

	<b>Function:</b> ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	<b>Adopted:</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2012
	<b>Policy Number:</b> ENV007	<b>Resolution No.:</b> C32:12
	<b>Version Number:</b> 1	<b>Last Review:</b> 5 <sup>TH</sup> April 2017
	<b>Frequency of Review:</b> As required	<b>Resolution No.:</b> C77:0417
		<b>Next Review:</b> As required
<b>SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF BIOSOLIDS POLICY</b>		

## **Policy Statement**

The monitoring, inspections, record keeping and reporting contributes to Council's operating costs. In order to finance the necessary resources to meet legislative requirements these costs need to be recovered. In terms of this Policy and pursuant to Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999 an annual levy will be charged to contractors to dispose of biosolids on farmland to cover cost associated with record keeping, inspections, monitoring and reporting.

### **1. Introduction**

Safe handling and disposal of biosolids is a system designed for the collection and disposal of wastewater generated in a town or community of primary treated effluent from septic tanks on farmland. Council, as the approving authority is responsible to ensure that sustainable, beneficial reuse of biosolids can be safely practised within the Council area. The primary objective of this policy is to protect human and animal health, the environment and agricultural products.

The District Council of Copper Coast is committed to providing sustainable disposal of biosolids on farmland that meet the needs of the community while complying with the (DoH) Department for Health and Ageing (DHA) and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.

### **2. Applicable Legislation**

Disposal of biosolids on farmland must be managed in accordance with relevant legislation including:

#### On-Site Wastewater Systems Code 2013 O

Section 11(1) of the On-Site Wastewater System Code 2013 requires that an owner or occupier of premises where a waste control system is located must ensure that the system is operated and maintained correctly to minimise risk to public and environmental health.

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### Environment Protection Act 1993

The Environment Protection Act 1993 provides that a person must not undertake an activity that pollutes, or have the potential to pollute, the environment unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise any resulting environmental harm.

To ensure appropriate management of such discharges the EPA Act includes provisions for EPA licencing for the safe handling and reuse of biosolids.

### Environment Protection Agency (South Australian Biosolids Guideline for the safe handling and reuse of biosolids 2009)

This guideline applies to the following group of stakeholders:

- Transporters – operators & contractors who transport septic tank effluent, sludge and biosolids.
- End users – farmers, who use biosolids or products containing biosolids.
- Council Environmental Health Officers – monitoring and reporting.

### Local Government Act 1999

In terms of Section 155 of the Act a Council may impose a service rate or an annual service charge, or a combination of a service rate and an annual service charge where it provides or makes available a *prescribed service*. In terms of Section 155 the collection, treatment or disposal (including by recycling) of waste is a prescribed service.

## 3. Integration with Corporate Objectives

### ***Environmental Objective – Sustainability***

**Goal 2:** *To responsibly manage the natural and built environment to ensure its sustainability and diversity to the community*

#### Strategies:

2.1 *Planning:* To establish planning and development policies in accordance with legislation, economic and community demand.

2.4 *Infrastructure and Services:* To implement ecologically sustainable programs for development of infrastructure and management of waste.

2.5 *Natural Environment:* To preserve and enhance the natural environment.

2.12 *Sewage and Waste:* To provide and maintain sewerage and solid waste infrastructure to all our communities

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## **Governance Objective – Leadership**

**Goal 5:** *To provide leadership and ensure community resources are managed efficiently and effectively.*

### Strategies:

- 5.3 *Legislation:* To adhere to the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, regulations and other legislation that influences the operations of Council.
- 5.6 *Risk Management:* To ensure effective management of all types of risk across Councils operations.

## **4. Definitions**

**Biosolids** –sludge that have been treated through the septic tank process to a standard suitable for beneficial reuse.

**Biosolids Service Charge** – an annual service charge imposed by the Council pursuant to Section 155 of the Local Government Act 1999 to recover the costs of monitoring, reporting and record keeping.

**Council** - Council means District Council of the Copper Coast.

## **5. Application**

### **Fee**

Council will apply an annual fee for contractors who dispose of biosolids on farmland in accordance with Council's Fees and Charges Register.

## **6. Delegation**

This policy will be implemented by the Chief Executive Officer and managed in accordance with Council's scheme of delegations

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## 7. Adoption and Review

The Policy will be reviewed annually, with the review being undertaken by the Director Development Services in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer. The reviewed Policy will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption. The Policy review process will be undertaken on the following basis:

- Has the implementation of the Policy achieved its Aim and satisfied the implementation of the identified Council Objectives?
- Has the implementation of the Policy been easy to manage and administer without requiring considerable or additional resources of Council to be used?

## 8. Availability of Policy

This Policy will be available for inspection without charge at the Council's Principal Office during normal business hours, and on Council's website.

A copy of this Policy may be obtained on payment of a nominated fee from Councils' principal office or may be down loaded from Councils' website.

Signed

Mayor

Date 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Signed

Chief Executive Officer

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