



# Waste Collection, Wheelie Bins and Car Body Removal

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** P51  
**ORGANISATION UNIT:** Works  
**RESPONSIBLE POSITION:** Director Works  
**RELEVANT DELEGATIONS:** NIL  
**DATE ADOPTED:** 7 Dec 2012 (472/2012)  
**REVIEW DATE:** Annually

## Objectives

- To ensure regular collection of waste from ratepayers properties
- To ensure wheelie bins are maintained in appropriate condition
- To ensure hazardous car bodies are removed from communities
- To protect public health

## Legislation and Reference

Northern Territory Local Government Act

Central Desert Shire Council Rates Declaration (current)

Central Desert Shire Plan 2012-13

Northern Territory Public and Environmental Health Act

Northern Territory Public Health (Night Soil, Garbage, Cesspits, Wells and Water) Regulations

## Policy

### Waste Collection Service

Central Desert Shire Council is responsible for providing regular waste collection services to all rateable properties within the designated communities and townships within the shire area (currently defined as Engawala, Atitjere, Lajamanu, Laramba, Nyirripi, Ti-Tree, Willowra, Yuelamu and Yuendumu.)

Waste shall be collected at least once per week from these properties, unless otherwise ratified by Council.

On collection days, property owners or occupiers must place wheelie bins in a location that is readily and safely accessible by Council staff.

Council staff are not obliged to collect and empty wheelie bins that are not readily or safely accessible.

## **Wheelie Bins and Stands**

Council provides one 240-litre wheelie bin per eligible property, as part of the annual garbage collection charge.

Additional wheelie bins are available upon request, and will be charged at an additional fee (as adopted by Council). The collection of second, and subsequent bins, attracts an additional annual garbage collection charge. (Please refer to Rates Declaration for further information.)

Steel garbage bins, 44-gallon drums and other receptacles that allow garbage to be burned inside the container will not be supplied or collected by Council due to Work Health and Safety risks to staff.

Wheelie bins remain the property of Central Desert Shire Council.

The cost of rectifying damage to wheelie bins or other Council property will be recovered from the relevant ratepayer.

To protect Public Health, Council will repair or replace damaged or destroyed wheelie bins as soon as practical after identifying damage. This includes damage that:

- i) limits the ability of the property owner or occupier to use the wheelie bin;
- ii) compromises the safe storage of garbage within the wheelie bin; or
- iii) limits the ability of Council to collect and empty the wheelie bin.

Where a bin is damaged but not destroyed, Council will limit rectification works to the minimum that maintains functionality of the wheelie bin.

Where it is more cost-effective to replace the wheelie bin, this shall occur.

The cost of repairs will be calculated and invoiced as: the Actual invoiced cost to Council of materials and services used; plus Cost of Council labour, plant and stores used including overheads; all multiplied by 15%.

Where Council provides stands or holders for wheelie bins, the property owner or occupier is encouraged to use these.

Stands and holders remain the property of Central Desert Shire Council.

The cost of rectifying damage to wheelie bin stands or holders will be recovered from the relevant ratepayer.

## **Users' Responsibilities**

Owners and/or occupiers of properties supplied with wheelie bins have an obligation to maintain the wheelie bin in good condition, as per the Northern Territory Public Health (Night Soil, Garbage, Cesspits, Wells and Water) Regulations. These regulations state:

*27. Duties of owner or occupier.*

*An owner or occupier shall:*

- (a) cause all garbage receptacles on his premises to be kept clean;*
- (b) cause all garbage receptacles to be maintained in good order and condition;*
- (c) not at any time allow garbage receptacles to become a nuisance; and*
- (d) keep all garbage receptacles covered at all times.*

## **Rubbish inside Residential Property Boundaries**

Where significant rubbish has accumulated inside the property boundary of residential properties (within designated communities) and is deemed a Public Health risk, Council will place an empty rubbish trailer or similar outside that property for one to two days.

Owners and/or occupiers will be encouraged to place such rubbish in the trailer, and this will be removed to the landfill by Council staff at no charge to the property owner or occupier.

Where owners and/or occupiers do not clean up rubbish and it is done by Council staff to protect Public Health, the full cost of labour, plant and materials plus 50% will be invoiced to the property owner.

Where rubbish is being deposited onto public land from adjoining rateable properties, and it is cleaned up by Council staff to protect Public Health, the full cost of labour, plant and materials plus 100% will be invoiced to the property owner.

## **Car Bodies**

Car bodies located inside property boundaries remain the responsibility of the owner or occupier.

Such car bodies often become significant Public Health hazards, including crushing hazards, fire hazards, snake habitat and other significant issues.

Council will report such hazardous car bodies to the relevant Northern Territory Government agency, and will ask the agency to pursue the property owner or occupier to make safe or arrange removal of those car body or bodies.

Council will only remove such car bodies upon receipt of a Work Order from the owner or occupier. This will be charged at the 'vehicle body' rate as listed in Council's 'Fees and Charges'.

Car bodies left on public land inside community boundaries may be removed by Council to protect Public Health. The registered owner of the car body, or persons deemed the owner of the car body, or persons claiming ownership of the car body, will be charged at the 'vehicle body' rate as listed in Council's 'Fees and Charges'.

## **History**

Originally adopted: December 2012 (Council Resolution 472/2012)