



Community Safety Hazards

From 14 November 2011, Western Downs Regional Council is working under a new set of local laws to replace the local laws of the former Council areas and provide consistency across Western Downs. These local laws introduce the terminology of *Community Safety Hazards*.

What is a Community Safety Hazard?

In accordance with *Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment Management) 2011*, community safety hazards are defined as:

- (a) a fence or structure on land that, because of its nature or its position, poses a significant risk of causing injury to a person or damage to property; or
- (b) objects or materials on land that are likely to become airborne in periods of high wind in a way that poses a significant risk of causing injury to a person or damage to property; or
- (c) a thing that is declared to be a community safety hazard under a subordinate local law for this paragraph.

In reference to section (c) above, barbed wire and electric fencing, and unsecured roof sheeting, guttering and sheet metal are all considered community safety hazards, and the subordinate local law provides requirements which must be met.

I have noticed a community safety hazard, what can I do?

If you identify a community safety hazard, and you are unable to discuss this with the owner or resident of the property, a request can be logged with Council. To do this, please contact Council's Customer Contact Centre on 1300 COUNCIL, ensuring you have full address details of the property, and any other details which will assist in Council investigating the matter. Please note that by logging this request, Council will not immediately enter the property and perform the works, as due process must be followed.

There are three phases to Council's standard response to such customer request. Following an initial request, Council will notify the owner of the property that Council has been notified of a community safety hazard on their property, and request that the matter is resolved within a two (2) week period. At this time, you, as the requestor, will also receive notification of the date in which Council expects the works to be complete.

Following this time, should the community safety hazard remain, and you notify Council the hazard remains, a Council officer will conduct an inspection of the property to confirm the community safety hazard. If it is found that the property is breaching the local law, the owner will then receive a notice requiring the works to be complete within a defined time period. Again, you will receive notification of the expected completion date, unless the relevant officer deems there is no community safety hazard, at which time you will receive notification of this decision.



Following this request, should the community safety hazard still remain, and notification be received by Council, Council or its contractors may enter the property and complete the works.

It is important to note that whilst this is Council's standard practice, authorised officers have the discretion to undertake a different course of action, should they see fit.

For further information,
contact Council:

Customer Service

1300 COUNCIL
www.wdrc.qld.gov.au

