

Amendment to subordinate local law - waste bin placement and collection rules

What has changed?

The amendments aim to provide clearer requirements for when waste and recycling bins can be placed onto public land for collection and how they are stored between collections.

Prior to the changes being endorsed, there were no specific Council requirements for how long waste and recycling bins could remain at a collection point or how much space properties needed to store them.

The amendment requires waste and recycling bins to be removed from the collection point within 24 hours after collection and not moved to the collection point more than 24 hours before collection.

For properties with a Monday collection, bins may be placed at the collection point from Friday if required.

Properties must also have enough space on private land, within the property boundary, to store all waste or recycling bins required for the premises. The bins cannot be stored on public land such as footpaths, nature strips or roadsides.

The amendments aim to:

- Keep neighbourhoods clean and tidy
- Reduce the impact of bin odours for pedestrians etc using the public space
- Reduce safety hazards caused by waste or recycling bins being left out in public spaces for extended periods.
- Provide clear, consistent standards for residents and businesses.
- Enable Council to better resolve issues by providing officers with the tools and authority to do so.

Why Council amended this subordinate local law?

Council regularly receives complaints from residents about waste or recycling bins being left on kerbsides for extended periods, overflowing bins, unpleasant odours, waste around bins and inadequate bin storage at some properties. Council also receives complaints about bins left on roadsides creating safety hazards for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Previously, there were no consistent rules for bins being placed on public land for collection. The only requirement was that bins should only be left out for a "reasonable" period. This wording was open to interpretation, impacting council's ability to resolve issues.

The changes provide a clear timeframe for when bins may be placed out for collection and then brought back in, and how they should be stored between collections.

Who may be affected?

- All residents and businesses receiving a kerbside waste collection in the Gympie Region.

Most residents and businesses will not notice any change if they already put their waste or recycling bins out and bring them back in within the required timeframes, and if they store them appropriately on their property between collections.

How Council will apply the amended local law?

Council will apply the local law only in response to complaints from the community.

Where a concern is raised, Council will work with the property owner to understand the issue and resolve it wherever possible. Compliance action will only be considered as a last resort.

Council will not undertake inspection programs to identify properties where bins are left out longer than allowed or where there is insufficient space to store them.

Council will provide information to help residents and businesses understand the new requirements, how they may be affected and what they need to do.