

# Managing Fire-affected Waste



**This fact sheet provides information about the management of fire-affected waste throughout the bushfire clean-up process.**

Council is working with the NSW Government to use the shire's Central Waste Facility (CWF) on Wanatta Lane, North West of Wolumla, to take the estimated 140,000 cubic metres of waste and damaged building material as part of the bushfire clean-up.

Around 70,000 cubic metres of the material needing disposal is believed to be contaminated with asbestos and Council is planning to recycle or repurpose as much of the remaining uncontaminated material as possible.

## **Why is Council taking asbestos contaminated material to the Central Waste Facility?**

The Central Waste Facility is a large, central, custom-built facility with current licensing and planning approvals to accept asbestos material. Council has trained staff and processes to continue safely managing asbestos landfilling at this site. After reviewing all waste management facilities, the NSW Government, who is coordinating the bushfire cleanup, selected the CWF as the most suitable site to dispose of fire affected material.

## **What approvals are needed?**

An application to modify the existing development consent has been submitted to Council, with a technical review being conducted by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Council is also working closely with the NSW Environment Protection Authority. You can view the application and plans and track the application on Council's website (Application Tracker) at [www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au](http://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au) (go to Planning & Development/Application Tracker). This proposal is open for comment until Tuesday April 14, 2020.

## **Has Council consulted with residents near the Central Waste Facility?**

Yes. Council has met with residents in person and communicated via letter to answer specific questions raised by the small number of residents. Council understands that residents may have concerns and have provided them with an open channel to raise questions and to have those questions answered by Council.

## **What sort of fire-impacted waste will come to the CWF?**

All fire affected material will come to the Central Waste Facility. This includes asbestos.

## **Where is Council putting this asbestos contaminated material?**

Council has applied to construct a new Disaster Waste Cell at the Central Waste Facility to receive the fire-affected material. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is assisting Council by assessing the modification application on its behalf. Until that cell is constructed, asbestos contaminated material is going into the Central Waste Facility's current operating cell in limited volumes.

## **Who will be managing the Disaster Waste Cell?**

A Council project manager and a project manager from the contracting company, engaged to construct and operate the new landfill area, will work together to achieve an outcome for the entire community. The contractor will also provide a full-time person to oversee the processing of the fire-impacted material.

7 April 2020

### **What are you doing with the non-asbestos waste?**

With such a large area across the state impacted by fire, the NSW Government is focused on resource recovery. Council fully supports this focus which is in line with Council's Waste Management strategy.

Council will build a sorting pad to ensure we can sort through the fire-impacted material and where possible we will recycle and reuse that material. This pad will see steel removed for subsequent recycling and concrete and bricks crushed onsite every few weeks to be reused.

### **Have you taken into consideration the noise created by the extra activity?**

Yes. A consultant has completed a noise impact study to ensure predicted noise is within set limits for the site. Noise will be minimised in part by creating 'bundled' areas that will be constructed from material excavated during construction.

### **What impact will fire waste disposal have on the normal day-to-day operations at the CWF?**

Council will continue to manage the landfill site in a business as usual capacity, taking into consideration some changes that will occur as part of the new development including traffic management. Operating hours will not change.

### **How will you manage the extra traffic coming to the site?**

A consultant has reviewed the impacts of the proposed increased traffic on Wanatta Lane and determined that the design of Wanatta Lane is suitable to accommodate the traffic generated by the clean-up.

The contractor for the development will implement a comprehensive traffic management plan for the site.

### **What procedures will you have in place to manage the risks of these materials?**

Asbestos contaminated material is something that our staff manage daily and they have accredited training. There are systems in place including safe work methods and the appropriate personal protective equipment to safely handle asbestos contaminated material. Council will follow the procedures it had in place for the Tathra, Vimy Ridge and Reedy Swamp fire in managing and disposing of a bulk amount of asbestos-contaminated material.

### **How will coronavirus (COVID 19) impact this?**

It is unclear how this will affect the clean-up. Council is proceeding with its plans and will continue to do so unless advised otherwise by the NSW Government.

### **Who is paying for the clean-up?**

The NSW Government is paying for the removal of fire-affected material that meets certain criteria. Council urges all fire affected residents and businesses to register for the clean-up via Service NSW. To register go online at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-opt-nsw-bushfire-clean> or phone 13 77 88.

### **Who is organising the clean-up?**

Laing O'Rourke is the lead contractor appointed by Public Works Authority to manage the clean-up. You can check if you're registered for the clean-up by calling Laing O'Rourke on 1800 007 539. For information about the clean-up schedule go to: Website <https://cleanup.lnbr.com.au>; call 1800 007 539 or email [nswbushfirecleanup@laingorourke.com.au](mailto:nswbushfirecleanup@laingorourke.com.au)