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MEDIA RELEASE

COONAMBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY IS TEMPORARILY UNABLE TO ACCEPT ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIALS

Coonamble contractors and residents wishing to dispose of asbestos-containing material must now temporarily transport it to alternative Waste Management Facilities.

The Environment Protection Authority inspected the Coonamble Waste Management Facility recently and determined that the disposal of asbestos-containing materials was not being done in a satisfactory manner. It issued a Prevention Notice to halt the acceptance of contaminated materials until such time as new processes are put in place.

Council has appointed a manager to implement these new processes, starting Monday, 12 September.

Council regrets the inconvenience this temporary situation causes. Where possible, it would be appreciated that any kind of work resulting in asbestos-containing waste be delayed until it can again be accepted at the Coonamble Waste Management Facility.

Contractors and members of the public are urged not to dump asbestos-containing materials illegally, recognizing the danger that indiscriminate dumping poses to the environment and people. Fines for the illegal dumping of asbestos-containing material can be up to \$4000 for an individual or \$8000 for a corporation. If convicted under the Protection of the Environment Operations Amendment (Asbestos Waste) Act 2018, the Court can fine an individual \$500,000 and a corporation up to \$2 million.

Some examples of where asbestos can be found is in forms of concrete, asbestos cement sheeting (AC sheeting or 'Fibro'), vinyl floor coverings, lagging of pipes and boilers, and insulation (laid or sprayed).

Ross Earl
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER