



Environmental MATTERS

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Licence Renewals

The annual licence renewal period has come around again. You should now have received correspondence from Council with the following information included:

- A letter explaining the adopted new fee structure
- An invoice for payment of your annual licence fees
- A compulsory renewal form to be completed and returned to Council

Payment of fees and submission of the renewal form are due by 30 June 2011.

Payments can be made either using BPAY with details on the invoice, cheque in post or in person at a Council office.

Fees have been adopted by Council to ensure a full cost recovery for the licensing and annual inspection program undertaken by Council Environmental Health Officers.

You may be interested to know that Council has endorsed a 50% reduction on fees for any business that maintains an accredited Environmental Management System (EMS) according to ISO 14001 standards. Accreditations are provided through privately certified Environmental Auditors. To receive the reduction, businesses are required to write to Council requesting the reduction and including a copy of their EMS Certificate of Accreditation.



Deemed Approval Update

With the introduction of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the ERA for Chemical Storage (ERA-8(3(a))) was classed a level 2 approval and those already existing were classified as Deemed Approval sites. This meant that development approval applications were not required for chemical storage facilities that existed before 1994 (and have not have changes made on-site), which resulted in environmental conditions not being placed on these sites.

Then with the introduction of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, deemed approval sites for ERA 8 were required to apply for a development approval (DA) and given a reasonable amount of time to do so, so that a development permit could be issued to each deemed approval site. This meant that a DA application was to be made for all deemed approval chemical storage sites throughout Queensland.

Gladstone Regional Council waived the standard development application fee to aid with the application process for these businesses.

Now that the expiry date (**1 January 2011**) for deemed approvals has passed, most deemed approved sites within the region have either made their application or have had their application approved. Council is now progressing to ensure all sites obtain their relevant approvals.

ECOFEST 5 June 2011

The Gladstone region will again mark World Environment Day with Ecofest on Sunday, 5 June 2011 in Gladstone's beautiful Tondoon Botanic Gardens from 9am to 3pm.

Gladstone Regional Council runs Ecofest each year to celebrate environmental initiatives of business and industry and raise awareness of what residents can do in and around the home to help reduce their impact on the environment.

Ecofest has been designed to promote environmental sustainability through educational displays and interactive activities promoted by local industry, business and community groups as well as promoting products with an "environmental" theme. To allow the whole family to participate and learn

about the environment, entertainment, food and drink stalls and hands on demonstrations are also organised for the day.

Industry, government departments, Council's and community groups are working individually and in partnerships to protect and conserve the environment and Ecofest provides an opportunity for these organisations to showcase local efforts, which contribute to global sustainability through preservation and promotion of biodiversity.

Full details and Ecofest's 2011 Program is available on Council's website.



Eco-Fest



Radiator Fluid Disposal

Radiator fluid is considered a hazardous liquid, toxic to humans and animals and can cause serious environmental damage if incorrectly disposed. Businesses that service vehicles, MUST NOT discharge radiator fluid to the sewer or stormwater, but collect and store the fluid for recycling or off-site disposal.

Additionally, oil water separators cannot process large quantities of ethylene glycol contained in radiator fluid. The ethylene glycol acts as an emulsifier, causing the oil to remain suspended in the wastewater and pass through to the sewerage system.

Radiator fluid, like all other hazardous chemicals, must be collected and recycled or disposed through a licensed regulated waste disposal contractor. For a list of licensed regulated waste disposal contractors please call the Environmental Health section of Council.



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