

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Council proposes to waive fees for Wynyard Waste Transfer Station

In a bid to alleviate financial hardship, Waratah-Wynyard Council will consider waiving gate entry fees for the use of the Wynyard Waste Transfer Station for non-commercial residential uses from next month or when it is considered safe to do so in line with Government directives.

The proposed change was an action from Council's Waste Strategy, but due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is proposed to bring forward a commencement date to begin 1 May or later when the current lockdown period on the North West Coast is lifted.

"Given the coronavirus pandemic, waiving gate entry fees for Waratah-Wynyard residents for use of the transfer station is intended to overcome the need for cash sales for an essential service," Waratah-Wynyard Mayor Robby Walsh said.

"This would especially benefit rural residential properties which do not currently receive kerbside waste collection."

Under the proposal, residents of the Waratah-Wynyard municipality will no longer be required to pay a fee when taking waste to the transfer station and tip tickets will no longer be required for entry. The arrangements will remain in place until June 30 following which a review will be undertaken to determine whether it will be extended into the 20/21 financial year.

Despite the changes, Mayor Walsh reminds residents to remain extremely vigilant in the current climate.

"If you live on the North-West you should only leave your primary residence when you absolutely need to, for example, to get food or access medical care," Mayor Walsh said.

"If you do need to leave your home, always practice social distancing, wash your hands thoroughly and regularly, and practice good cough and sneeze hygiene at all times. Making these changes to our lives is not easy, but it will save lives. Brighter days are ahead if we all stick to the rules."

The proposed changes apply to wheelie bin and/or car-boot size quantities of waste for non-commercial customers upon proof of Waratah-Wynyard residency.

Stringent practices will be put in place to ensure social distancing and other preventative measures are enacted to limit people on site.

Waratah Wynyard Council

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"I remind residents that dropping off green waste is not considered essential at this time. I particularly want to remind residents from neighbouring municipalities not to take your green waste to the Wynyard Transfer Station - police will not consider your journey as essential" Mayor Walsh stated.

Council will vote on the proposed change at the April meeting in addition to a range of other support and stimulus initiatives in a report detailing Council's current response to COVID 19.

Authorised for general media distribution by Shane Crawford, General Manager, Waratah-Wynyard Council on Thursday, April 16, 2020.