



Environmental MATTERS

Inside this issue:

Keep Australia Beautiful 1

Is your waste water treatment system operating effectively? 1

Tyre Troubles - Creative ways of reducing waste 2

Dust Nuisance 2

Annual Return Reminder 2

Keep Australia Beautiful

The Gladstone Region participated in Keep Australia Beautiful Week during the month of August. This week was focussing on 2 key themes: "Dropped on Land, Kills at Sea" and "Where does your rubbish go?" to highlight the harmful impact litter has on our waterways and wildlife. Gladstone has beautiful waterways and the Gladstone Council helped out this national campaign to ensure they remain that way. Around 8 million items of litter enter the marine environment everyday and approximately 80 percent of that is washed from the land, these items may include cigarette butts, plastic bottles, plastic bags, food and fishing gear. This pollution has an impact on marine life through entanglement and ingestion.

Keep Australia Beautiful week 2011 started on August 22, and they have supplied some helpful tips to help reduce litter in your community:

- ⇒ Always place rubbish securely in the bin
- ⇒ Secure your garbage bin lids
- ⇒ Keep tidy bag in your car
- ⇒ Always place cigarette butts in the bin
- ⇒ Pack a waste free lunch avoiding individual packets
- ⇒ Take your litter home after visiting parks and beaches and,
- ⇒ Never allow toxic chemicals such as paint, fertiliser or pesticides to enter storm water systems.



Every piece of rubbish picked up and one less piece entering our waterways and harming our marine life. (Source: Keep Australia Beautiful, 2011 <http://www.kab.org.au/what-we-do/keep-australia-beautiful-week>)



Is your Waste Water treatment system operating effectively?

The use of degreasers and detergents are common products used within workshops resulting in waste water that must be appropriately treated before disposal. Most common treatment of such waste water is via an oil/water/solids separator which is then discharged to sewer.

The following important points should be considered to ensure your waste water is being managed effectively:

1. A current trade waste permit is held with Council's trade waste department.
2. Quick break detergents and degreaser products are being used. After temporarily emulsifying oil and dirt into the wash down water during the cleaning process, quick break detergents and degreasers separate the oil and dirt from the clean water following the wash down process. More than 90% of the oil rises to the surface within 30 minutes of wash down. The oil is then easily separated from the clean water in a collection pit or in the separator.
3. The system is monitored with oil collected being disposed of through a regulated waste collection contractor (tracking receipts kept on file) & sludge cleaned out as required.
4. The treated waste water is discharged from the site to sewer.

TAKE NOTE

Old approvals may have originally connected the treated wastewater discharge to stormwater. This is no longer accepted, and connection to the Council sewer system in accordance with a trade waste permit is required. Alternatively, the waste water can be held in a storage container on site and collected by a suitable waste contractor.



Tyre Trouble - Creative ways of Reducing Waste



One big pollution problem is old tyres. In the United States there are more than two billion used tires. If these tyres were stacked one on top of the other, they would reach half way to the moon! The major reason why tyres are an environment issue is firstly because they take years to decompose, when burnt they can send toxic smoke into the air, and tyres that are buried in garbage dumps can trap poisonous gases that can escape into the air being dangerous to persons nearby. This is why some good solutions have been made to reuse old tyres rather than dump them. Some scientists and engineers have come up with ways to burn them and create more energy with less cost and less pollution. As a result some energy plants are even piling up old tyres. Some other interesting ways tyres have become handy is the use of them in dairy farms, farmers

have been using shredded up tyres to make beds for cows with belief they produce more milk when they have a tyre bed because of the comfort. They have also been ground-up to make running tracks, horse racetracks and rubber doormats, but the best is to make highways. Ground- up tyres are used to make a strong, longer life pavement called crumb rubber modifies asphalt. The used tire problem is a big one. There can be no doubt about that. Coming up with creative solutions for environmental problems can help reduce the amount of waste in our community and environment.



Source: (UniServe Science, 2010)
http://sydney.edu.au/science/uniserve_science/school/curric/k_6/environment.html

Reminder

Have you returned your ERA Annual Return Form and paid your fees?

It is important to be up to date and send in your ERA Annual Return Form and pay the relevant fees so that your ERA registration certificate to operate remains current.

If this is not done you will be operating without a registration certificate and further action may be taken.



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Environmental Health
 Gladstone Regional
 Council
 101 Goondoon Street
 Gladstone Qld 4680
 PO Box 29
 Gladstone Qld 4680

Phone: (07) 4976 6996
 Fax: (07) 4975 8500

E-mail:
info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

u
 Website:

www.gladstone.qld.gov.au
 u

Dust Nuisance

Dust can cause a nuisance to neighbours by interfering with peoples daily activities. If severe enough, it can also damage property and impact on a person's health. The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* prescribes dust as an environmental nuisance. This requires the control of dust by managing your property and controlling the activities that cause dust on your property.

Some effective control measures in reducing dust emissions are:

- Retaining vegetation.
- Plan work so that vegetation does not need to be removed.
- Control the use of vehicles on the property e.g. reducing speeds.
- Using on-site waste to reduce dust.
- Physical barriers e.g. fences.
- Using water to suppress dust.
- Using hydromulch (pulped newspaper mixed with water).



When conducting activities on-site we ask that you consider your neighbours and the impacts that may be affecting them from what you are doing.

www.gladstone.qld.gov.au

Environmental
MATTERS