



# Environmental MATTERS

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## Light Pollution

Did you know that under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, environmental nuisance can be caused by light emissions?

*"Environmental nuisance is defined as unreasonable interference or likely interference with an environmental value."*

You must ensure that the lighting from your premises, whether for security or any other reason, does not interfere or cause nuisance to neighbouring residential areas. Control measures include adjusting the height of lighting or illuminated signage, erecting barriers to block light from shining on residential premises and adjusting the brightness of lights which are directed towards residential areas.



**Manage the lighting at your premises responsibly and be a good neighbour!**

## Dust Nuisance

Dust can cause a nuisance to neighbours by interfering with people's 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 vehicle speed.
- Using on-site water 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.*



## Save your business money – recycle!

Whether you are a small business operator, a manager, or a worker, recycling represents an opportunity to enhance business efficiency, save resources – and save money.

Marketing consultant Bronwyn Sutton has spent most of this year talking to local businesses and working with CQLGA to develop a program to help Central Queensland businesses improve recycling.

Bronwyn has been impressed with the support for recycling in the region.

'Those businesses who are already recycling see that it is a very easy first step towards creating a sustainable, resource efficient workplace.'

Recycling will become increasingly important for all businesses from next July, with the proposed introduction of a state government levy on all waste sent to landfill by business and industry.

At \$35 per tonne, the levy will mean an increase in the cost of disposing of waste to landfill for all Queensland business.

But the news isn't all bad.

'Businesses can introduce or improve recycling systems now to prepare for the levy,' says Bronwyn, 'that way they can avoid potential cost increases, and make better use of resources.'

The '**towardZero – reducing waste at work**' program is now available to businesses across the Central Queensland region, providing support to businesses to introduce or improve recycling.

'We've created this program specifically for businesses,' Bronwyn says, 'it is action focused and will give businesses the opportunity to introduce recycling for the first time, or improve on recycling systems already in place.'

On-site support is provided by a trained towardZero workplace mentor, and CQLGA will provide some equipment to get you started.

Plus CQLGA is offering a free waste assessment for the first fifty businesses that join the program.

'TowardZero is a great opportunity for businesses to get the support they need to introduce or improve recycling – and a great way to take a step towards sustainability.'



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For more information on recycling in the workplace, or to join the towardZero program, visit [www.recyclerrightcq.com.au](http://www.recyclerrightcq.com.au) and click on 'business' or contact the towardZero workplace mentor at CQLGA on 4926 3799.

## Burning off is prohibited!

### Why is burning banned?

Smoke from burning off can cause a nuisance to neighbours and interfere with their normal daily activities and also their health. The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* introduced by the State Government includes controls for smoke emissions. Council is legally required to enforce these controls when a smoke problem occurs.

### What will happen to me if I continue to burn off?

If the smoke is determined to be a nuisance, Council will issue you a 'direction notice'. A direction notice

will detail what offence has taken place and the time frame that the offender has to rectify the problem. If the direction notice is not complied with, Council may then issue an on-the-spot fine to the value of \$1000.

### Are there any exceptions?

Exceptions are only given to those who use a wood fired BBQ, which is allowed for the sole purpose of cooking food. However open fires in steel drums, fire pits, etc during the cooler seasons are also not recommended.



*Burning off should only be used as a last resort for controlling vegetation regrowth.*

**“Clean and healthy air is a persons right not a**

[www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au](http://www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au)

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