

# COUNCIL POLICY



<b>Policy name</b>	Waste Management (Waste generated outside the Gunnedah Shire Council Local Government Area)
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## Abstract

This policy aims to provide clear direction to council waste management staff that waste generated outside of the Gunnedah Local Government Area will not be accepted at Council Waste Management Facilities.

<b>Dates</b>	Policy or amendment approved Policy or amendment takes effect Policy is due for review (up to 4 years)	13 December 2023 13 January 2024 13 December 2027
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Executive Leadership Team at its meeting held 28 November 2023	
<b>Approved by</b>	Gunnedah Shire Council, at its Ordinary Meeting of Council held 13 December 2023 Resolution number: 6.12/23	
<b>Policy Custodian</b>	Manager Waste	
<b>Relevant to</b>	Gunnedah Shire Council, Elected Members and Council staff	
<b>Superseded Policies</b>	Nil	
<b>Related documents</b>	Gunnedah Shire Council Policies Gunnedah Shire Council Code of Conduct	
<b>Related legislation</b>	Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 Local Government Act, 1993 (As amended) Protection Of the Environment Operations Act 1997	

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### 1. Purpose

Councils outside the regulated areas are becoming more aware of waste products being transported out of waste levy areas where the waste is generated and disposed of in non-levy area landfills and transfers stations. This, in part, is to avoid paying large waste fees incurred within the waste levied areas.

Council operates general solid waste disposal facilities that are licensed or capable of receiving a range of defined solid waste materials.

In order to protect the interest of the Gunnedah ratepayers, the purpose of this policy is to generally prohibit wastes generated outside of the Local Government Area such that ratepayers aren't burden by the cost of managing this waste. Under exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the General Manager, waste may be accepted from outside of the municipality.

### 2. Scope

This Policy encompasses all of Gunnedah Shire Council Waste Management Facilities and applies to:

- Employees of the Waste Management Facility
- Commercial Waste Contractors
- Users disposing at the Gunnedah Waste Management Facilities and transfer stations

### 3. Definitions

3.1 Waste Levy- The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO act) requires certain licensed waste facilities in NSW to pay a contribution for each tonne of waste received at the facility. Referred to as the 'waste levy', the contribution aims to reduce the amount of waste being landfilled and promote recycling and resource recovery.

3.2 Council means Gunnedah Shire Council.

3.3 General Solid Waste means simply a broad descriptor for waste that is solid in form. 3 major types of solid waste are municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction and demolition waste.

- a) Municipal solid waste is called garbage or putrescible waste, is nonhazardous refuse generated by households and commercial businesses.
- b) Commercial and industrial (C&I) waste means dry waste generated by businesses.
- c) Construction and demolition (C&D) means those materials resulting from the alteration, construction, destruction, rehabilitation, or repair of any manmade physical structure including houses, buildings, industrial or commercial facilities, and roadways.

3.4 Exceptional Circumstances means when Council is directed to by NSW EPA and when assisting in emergency management of neighbouring Councils wastes relating to Municipal Kerbside Collection.

#### **4. Policy principles**

- 4.1 To ensure that waste facilities and transfer stations are for the exclusive use of residents of the Shire and/or for the disposal of waste generated within the Shire.
- 4.2 To minimise the social, environmental and economic costs of waste management to Shire residents and ratepayers.
- 4.3 To exclude the disposal of waste generated outside the Shire, thereby prolonging the life of our landfills.

#### **5. Policy statement**

Council operates solid waste disposal facilities that are licensed or capable of receiving a range of defined solid waste materials.

Council funds the establishment and operation of its existing and future waste disposal facilities from a combination of annual charges imposed upon ratepayers and gate charges for waste disposal.

This policy applies to general solid waste being transported to Gunnedah Waste Management Facilities that have been identified by Council staff and believed to be from the regulated and non-regulated area.

##### **5.1 Guidelines**

- 5.1.1. Where an employee or contractor has knowledge that the waste has been generated outside of the Shire the waste shall not be accepted.  
In circumstances where an employee or contractor is uncertain of the origin of the waste, proof of residency such as a current driver's licence or rates notice plus the address of the waste's origin should be sought and provided.

If an agent is acting on behalf of a resident or ratepayer a letter of authority stating the origins of the waste, or details of the resident or ratepayer who has engaged the agent, should be provided before the waste is accepted.

Under exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the General Manager, waste originating from outside of the municipality may be accepted by formal request. Where waste from outside the municipality is identified after disposal, it shall be charged at triple the rate displayed for that category of waste within the Fees and Charges.

## 6. Accountability, roles and responsibilities

6.1 The General Manager is authorised, pursuant to Section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, to allow a matter that does not conform with a policy to proceed if the General Manager is of the opinion that the variation from the Policy is of a minor nature.

### 6.2 Policy Custodian – Manager Waste

Council’s Manager Waste is the officer accountable for managing Policy compliance, initiating the Policy review process, internal auditing requirements, and has responsibility for all aspects of Policy implementation, unless appropriately delegated to another officer.

The Manager Waste is responsible for making this Policy readily available to community members and staff on request.

### 6.3 Responsibilities

The Planning and Environmental Services Department (Waste Section) is responsible for implementing this Policy and for ensuring that this Policy is adhered to in a consistent manner.

The Waste Section is also responsible for making this Policy readily available to community members, contractors and staff on request.

## 7. Acknowledgements

Upper Hunter Shire Council - Waste Management – Policy- Disposal of Waste at Council Landfills and Transfers Stations.

## 8. Version control and change history

Date	Version	Approved by & resolution no.	Amendment
19 Feb 2020	1	Ordinary Meeting 19 Feb 2020 Resolution 16.02/20	
13 Dec 2023	2	Ordinary Meeting 13 Dec 2023 Resolution 6.12/23	