

» plastics and waste rural burning



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» Know the health impacts

Most people who burn their domestic waste on their property do not realise how harmful this practice may be to their health and the environment. When plastics are burned, harmful quantities of dioxins (a group of highly toxic chemicals) are released to the surrounding environment.

Dioxins are an environmental pollutant. They belong to the 'dirty dozen' — a group of dangerous chemicals known as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

The most infamous of this group is tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, commonly known as Agent Orange, which is known to cause cancer and damage neurological, reproductive, thyroid and respiratory systems.

The toxic smoke from burning plastic waste could result in negative health effects to you, your family and your neighbours.

» It's in the legislation

Increased consumer scrutiny means responsible waste and environmental farm management practices are more important than ever. To maintain consumer and community confidence, farmers and property owners should be aware of their obligations.

It is illegal to burn agricultural waste such as plastic, plastic drums and similar waste materials. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) laws prohibit the burning of waste containing these materials.

Property owners who burn waste may be issued with a fine from the EPA or council. These fines start from \$1000 for a company, and \$500 for an individual.

Council's Environmental Health Officers continue to monitor and act on illegal rural pile burning.

» Be responsible and sustainable

Local growers can dispose of their used eligible drum muster containers for free at Ballina Waste Management Centre if they are triple rinsed, have the lids removed and do not contain any liquid. For more information call Council's Resource Recovery Team on 6686 1287.

Additionally, Lismore City Council's Waste Management Facility accepts up to 20 litres/20 kilograms of agricultural chemicals for free. Volumes over 20 litres/20 kilograms are charged at a per kilogram rate.

All other plastics and waste must be disposed of correctly at your local waste facility.



This pile burn contains waste and is illegal. The burn smoke from this pile would release harmful dioxins.

» For further information contact:

Visit ballina.nsw.gov.au or contact council's Public and Environmental Health Section, Ph 1300 864 444