



Lithgow

Solid Waste Facility Frequently Asked Questions

Lithgow City Council is moving to a new operation of the Lithgow Solid Waste Facility (SWF) from the 1st January 2021

After many years dedicated service provided by local contractor, Henry Plant and Equipment Hire, Council will be commencing 'in house' operation of the facility.

Why is Lithgow Council taking over operation of Lithgow SWF?

The waste industry is developing at a rapid rate in terms of legislation, resource recovery targets and technology. In-house operation allows Council to adapt to the ever-changing waste environment and provide the opportunity to improve resource recovery and provide the best value to ratepayers and the community.

Why have gate fees increased for commercial waste?

The increase in gate fees is not related to Council in-house operation. Gate fees increased in August 2020 to cover increased costs of landfill operation and to fund capital works necessary onsite. Lithgow SWF is an old landfill that commenced operation before modern regulatory standards were in force.

There is an expectation from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) that standards at Lithgow SWF improve and the increased gate fees will help cover these costs, including the cost of progressive rehabilitation, improved stormwater management and leachate collection.

The gate fees at Lithgow SWF remain significantly lower than adjacent councils. Council will continue to review and adjust gate fees as part of the Operational Plan.

As a ratepayer can I continue to take my waste without charge?

Yes. Lithgow residents will continue to be able to take household waste without payment of gate fees, with the exception of asbestos, mattresses and tyres as per the current practice. Charges will continue to apply for commercial waste.

Will there be any change to accepted wastes?

No. The same waste types will be accepted and only waste generated from within the Lithgow Local Government Area. Prohibited wastes will remain the same including liquid waste, hazardous waste, restricted waste and asbestos not delivered in accordance with Council and EPA requirements.

What will change from 1 January 2021?

The main change will be the move to cashless operation. Method of payment will be debit or credit card.

Commercial customers who spend more than \$5,000 per year will be entitled to apply for an account. Council will send application forms to existing eligible customers.

There will be increased supervision of unloading from 1 January 2021. The increased supervision will ensure only permitted wastes are disposed on site and improve resource recovery by identifying materials that can be placed in resource recovery stockpiles.