

## Macalister Waste Landfill Closure - FAQs

### Why is this waste facility closing?

Macalister Landfill has almost reached its capacity and has been problematic for some time with illegal fires, feral animals, inappropriate use and other environmental risks.

This style of landfill is no longer environmentally acceptable and as part of Council's 'Towards a Waste Wise Western Downs' strategy it is our aim to leave the region in a better place for the next generation.

Council takes its responsibility as custodians of our region very seriously, and believe that together with our residents we all have a role to play as environmental leaders to dispose of waste respectfully and lawfully.

### Where am I supposed to go now?

Your options include:

- Dalby Waste & Recycling Centre – Warrego Highway, Dalby (7km west of Dalby and only 18km east of Macalister)
- Warra Landfill – Warrego Highway, Warra (20 km west of Macalister)

Roadside collection may also be an option for some people. If you are on the existing route of the current waste collection contractor, you can make arrangements for a wheelie bin service. There is a fee for this service that can be added to your rates bill. Contact **1300 COUNCIL** to find out if you are eligible for this option.

Skip bins are another potential solution for community groups and rural property owners. To organise a skip bin you'll need to make commercial arrangements with waste transporter companies, several of which operate in the area.

### Are you getting rid of all the old dumps?

No, while some of the similar smaller sites like Yamsion, Cooranga North, 21 Mile, and Brigalow have already been closed; some sites like Kogan, Dulacca, Meandarra, Warra, Kaimkillenbun, Condamine, and Bell have been, or are going to be, redeveloped when they reach capacity.

This is all part of Council's long-term 'Towards a Waste Wise Western Downs' plan which sets out the phasing out the old style 'rubbish dumps' which are no longer environmentally acceptable. Council's new modern waste facilities not only look better but more importantly, provide proper methods for the disposal of all types of waste and are therefore better for the environment.

### What if it's too far for me to go elsewhere?

We understand that you may feel inconvenienced, but Council is confident that it is still providing a very good service level for waste disposal across the region.

We anticipate the majority of residents who currently utilise Macalister Landfill regularly travel to Dalby and therefore already travel past the Dalby Waste and Recycling Centre which is open 7 days a week, with free disposal for domestic waste.



## Why can't you just burn the waste?

Burning the waste in a landfill is extremely dangerous to the environment and to human health. The burning process can result in the emission of undesirable and even toxic fumes, risk of explosions due to aerosol cans and gas bottles, and risk of fire spreading. Fire has actually spread from Council landfills before, causing property damage and potential loss of life.

Burning landfill waste is also an offence against Council's Environmental Authority issued by the State Government and places Council at very high risk of prosecution should it continue.

## How are you going to stop people dumping at the Landfill or dumping illegally?

The site will be fenced off once it is closed and rehabilitated using existing excess cover material. Council will be keeping an eye on the site with surveillance equipment and regular Council staff monitoring.

We are also asking the community to keep an eye out for people doing the wrong thing. If you see someone illegally dumping you can report it by calling **1300 COUNCIL** or to the State Government's Pollution Hotline on 1300 130 372.

Penalties are significant for illegal dumping offences particularly if it ends up in court. We are hopeful that people will want to do the right thing and that the risk of landing in court and facing severe penalties will deter people.

Littering and illegal dumping of waste has the potential to cause health and safety risks for both people and the natural environment. Dumping is unsightly, degrades the local environment, reduces property value, and costs ratepayers a substantial amount of money each year to clean up. So as you would expect there are serious penalties for this.

*The Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* includes a range of offences for litter and illegal dumping. Queensland councils and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) have a shared responsibility for litter and illegal dumping enforcement. Authorised officers from Council and DEHP can issue fines and direction notices for litter and illegal dumping offences.

## Will the site be left a mess or will it be rehabilitated?

Council has a long-term rehabilitation plan for the site. This will include removing access to the site, cleaning up the exposed waste, some earthworks and regular monitoring for pest weeds.

For more information please call **1300 COUNCIL** or visit [www.wdrc.qld.gov.au](http://www.wdrc.qld.gov.au)

