

MEDIA RELEASE

17 August 2026

COUNCIL UNDERTAKES WASTE EXPORT REVIEW AS PART OF ONGOING EFFORTS TO MANAGE COSTS

Norfolk Island Regional Council (Council) has put a temporary pause on waste stockpile exports while undertaking a review of waste export arrangements as part of its ongoing commitment to manage costs.

Council's financial situation has been discussed at length at each monthly Council Meeting for a significant time now. Council continues to review all operational and capital spending in an effort to defer Council's technical insolvency date for as long as possible.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 29 July 2026, Council resolved to look at different options and seek quotations from existing and new suppliers, with the potential of exporting all bulky waste that is currently stockpiled on Norfolk Island in one project.

Council sincerely appreciates its relationship with the current sea and air freight suppliers and all of the support they have provided to Council to date.

Council further directed management to engage in discussions with the Australian Government on the best available use of the remaining externally restricted funds (grant funding) allocated to waste export (totalling \$659,847 as reported in the May 2026 Investment Report).

These discussions are intended to maximise positive waste export outcomes and ensure the available funding delivers the best possible value for Council and the community.

While Council seeks quotations and further validation of potential export options, including value for money, management has been directed by the July Council Meeting resolution not to spend the Bulky Waste Stockpile Export funding of \$659,847.

It is also important to note that the 2026-27 Operational Plan and Budget adopted by Council on 30 June 2026, does not include any own-source funding appropriation for waste export due to concerns around the organisation's overall cash flow capacity.

Council acknowledges that the community may have concerns about the environmental and health impacts of pausing waste exports, and management is expected to complete the work required by the Council resolution as soon as possible.

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