

1. POLICY CERTIFICATION

Policy title:	Waste Collection Charges Policy
Policy number:	FIN014
Category:	Policy
Classification:	Finance
Status:	APPROVED (27th May 2015)

2. PURPOSE

For all town or community properties, or those receiving waste management services from or on behalf of Roper Gulf Regional Council, a flat charge per bin per annum per property is levied in respect of the waste collection service provided, multiplied by the number of standard rubbish bins at the property and by the number of services per week.

All other service charges and fees are scheduled in the Roper Gulf Regional Council Fees and Charges Schedule.

The waste service charges are not a rate but rather a fee for service provided. Hence they are not waived even if ratepayer's rates are waived for a particular year in accordance with s162 and s165 of the Local Government Act.

Waste management in small and remote communities has very specific challenges for community managers, and it is important that these challenges are met and waste management services are not at a lower standard than would be expected in more populated areas.

Guidelines are intended to provide support to community managers and technical service operators in working towards best practice and ensuring that waste management in small and remote communities is safe for staff, the community and the environment. Given this, the focus is on:

- Reducing the hazards associated with waste in small communities
- Working towards improved environmental management of waste
- Allowing communities to assess their current situation and provide some initial steps in how to improve waste management in their community

3. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy applies to all ratepayers, unless otherwise specified, who utilise the waste management services and have their properties located within Roper Gulf Regional Council boundaries.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

The Council intends to raise; for general purposes by way of waste management charges a flat charge per bin per annum per property in respect of the waste collection service provided, multiplied by the number of standard rubbish bins at the property and by the number of services per week.

The standard Collection Services are:

LOCATION /	# WEEKLY SERVICE	STANDARD # BINS
Barunga	2	2
Beswick	2	2
Borrooloola	2	2
Bulman	2	2
Jilkminggan	2	2
Jodetluk	2	2
Manyallaluk	2	1
Mataranka	1	1
Ngukurr	2	1
Numbulwar	3	1
Urapunga	2	2
Weemol	2	2
Werenbun	2	2

The application is primarily applied as determined by the type of property, number of bins and number of collections. Waste Management Charges for each allotment within the Region area are set using the methodology set out in the Rates Declaration. The Council will approve an annual Rates Declaration.

5. DETERMINATION AND DEFINITIONS

Property type	is defined by the properties land use being Residential, Commercial, Horticultural / agricultural / rural living / vacant Land
Property location	is the physical location of the property and the community/town boundaries in which the property exists.
“waste / garbage collection service”	the “waste / garbage collection service” comprises a collection service of one garbage collection visit per week with a maximum of one 240 litre mobile bin per garbage collection visit. The total garbage collection service charge for an allotment is the Total Garbage Service Charge=garbage collection service charge x #bins assigned x #assigned

	collection services The number of assigned collection services and the standard number of bins assigned are dependent upon the community.
Vacant Land	Residential land that does not contain a residential dwelling
Land use	The categorical use of the land for which the property type is defined.

6. PRINCIPLES

6.1 Cost Covering Strategy

Roper Gulf Regional Council is looking to cover the costs of waste management for residential and commercial properties in the Council over the next 5 years. It is assumed that waste management charges for all properties will increase by 18.39 per cent for each of the five years until 2019-2020. This will bring income in line to cover the costs incurred for waste collection facilities.

The five year projection of the waste management charges would be:

Financial Year	2014 - 15	2015 -16	2016 -17	2017-18	2018 -19	2019 - 2020
Waste Management Revenue	\$ 465,861.40	\$ 551,533.31	\$ 652,960.29	\$ 773,039.68	\$ 915,201.68	\$ 1,083,507.27
Cost Per Bin/Dwelling	\$ 183.41	\$ 217.14	\$ 257.07	\$ 304.35	\$ 360.32	\$ 426.58
**No Of Bins/Dwellings	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,540	2,540

** Note: The number of dwellings/bins are subject to change based on new properties/bins added or removed during the five year tenure.

6.2 Payment by Instalments (S161 LGA)

Roper Gulf Regional Council levies waste collection charges once a year and allows payment of to be made in two instalments. The first instalment is to be paid on or before 30 September of each year and second instalment is to be paid within four months of the due date issued on the rates and waste management charges notice.

6.3 Overpayment of waste management charges

The Council is obligated to refund balances that are in credit as a result of an overpayment of waste management charges.

6.4 Change of information and details

It is a ratepayer's responsibility to notify the Council of any changes to the assessment records. Changes include change of postal address of the ratepayer/owner, change of ownership, and change of other contact details. Notice must be given in writing within 28 days of the change.

6.5 Late payment of waste charges

If waste management charges are not paid by the due date, interest accrues on the amount of the unpaid waste management charges at the rate of 18%. (As published in the Rates Declaration).

Interest is calculated on a daily basis on the amount in default (exclusive of interest) from the due date until the date of payment s.162.

6.6 Waste management charges declaration

A Rates declaration for the rating year must be declared by the Council prior to 31 July in the rating year.

- The declaration must state:
 - the amount to be raised for general purposes and, if an amount is to be raised for a special purpose, the amount to be raised for the special purpose; and
 - the basis or bases of the waste management charges; and
 - if the waste management charges are to be payable in instalments – the number of instalments and when they will be payable.

7. REFERENCES

Acknowledgements (original author/source documents)	Nil
Related Policies	Nil
Related Publications	Nil
Related Forms	Nil

8. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Policy Owner	Finance
Endorsed by	OCM

Date approved	Wednesday 27th May 2015
Revisions	Nil
Amendments	Nil
Next revision due	May 2016

9. CONTACT PERSON

Position **Manager Governance, Corporate
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