

## The New Leigh Creek Waste Management Model – Leigh Creek

As part of the Leigh Creek township transition to an Outback Community, the Outback Communities Authority (OCA) has been actively working on a sustainable model for the ongoing management for waste management, inclusive of a need to reduce the amount of waste going into landfill and introducing 'user-pays' principles.

This new model for the management of waste includes the service that has been extended to many residents of Copley and the northern Flinders Ranges community more broadly during the period that Leigh Creek supported the mining operations at the nearby coal mine.

### Key principles in designing the new waste management model

#### 1. Extending the life of the current landfill site

The current landfill site is filling at a rapid rate and way before its 20 year life expectancy. Too much waste that could be recycled is going into landfill and this is not sustainable. The obligations under our EPA licence requires all waste to be covered when deposited; this in essence doubles the volume each time waste is collected. The more waste there is the quicker it is filling up.

#### 2. Implementing the Australian National Waste Policy

The National Policy is to be in place Australia wide by 2030. This Policy has been designed to respond to the challenges facing waste management and resource recovery in Australia and help Australia move to a Circular Economy. The aim of the new Circular Economy Model is to tackle global challenges such as climate change, waste, and pollution by eliminating excess waste going into landfill and re-using resources in the forms of recycling, re-manufacturing, repairing, and on selling second hand goods.

#### 3. Sharing the cost for waste management

These costs include EPA environmental management and waste levy fees, ongoing maintenance and running costs of the dump truck, loader, and excavator, fuel to run this equipment, registration, insurance, contractor's wages, digging a new cell, providing bins for kerbside collection. This is currently 100% subsidised by the State Government and is not continuing into the future. These costs need to be shared between the users of the service.

#### How will we address these principles?

- Build a Resource Recovery Centre to reduce the volume of waste being put into landfill and achieve the outcomes of the Australian National Waste Policy.
- Implement a tonnage rate for the current landfill site to cover the cost of managing the land fill site.
- Implement a fee for kerbside bin collection to manage the waste that is going into the landfill site.

#### How kerbside collection will be implemented

From 1 January 2023, Leigh Creek residents will be provided with a new 120 litre red lidded bin and will be charged a quarterly in arrears collection levy of \$84 per bin (\$336 per year) for waste collection and disposal. The bins will remain the property of OCA and only the bins with an identifying OCA sticker will be emptied. Failure to pay for the bin will result in it being removed. Please note that this levy is payable per bin and not land allotment.

## **How the tonnage rate for the landfill site will be implemented**

From 1 January 2023, a waste tonnage fee of \$206 per tonne will be charged for all putrescible waste received from outside of the Leigh Creek community. Access to the public is currently restricted and prior arrangements through the Leigh Creek OCA Office are required to deposit hard waste during this period.

## **How the Resource Recovery Centre will work**

Whilst the Leigh Creek landfill is transitioning to only receiving putrescible waste, hard waste can be deposited at the landfill site by prior arrangement. In the long-term though a purpose-built Resource Recovery Centre is being constructed closer to Leigh Creek. This new resource recovery centre covers off on our requirements to implement Australia's National Waste Policy, and also addresses our rapidly filling landfill, by heavily reducing what is being disposed of at this site.

All the items that would normally be received at the landfill site other than putrescible waste will be received here. This includes all locally generated hard waste, (wood, metal etc) solvents, paints, oils, and batteries that will be sent away for recycling.

To encourage the community to participate and to assist with keeping the cost of the Resource Recovery Centre Waste Management fees to a minimum a Reuse / Recycle shop will be set up where you will be able to donate and buy second hand goods as well as having the opportunity to volunteer. A model that has been highly successful amongst many communities throughout Australia, not just for encouraging recycling, but also reducing reusable items going into landfill.

The OCA highly encourages the local community to look at waste management as a shared responsibility. The choices we make in what we buy, how we use products and how we dispose of them is central to improving the way we manage waste in our region. The OCA will also be looking at providing education as changes to services are rolled out to assist with the understanding of the recycling and waste management model being put into place.

For more information on the Circular Economy, Recycling, Remanufacturing, Innovative Resource Recovery and the latest on Government Grants, visit: <https://www.greenindustries.sa.gov.au/>