

# Rubbish

Photo: Mapoon Land and Sea Rangers

Careful rubbish disposal is crucial in Cape York Peninsula. Mosquitoes, fruit flies, and plant and animal diseases can enter the region from Papua New Guinea and Asia. Rubbish increases the risk of these affecting public health, agriculture and the local economy.

## KNOW WHERE THE WASTE DISPOSAL SITES ARE

Cook Shire Council (which covers almost all of the Cape) is moving from landfill sites to transfer stations. Locally produced rubbish puts significant pressure on most remote area waste facilities. You can help by minimising the amount of rubbish you dispose of in community facilities in the region.

## PLAN AHEAD: TAKE OUT WHAT YOU TAKE IN

There are limited waste disposal sites on the Cape, so disposing of rubbish can be difficult for travellers. By planning ahead you can reduce how much rubbish you generate. You can also be prepared for taking out what you take in.

## PACK SMART

Reduce plastics and non-biodegradables. Take food out of its packaging and put it in re-useable containers. Choose cans rather than bottles (because they can be crushed). Use bulk water containers. Take plenty of rubbish bags.

## TAKE RUBBISH STORAGE

You can now buy canvas rubbish bags to attach to the back of your vehicle – they're affordable and very convenient. If you plan on attaching rubbish to your vehicle use sturdy rubbish bags rather than household plastic rubbish bags because they will break and spill the contents along the track. Take plenty with you.

## DON'T BURY RUBBISH

Buried rubbish will be found, dug up and scattered by animals.

Digging by campers also disturbs soil, and encourages weeds and erosion, which are already significant problems on the Cape.

## PUT NON-FLAMMABLES IN YOUR RUBBISH

Glass, metal, foil and cigarette butts don't burn and will still be there long after your campfire has gone out. Also avoid burning items made of plastic, it causes pollution and can be hazardous.

## PICK UP OTHER PEOPLE'S RUBBISH

It's unfortunate, but you may find rubbish left by others so do the bush a favour - pick it up and take it out with your rubbish.

For your own simple clean-up kit, take some sturdy, sealable bags, good gloves and a pair of long-handled tongs.

## VOLUNTEER AT A BEACH CLEAN-UP

Tangaroa Blue runs regular beach clean-ups on Cape York. They're a great chance to mix with locals and other travellers, and do something good for the Cape. Dates and details at [www.tangaroablue.org](http://www.tangaroablue.org)



Photo: Kerry Trapnell

## REPORT DUMPERS

There are heavy fines for illegal dumping of rubbish.

You can report dumping at [qld.gov.au/litter](https://www.qld.gov.au/litter) or contact the Litter and Illegal Dumping Unit on phone 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or email [illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au)

If you see someone littering from a vehicle or vessel you can also report this to the department at [qld.gov.au/litter](https://www.qld.gov.au/litter)

Fines start from \$2018.

