



## TIPS FOR GETTING RID OF UNWANTED ITEMS

We advocate for waste avoidance and resource recovery wherever possible. Many people don't know where to start when they no longer need an item, particularly when the item is large or bulky.

Check out our handy flowchart to seek the best solution for disposal of unwanted items.

### IS THE ITEM CLEAN, IN GOOD CONDITION AND OPERATIONAL?

a good rule of thumb is: would you give it to a friend?

**YES**



#### SELL

##### LOCAL

##### FACEBOOK SITES

such as Marketplace, Buy Swap Sell, Online Bargains, Online Jumble Sale

##### ONLINE AND MOBILE APPS

such as ebay, gumtree and Depop

##### PRINT MEDIA

##### HOLD A GARAGE SALE

##### HOST A MARKET STALL



#### GIVE AWAY

##### GIVE TO A FRIEND, NEIGHBOUR OR DONATE TO A CHARITY SHOP

Some charity stores will come and pick up larger items such as furniture - it is up to the discretion of the driver to determine if the goods will be suitable for sale.

##### GIVE ITEMS AWAY FOR FREE

simple advertising avenues include:

##### GUMTREE, FACEBOOK MARKETPLACE

Gumtree, Freecycle, Facebook marketplace and local Facebook pages (search for 'free' or 'giveaway' pages)



#### UPCYCLE

if you're creative, give it a makeover and re-purpose the item.

Check out some of the wonderful local artists that can turn old furniture and wares into something amazing and sustainable.

**NO**

is the item broken, dirty/stained and past its use by date?

#### take item to the RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

There are a number of maintenance services and transport contractors who will take these items to landfill if you can't transport them yourself.

Our friendly weighbridge staff can accept credit card payment over the phone if someone else is transporting the goods for you.

# Why doesn't Ballina Shire Council have a resident tip voucher system?

While some residents would like a tip voucher service, we ask ratepayers if they would be prepared to pay for it on an ongoing basis regardless of whether the voucher is used. Let's look at some of the key points to consider.



## WE HAVE TO TRANSPORT ALL WASTE TO OTHER FACILITIES

The Ballina Resource Recovery Centre does not have an operating landfill, therefore all waste from our council area must be transported and buried at another landfill facility. Our waste centre gate fees are used to pay the compulsory EPA waste levy and the handling, processing, transportation and disposal costs for the waste received.

Council's current waste collection rates cover the costs to operate our kerbside collection service. We lift and empty almost 2 million kerbside bins a year! If each household was provided with a voucher to dispose of 150 kg of waste annually, approximately 3,000 tonnes of waste could be generated. Not including the initial set up cost for items such as a computer software program, hardware and print media, the annual cost to implement a tip drop off voucher service would be approximately \$650,000.

## WHY DON'T WE HAVE BULKY KERBSIDE COLLECTION?

Introducing kerbside collection would have a significant financial impact and would result in increased waste charges. This would not be a user-pay service, all residents would have to pay an annual additional charge regardless of whether they use the service or not.

Kerbside collection is inconsistent with Council's objectives for waste recovery and landfill diversion as very little of this material can be sorted and recycled. It also doesn't encourage residents to consider recycling, resale and other waste diversion activities.

There are also significant risks associated with environmental pollution, public safety, residential amenity and illegal dumping.

## WE OPERATE ON A USER PAYS BASIS

Council operates under a user pays system. This means we avoid penalising residents who wouldn't use a tip voucher service in order to subsidise those that would. As well as being equitable, the existing arrangements represent the most efficient expenditure and least cost to the wider community.

## ARE CHEAP GOODS REALLY CHEAP?

Considering the whole lifecycle of a product at the time of purchase is an important step towards sustainability. Cheaper goods often don't last as long as more quality items so the cost and inconvenience of disposal should be considered when purchasing an item.

Stores that specialise in large items such as mattresses and fridges often offer to remove and recycle the old item for a small fee.

## IT'S NEVER BEEN CHEAPER TO BRING SMALL AMOUNTS OF WASTE TO THE LANDFILL

It typically costs less than \$25 to dispose of an item such as a lounge or a mattress.

Sorting your load by waste stream (for example scrap metal, cardboard and mixed waste in separate piles) will also help to reduce costs.



## Reasons why a tip voucher service is requested

The answer is usually convenience, but some believe that as they pay rates, they are entitled to this service. The reality is a tip voucher service is not "free" and Council would need to generate the income to pay for the transportation and disposal of this material. We would likely need to increase rates to cover the costs of this additional service, regardless of whether a household uses the service or not. Council's current waste collection rates cover the costs to operate our kerbside collection service. We lift and empty almost 2 million kerbside bins a year!