



Dumping of green waste in natural areas

What is green waste?

Green waste is plant-based organic material typically generated from garden maintenance, including lawn clippings, branches, palm fronds, leaves, plants, soil and mulch.

Why is dumping of green waste a problem?

Dumped green waste spreads weeds

Green waste commonly contains seeds, weeds and exotic plants that can invade our natural areas if disposed of inappropriately. These plants compete with our native plants and degrade the quality of habitats, impacting on biodiversity.

Piles of green waste also directly smothers or suffocates small native plants and groundcovers, affecting wildlife that relies on native plants for food and shelter.

Dumped green waste increases fire hazard

As green waste dries it creates a fire hazard that risks neighbouring properties, infrastructure and the environment. Piles of green waste increase fuel loads during bushfires, risking impact to native vegetation and creating embers that may spark bushfires elsewhere.

Dumped green waste impacts our waterways

Green waste dumped in creeks or stormwater drains washes into our waterways and impacts water quality. As the organic material breaks down it absorbs oxygen and releases nutrients which can choke fish and cause toxic algae blooms. Material dumped in these areas also clogs stormwater drains and may contribute to localised flooding.

Dumping of waste soil also impacts our waterways by reducing water flow and increasing turbidity. This smothers aquatic organisms and blocks sunlight needed for plant growth.

Dumped green waste impacts our community

Piles of green waste are unsightly and impact upon the amenity values of our natural areas. Material can also serve as breeding ground for rats and mice, creating vermin issues for neighbouring properties. There are also costs associated with the removal of dumped green waste.

Dumping green waste is illegal

Dumping of green waste is considered illegal under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 and offenders may face significant penalties. Releasing a prescribed contaminant, which includes bark, lawn clippings, leaves, mulch and pruning waste, is also an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

If you see anyone disposing of green waste inappropriately, you can report it online at <https://report-littering-dumping.ehp.qld.gov.au/> or phone Council on 4970 0700. Please take photos and record any evidence (e.g. car registration) which may assist with identifying the offender.

How can you dispose of your green waste appropriately?

Disposing of green waste appropriately is a positive step towards reducing our impact on the environment. Consider recycling your green waste by leaving grass clippings on your lawn, using them as mulch on garden beds or by composting. Remember to cover your compost heap to prevent vermin and the dispersal of seeds.

Alternatively, dispose of your green waste at a Council waste transfer station or the Benaraby Landfill. Green waste disposal is free up to 500kg for Gladstone Region residents.

If your garden generates a lot of green waste, consider subscribing to a green waste disposal service available through a number of local businesses. Perhaps you could share the service with your neighbours.

Do not dispose of green waste in your general waste bin or recycling bins, tossing over the back fence or dumping in a natural area.

How can you contact us?



(07) 4970 0700

STD CALLS: 1300 733 343

For those residents who currently incur STD call rates when contacting their local customer service centre



(07) 4975 8500



info@gladstone.qld.gov.au



www.gladstone.qld.gov.au

