - Data, Regulations & Enforcement

Friday's General Meeting held at the Cairns Regional Council Rediscovery Centre included the official opening of the new Cairns Material Recovery Facility (MRF) by the Hon Steven Miles Qld Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government & Planning along with Cairns Mayor Bob Manning and guest speakers Garth Lamb and Stuart Garbutt.



L to R LAWMAC Deputy Chair Cr Brett Moller, LAWMAC member Cr Shane Latcham, Minister Steven Miles, LAWMAC Chair Cr Neil Fisher & LAWMAC Executive Member Cr Andrea Friend

Cairns Regional Council Waste Team L to R - Mary Horseman, Nigel Crumpton, LAWMAC member Steve Cosatto, Nadia Trevenen & Scott Patterson

Cairns Waste Team Members Steve Cosatto, Mark Wuth, Nigel Crumpton, Mary Horseman, Scott Patterson and Nadia Trevenen were also present along with Joel Harris (Resource Innovations) and Wayne Short (Short Environmental) who were also instrumental in the development of this successful joint venture facility.







QUIZ Answers

A1. c. However long I want!

Technically the answer is C, as there's no prescribed timeframe for corrections (at this stage!) however best practice is to fix corrections as soon as you can. We recommend a quarterly internal review just to look for anomalies in your data, plus an annual audit to confidently wrap up each year nice and neatly. And that review should include a check of transactional data as well as a check of the QWDS Compare functions. You want to see ALL green tick in QWDS!

A2. b. Heck Yes, I do!

Absolutely you should. Any movements into or out of a site which is leviable need to be captured - whether they are in RRA of Landfill, but we commonly see Drum Muster as a gap in process. When containers come in, you should be capturing them within your inbound transactions. And when they leave you definitely want that recorded - either with a deemed weight or over a weighbridge depending on your specific sites measurement requirement. We recommend Drum Muster loads are generally captured as Waste Stream C&I, Class RWCAT2, and Material Type "Chemical Containers".

A3. c. Yes. But I just want information for internal purposes.

Non Waste. What does it even mean? In some instances it's Posi-Shell, in some instances it's construction equipment etc. Non-waste should be your waste stream, class and material type - but your customer name and product name, depending on the transactional software you use, should be more specific so that if you need to review historical information in the future, you have it available. For example - you might record a Posi-Shell load in your transaction system with a Client of "Council", a Product of "Posi-Shell" but then link your non waste regulatory codes behind the scenes for QWDS returns.

A4. a. Asbestos

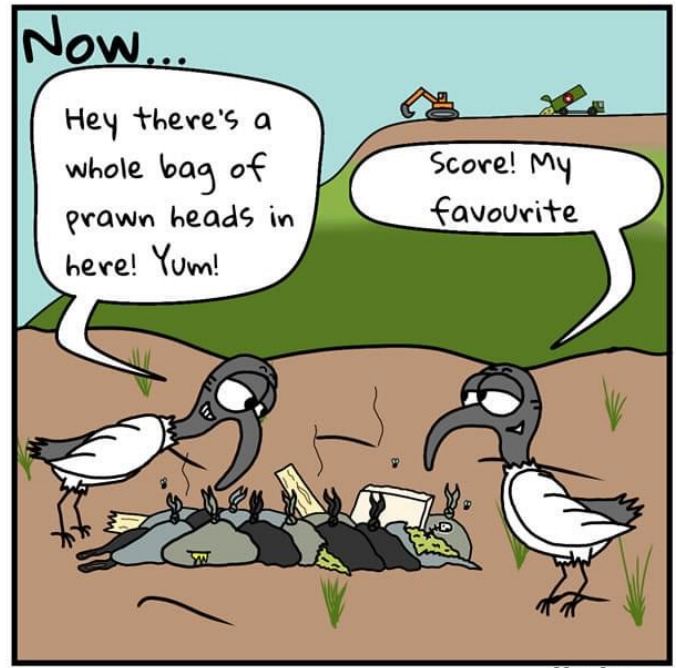
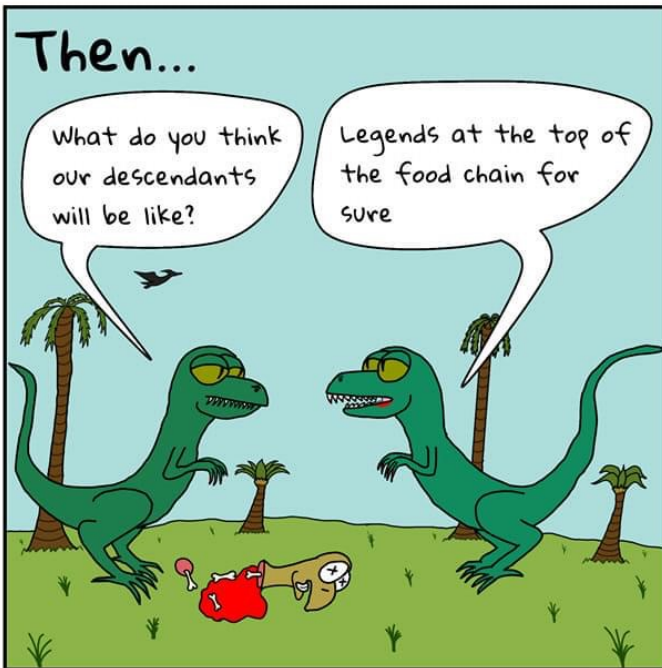
Asbestos is exempt so should have a Waste Class of EXGEN reported. The rest are (generally) Regulated Wastes.

A5. b. Once the form is approved.

Once your Declared RRA Amendment has been approved, you can then start using the new area as RRA. Not Before. Don't be stung by reporting items into or out of RRA before this approval as you may find (like some facilities!) that you'll be made to treat those loads as disposed to landfill and incur interest and penalties accordingly.

A6. c. Well this seems like a loaded question to inspire discussion...

This is the hot button topic of the moment! Check in with LAWMAC, WMRR and LGAQ while the debate continues!



All our previous newsletters are online here: <https://lawmac.org.au/newsletters>