MAROOCHY SHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING SCHEME POLICY NO. 10

Preparation of Waste Management Plans

1 Scope

This Planning Scheme Policy applies throughout the whole of the Shire of Maroochy.

This policy applies to any assessable development where the application and/or proposal are to be supported by a Waste Management Plan (WMP).

2 Objectives

To provide for the preparation of Waste Management Plans to:

- minimise the amount of waste generated; and
- promote efficient use of resources.

To provide a framework for the preparation and assessment of Waste Management Plans which enable Council to make consistent and fair decisions regarding development applications that:

- ensure waste is managed in accordance with ecologically sustainable development principles;
- minimise the impact of waste on the environment and on human health;
- minimise the amount of waste generated from all sources; and
- promote the use of wastes as a resource.

3 Rationale

Council and the community share the responsibility of ensuring that the environment is protected, and that resources are not used to the detriment of the quality of life of future generations. Responsible Waste Management is imperative in meeting this responsibility.

Maroochy Shire Council has adopted an Integrated Waste Management Strategy that recognises waste as a potential resource and aims to develop cost effective strategies for minimising waste production. This strategy gives the highest priority to waste avoidance, reduction and reuse.

Sound waste management can result in significant economic, social and environmental benefits. Responsible and effective waste management can achieve:

- more sustainable use of resources;
- reductions in the amount of waste requiring disposal and reductions in waste disposal costs;
- more efficient, and therefore cost-effective, works and operations;
- greater workplace and public safety;
- reduced legal and financial liabilities; and
- improved community perceptions and relations.

4 Principles to be used in preparing the Waste Management Plan

The following principles should be used in the preparation of a Waste Management Plan.

4.1 Guiding Principles

4.1.1 Waste Management Hierarchy

The waste management hierarchy is a framework for prioritising waste management practices to achieve the best environmental outcome. The following waste management practices are listed in the preferred order of adoption and form the 'waste management hierarchy' as adopted in the *Environment Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000*:

1. Waste avoidance
2. Waste re-use
3. Waste recycling
4. Energy recovery from waste
5. Waste disposal

(1) Waste avoidance

Preventing the generation of waste or reducing the amount of waste generated. Examples of practices for achieving waste avoidance:

- input substitution
- increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water or land
- process redesign
- product redesign
- improved maintenance and operation of equipment
- closed-loop recycling.

(2) Waste re-use

Re-using waste, without first substantially changing its form.

Examples:

- recovering solvents, metals, oil, or components or contaminants from catalysts and re-using them for a secondary purpose;

- applying waste to land in a way that gives agricultural and ecological benefits;
- substituting waste for virgin material in a production process.

(3) Waste recycling

Treating waste that is no longer useable in its present form and using it to produce new products.

(4) Energy recovery from waste

Recovering and using energy generated from waste.

Example;

Using waste as fuel to heat water and using the hot water in an industrial process or steam to generate power.

(5) Waste disposal

Disposing of waste, or treating and disposing of waste, in a way that causes the least harm to the environment.

Examples of treatment before disposal:

- employing biological processes to degrade material;
- employing a physico-chemical treatment to obtain a compound or mixture;
- blending or mixing waste to obtain a compound or mixture;
- storing or repackaging waste;
- employing thermal process to convert waste into a non-hazardous material.

Examples of disposal:

- disposal to a landfill;
- incineration without recovering heat or a secondary product.

4.1.2 Polluter pays principle

The 'polluter pays principle' as defined in the *Environment Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000*, is the principle that all costs associated with the management of waste should, if practicable, be borne by the persons who generated the waste. The costs associated with the management of waste may include the costs of:

- minimising the amount of waste generated;
- containing, treating and disposing of waste; and
- rectifying environmental harm caused by waste.

4.1.3 User pays principle

The 'user pays principle' as defined in the *Environment Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000*, is the principle that all costs associated with the use of a resource should, if practicable, be included in the prices of the goods and services (including government services) that result from the use.

Example:

By using land for a landfill, a person is using a resource. Under the user pays principle, the prices for disposing of waste to the landfill should include the full costs associated with using the land for a landfill. These costs may include, for example, the costs of buying the land and constructing the landfill, and the opportunity cost of using the land as a landfill.

4.1.4 Other principles

Other principles that apply to the preparation of and rationale behind a Waste Management Plan include:

- Intergenerational equity - means that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations;
- Ecologically sustainable development - means protecting the environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life both now and in the future in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends;
- Continuous improvement;
- Full cost pricing.

4.2 General Principles

4.2.1 Tailoring the WMP to the proposal

The WMP need only be as complex as the proposal requires. Once-off, short-term, small scale or uncomplicated works should only need a relatively short and simple WMP. Conversely, larger proposals may require detailed planning, covering the different stages of the development, operations or works program.

Every proposal has specific conditions and considerations and so in determining waste management measures, consideration should be given to:

- the nature and scope of the proposal, including the type, extent and life of the proposed activities, and the sensitivity of the receiving environment particularly neighbouring premises;

- practical experience, knowledge and site conditions;
- published information; and
- consultation with the Council and relevant government agencies.

4.2.2 Preparing a 'user friendly' WMP

The WMP should be clear, concise and easily understood by non-expert readers, as it is intended for use directly by staff or contractors. The intent and scope of the plan should be clearly stated, remembering that precise objectives and actions are more easily achieved than broad statements of intent.

4.2.3 Committing resources

The availability of necessary resources should be considered, understood and fully costed before commitments are made to waste minimisation measures. Staff awareness and training are essential for ongoing responsible work practices. All staff should be familiar with the provisions of the plan and the procedures particular to them that will achieve the objectives.

4.2.4 Auditing

Where warranted by the size, life or sensitivity of the project, procedures should be established for audits of the waste management system to be carried out. An audit will review and establish the degree to which waste management measures are being met and will point out areas for improvement.

4.2.5 Fitting the WMP into an overall Management System.

The WMP should be part of any overall Environmental Policy adopted by the organisation that is to carry out the development or use. The relationship of the WMP to an existing environmental or other management system/ plan should be indicated. The WMP should be structured to complement existing management systems.

4.2.6 Continual Improvement

Where warranted by the size, life or the sensitivity of the project the overall performance of an ongoing project or use can be improved as a result of ongoing management measures, technological improvements and improved operating methods. Applying this concept requires management measures to be reviewed over time, particularly when changed or new processes, products, services or facilities are introduced.

5 Documentation of Waste Management Plans

5.1 General

A WMP is a written description of what acceptable levels of waste generation are intended to be achieved or maintained and how it is proposed to achieve or maintain them. It is a working management document that establishes links between the potential for waste minimisation and measures to utilise such potential. A WMP should concisely describe the commitments made to waste management by:

- identifying all the aspects of the project which generate waste or involve waste handling, storage or servicing;
- establishing practical and achievable measures for minimising the amount of waste generated and managing the impacts of such waste;
- clearly identifying authority and responsibility for implementing and maintaining these measures during both construction and operational stages of a project;
- nominating acceptable performance criteria; and
- establishing procedures for monitoring and reporting.

5.2 Indicative Scope

Where a WMP is requested to support a development application or required as a condition of development approval, the plan may include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- a map which locates the site in relation to any on-site or surrounding uses or other sensitive receiving environments, with respect to cadastral boundaries and topography;
- a site layout plan and, if applicable, engineering drawings;
- a description of the types and amounts of waste that may be generated from the proposal;
- a description of other management practices which will be implemented to prevent or minimise any adverse environmental impacts (which may include temporary and longer term buffering measures, and rehabilitation or enhancement works);
- the monitoring procedures to be established and implemented, and
- performance criteria to assess the effectiveness of the management and monitoring program.

5.3 Typical WMP Contents and Structure

The following provides a guide to the type of information that may be included in a WMP and how it could be structured.

5.3.1 Introduction

The introduction to the WMP should set the scene by briefly describing:

- the project to which it applies;
- why it has been written; and
- its structure and scope.

5.3.2 Aim of the WMP

The aims of the WMP should be clearly and concisely stated, recognising that a WMP should provide:

- a framework for practically addressing and monitoring the waste generated by the proposal; and
- evidence that the works and operations will be or are being conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

5.3.3 Definitions and References

For the purposes of the WMP, any specific terms, acronyms and references used should be listed and defined or explained. Relevant legislation, government policies and Australian Standards which need to be complied with may also be usefully listed. All documents and records that are used in the WMP should be referenced.

5.3.4 Identification of Wastes and Associated Management and Minimisation Measures

This section of the WMP should clearly identify the types of waste generated at each development stage or use and identify the requirements for handling, collection and disposal of these wastes. This section should also address the potential for wastes to be diverted from landfill and a description of the associated measures to achieve such diversion.

Matters that should be addressed in the plan include:

- a description of the activities that may generate waste;
- the types and amounts of the waste generated for each development stage or use;
- the likely impact of the waste on the environment including on the amenity of surrounding land users;
- any hazardous characteristics of the waste;
- how the waste will be dealt with, including a description of the types and amounts of waste that will be dealt with under each of the waste management practices mentioned in the waste management hierarchy;
- procedures for identifying and implementing opportunities to minimise the amount of waste generated, promote efficiency in the use of resources, and otherwise improve the waste management practices employed;
- procedures for dealing with accidents, spills and other incidents that may impact on the waste management;
- details of any accredited management system employed, or planned to be employed, to deal with the waste;
- how often the performance of the waste management practices will be assessed;
- the indicators or other criteria on which the performance of the waste management practices will be assessed; and
- staff training on matters relevant to waste management

5.4 Waste Management Plan Template

The following template (provided in Appendix 1) should be used as a guide for any Waste Management Plan being prepared in accordance with this Planning Scheme Policy.

APPENDIX 1

WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN TEMPLATE

Waste Management Plan

1.0 Introduction

Project: .....

Site Address: .....

Name of Applicant: .....

Address of Applicant: .....

Phone: ..... Fax: .....

Reason for Waste Management Plan:

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Buildings and other structures currently on the site:

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Brief Description of the Proposal:

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The details provided on this form are the intentions for managing waste relating to this project.

Signature of Applicant: ..... Date: .....

Appendices

2.0 Aim of Waste Management Plan

Description of framework for practically addressing and monitoring waste generated:

Description of how works or operations will be undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner:

3.0 Definitions and References

Any specific terms acronyms and references used should be listed and defined or explained.
All documents, records and legislation, policies or standards should also be referenced.

4.0 Identification Of Wastes and Associated Management and Minimisation Measures[1]

Section One: Demolition of Premises

Description of activities that may generate waste:

Types and Amounts of Waste Generated

Materials on-site		Destination		
		Re-use and Recycling		Disposal
Type of material	Estimated volume (m3)	Onsite * Specify proposed re-use or on-site recycling methods	Offsite * Specify recycling outlet	* Specify landfill site
Excavation material				
Garden Organics				
Bricks				
Concrete				
Timber – please specify				
Plasterboard				
Metals – please specify				
Other – please specify				

Identify any hazardous characteristics of waste generated:

[1] *This section of the Waste Management Plan should be undertaken having regard to the key issues listed under section 5.3.4 of this Planning Scheme Policy.*

Identification of requirements for handling of wastes:

Identification of requirements for collection of wastes:

Identification of requirements for disposal of wastes:

Identification of procedures for dealing with potential accidents, spills or other incidents:

Waste Diversion from Landfill

Identify any procedures for identifying and implementing opportunities to minimise the amount of waste generated, promote efficiency in the use of resources, and otherwise improve the waste management practices employed.

Associated measures to achieve diversion:

Identification of Criteria and Indicators on which the performance of the waste management practices will be assessed (including frequency of performance assessments):

Section Three: Use of Premises

Description of activities that may generate waste:

Types and Amounts of Waste Generated				
Materials on-site		**Destination**		
		Re-use and Recycling		Disposal
Type of material	Estimated volume (m3)	Onsite * Specify proposed re-use or on-site recycling methods	Offsite * Specify recycling outlet	* Specify landfill site
Excavation material				
Garden Organics				
Bricks				
Concrete				
Timber – please specify				
Plasterboard				
Metals – please specify				
Other – please specify				

Identify any hazardous characteristics of waste generated:

Appendices

Identification of requirements for handling of wastes:

Identification of requirements for collection of wastes:

Identification of requirements for disposal of wastes:

Identification of procedures for dealing with potential accidents, spills or other incidents:

Waste Diversion from Landfill

Identify any procedures for identifying and implementing opportunities to minimise the amount of waste generated, promote efficiency in the use of resources, and otherwise improve the waste management practices employed.

Associated measures to achieve diversion:

Identification of Criteria and Indicators on which the performance of the waste management practices will be assessed (including frequency of performance assessments):

Section Three: Use of Premises

Description of activities that may generate waste:

Types and Amounts of Waste Generated				
Materials on-site		**Destination**		
		Re-use and Recycling		Disposal
Type of material	Estimated volume (m3)	Onsite * Specify proposed re-use or on-site recycling methods	Offsite * Specify recycling outlet	* Specify landfill site
Excavation material				
Garden Organics				
Bricks				
Concrete				
Timber – please specify				
Plasterboard				
Metals – please specify				
Other – please specify				

Identify any hazardous characteristics of waste generated:

Appendices

Identification of requirements for handling of wastes:

Identification of requirements for collection of wastes:

Identification of requirements for disposal of wastes:

Identification of procedures for dealing with potential accidents, spills or other incidents:

Waste Diversion from Landfill

Identify any procedures for identifying and implementing opportunities to minimise the amount of waste generated, promote efficiency in the use of resources, and otherwise improve the waste management practices employed.

Associated measures to achieve diversion:

Identification of Criteria and Indicators on which the performance of the waste management practices will be assessed (including frequency of performance assessments):

Notes to Appendix 1:

1. This template is provided as a general guide only.
2. The inclusion of further information in a proposed WMP may be required to demonstrate compliance with the Waste Management provisions of this Planning Scheme.