



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cook Shire oils free to dispose of

November 24, 2017
COOKTOWN

About 50,000L of waste oil generated by Cook Shire residents every year can now be disposed for free, to be recycled into new products.

Dumping of waste oil previously incurred a fee, but a new agreement between Cook Shire Council and NQ Resource Recovery for free disposal meant the savings could be passed on to the community, Council Waste Management Coordinator Kristina Davidson said. "The oil is taken to Cairns and re-refined to create fuel oil, process oil, base oil, or biodiesel," Mrs Davidson said. "Council will absorb the transport costs to encourage our residents to recycle their oils."

Waste oil, including cooking oil and engine oil, can be taken in closed containers to any of the Shire's waste transfer stations for free disposal. It is illegal and harmful to the environment to dump engine oil, and while not illegal, dumping cooking oil is also harmful to the environment and the sewerage system. "When a large amount of cooking oil is poured down the sink, it solidifies as the water cools, clogging pipes," Mrs Davidson said. "The sewage treatment plant is also unable to fully process oils, which increases the risk of them being released into our waterways."

Paper, aluminium and tin cans, scrap metal, car bodies, pesticides (less than 5L), gas bottles, whitegoods, paints (less than 20L), solvents, bleaches and detergents (less than 20L), mattresses, cardboard, green waste, lead acid batteries, glass containers, plastic bottles, e waste are also all free to dispose of at Shire waste transfer stations during opening hours. Visit Council's website (www.cook.qld.gov.au/services/waste-management) for more information on waste management and recycling in Cook Shire.

For more information contact Council's Waste Management team via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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