

**Submission
No 15**

MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE ON PRIVATE LANDS

Organisation: Bathurst Regional Council
Name: Mr Joel Little
Position: Environmental Officer
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The disposal of waste onto private land in the Bathurst Region, anecdotally, appears to still be a common and wide occurrence. As 'farm tips' are usually well out of site of roads and neighbours, Bathurst Regional Council tends to only be made aware of them due to third party complaints or by analysis of aerial photography. The following is an overview of the issue of farm tips in the BRC local government area:

- Most are located in inappropriate locations (e.g. in or near water courses, depressions, old dams etc) which concentrates flow of contaminants
- Most appear to have been in constant use for many years
- They used for disposal of any item: household waste, chemical, oil and fuel drums, foam, plastic, tyres, animal carcasses, wood, cardboard and other green waste, vehicle and machinery parts, electrical equipment and white goods, furniture etc all commonly found.
- Many items could easily be recycled, reused or onsold. Many items contain hazardous material or chemicals.
- Some material (tyres, fill, concrete) are disposed on farms to avoid waste disposal fee. These sites may only be used for a short period before being buried.
- They are often in an open pit which does not contain windborne material such as paper and plastics
- Often become a harbourage for vermin
- Often burned as a means of reducing the size which releases toxic chemicals and produces particulate matter
- Often buried which results in anaerobic decomposition and concentrated leachate entering the waterway / groundwater
- Usually very expensive to clean up appropriately - most landholders could not afford the cost of full clean up.
- Most landholders appear ignorant or don't care about the risks associated with the continued use of on farm tips. Some landholders are acting upon advice given 20-30 years prior (i.e. tyres for erosion control). Many landholders are not aware of the risk of receiving waste or fill from off site locations.

Though Council occasionally requires clean up of material, often, as the site may have been used for decades, appropriate disposal is not possible. Therefore, ceasing use and removal of some items is usually the only option.

With regards to smaller sites (residential sites) that contain large amounts of waste, these may be difficult to bring about clean up action due to limited scope within the legislation. Also, the waste on these sites are often the result of illegal tenants occupancy, further delaying clean up action.

Illegal dumping is the most common form of environmental complaint that Council receives, and though infringements may be issued, most of the cost of clean up and disposal is borne by Council.

Illegal dumping on private and public land is expected to increase as waste disposal fees increase over time.