



CHANGE COMING FOR TIP USERS IN FORMER WELLINGTON COUNCIL AREA

A hot topic for anyone who has to take their rubbish to a waste transfer system around the Dubbo Region is the plan to restrict the opening hours of a number of tips in the coming months.

The changes have come because of a rise in the dumping of deadly asbestos at unmanned tips across the state.

Residents are understandably concerned and even angry about the change, because instead of being able to take their rubbish to the tip at any time of day that suits them, they will only have two or three-hour window twice a week.

It is important to note than no facilities have been locked yet. Council is currently in the process of putting fencing around the perimeter and making the sites secure. Until that is completed, the limitations won't be imposed.

I want to be very clear on this. Council has been forced into this decision and it takes no pleasure in having to implement it.

It has come about because of a rise of illegal dumping of asbestos around NSW, even in our own region, at Elong Elong. It has caused the NSW Government to put pressure on Councils to implement more stringent supervision of all tips.

The Government been made it quite clear their recommendations have to be followed. It previously threatened to suspend Blue Mountains Council over its handling of asbestos.

In the short-term, Council's only real option is to man the stations during opening hours. This is a costly process and with eight Small Waste Facilities around the region, the only option was limited supervised hours on certain days.

This will be inconvenient for residents, and unfortunately it has come about through no fault of their own. It is strongly suspected those who have conducted the dumping of asbestos are likely to have come from other towns and cities, choosing to dump illegally to avoid paying disposal costs.

However, Council has no choice but to comply with the Government's orders.

I have been swamped by people who say the hours are unsuitable and don't fit in with their work or other commitments. I completely understand this.

I see this as a very short-term measure that has to be fixed as soon as we possibly can. I believe the best possible option will be for eligible residents to have an access key to their closest facility letting them in.

Council is currently investigating this and I hope we will be able to implement a solution in the near future.

Council has proposed times for facilities at Geurie, Stuart Town, Mumbil and Euchareena once the new policy is introduced.

At Mumbil residents can drop their waste off on Tuesdays between 8.30am-10.30am, while on Saturday the facility is open between 2-4pm.

The larger centre at Geurie will be open for between 1-4pm on Thursdays and between 10am and 4pm on Sundays.

At Stuart Town the new transfer station would be open on Sundays and Wednesdays between 2-4pm.

Euchareena will have their new transfer station open between 10am and 12pm on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Council will notify residents before the facilities are locked and opening hours implemented.

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