

Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2018

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Part 1 Preliminary

1 Short title

This local law may be cited as *Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2018*.

2 Purpose and how it is to be achieved

- (1) The purpose of this local law is to protect the environment and public health, safety and amenity within the local government's area.
- (2) The purpose is to be achieved by providing for the elimination or reduction of risks and threats to the environment and public health, safety and amenity resulting from—
 - (a) inadequate protection against animal and plant pests;
 - (b) vegetation overgrowth;
 - (c) visual pollution resulting from accumulation of objects and materials;
 - (d) fires and fire hazards not regulated by State law;
 - (e) community safety hazards; and
 - (f) noise that exceeds noise standards.

3 Definitions—the Dictionary

The Dictionary in the Schedule 1 defines particular words used in this local law.

4 Relationship with other laws¹

This local law is—

- (a) in addition to and does not derogate from laws for pest management, regulation of fires and environmental protection; and
- (b) to be read with *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*.

Part 2 Waste Management

5 Placement of waste containers outside property boundaries

- (1) The owner or occupier of serviced premises where domestic or commercial waste is produced must—
 - (a) not place any waste containers outside the property boundary earlier than 12 hours before the scheduled day of collection; and
 - (b) bring all waste containers within the property boundary no later than 12 hours after the day of collection.

Maximum penalty— 10 penalty units for an individual and 20 penalty units for a corporation.

- (2) In relation to domestic waste it is a defence to a breach of, or non-compliance with, subsection (1) if the owner or occupier has a reasonable excuse.

Example—

¹ This local law and any subordinate local law made under it do not apply to the extent of any inconsistency with a law of the State or the Commonwealth. See the Act, section 27.

An example of a reasonable excuse for domestic waste may include a resident is absent for personal, family, reasons; or a resident is absent on business or work related activities.

6 Defacing of waste containers

- (1) A person must not place, attach or affix to a waste container a notice, poster, sign or any other similar material, or markings that deface or mark a waste container by any other means, except for the purpose of placing street numbers, business / unit names or similar identification features on the waste container.

Maximum penalty— 10 penalty units.

7 Prohibited use of public place waste containers

- (1) A person must not place any waste other than litter in a waste container caused to be placed by the local government on or in any local government controlled area or road for the purpose of the storage of litter.

Maximum penalty— 20 penalty units.

Examples of litter—

Cans, paper, bottles, wrappers, plastic bags, take-away containers, banana peel, apple core and other similar materials.

Part 3 Declared local pests

Division 1 Application

8 Application of part

- (1) This Part does not apply to—
 - (a) an animal or plant that is prohibited matter;
 - (b) an animal or plant that is restricted matter; or
 - (c) an animal or plant that is regulated matter.

- (2) In this section—

prohibited matter has the meaning given to it in the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld);

restricted matter has the meaning given to it in the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld) and.

regulated biosecurity matter has the meaning given to it in the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld).

Division 2 Declaration of local pests

9 Declaration of local pests

- (1) The local government may, by subordinate local law, declare an animal or plant of a specified species to be a local pest.
- (2) Before the local government makes a declaration under this section, it must consult with the chief executive about the desirability of the declaration.
- (3) A declaration under this section—
 - (a) must be published in a newspaper circulating generally in the local government's area; and

(b) comes into force on the date of publication.

(4) In this section—

chief executive means the chief executive of the department in which the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld) is administered.

10 Emergency declarations

(1) This section applies if the local government is satisfied urgent action is needed to avoid or minimise an immediate risk of environmental harm posed by a plant or animal.

(2) The local government may, by resolution, declare an animal or plant of the relevant species to be a local pest.

(3) A declaration under this section—

(a) must be published in a newspaper circulating generally in the local government's area;

(b) comes into force on the date of publication; and

(c) comes to an end 3 months after the date of publication.

(4) In this section—

environmental harm see *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), section 14.

11 Application of declaration

A declaration may apply—

(a) to the whole of the local government's area or in a specified part or parts of the area; and

(b) generally or only in specified circumstances.

Division 3 Control of local pests

12 Power to search for declared local pests

(1) This section applies if an authorised person wants to enter a property to search for declared local pests.

(2) After giving reasonable written notice to the owner and the occupier of the property, the authorised person may—

(a) enter the property without the permission of the occupier; and

(b) take reasonable action to search for declared local pests.

(3) However, the authorised person—

(a) must, as soon as the authorised person enters the property, inform any occupier of the property—

(i) of the reason for entering the property; and

(ii) that the authorised person is authorised under this local law to enter the property, excluding a home on the property, without the permission of the occupier; and

(b) may enter a home that is on the property only with the permission of the occupier of the relevant part of the property.

- (4) If the occupier gives permission under subsection (3)(b), the authorised person may ask the occupier to sign a document that confirms that the occupier has given permission.

13 Pest control notices

- (1) An authorised person may, by compliance notice² given to the owner of land, require the owner³ to take specified action to control declared local pests.
- (2) The specified action may include action to—
- (a) destroy declared local pests on the land;
 - (b) minimise the risk of an outbreak of declared local pests on the land;
 - (c) prevent or minimise seeding or reproduction by declared local pests;
 - (d) contain infestation by declared local pests within a localised area;
 - (e) reduce the density or extent of infestation by declared local pests; or
 - (f) remove harbour provided to declared local pests.
- (3) The notice may require the repetition of a specified action at stated intervals or on the reappearance of the declared local pest within a specified period.

Division 4 Prohibition of sale and propagation

14 Prohibition on sale

A person must not—

- (a) sell or supply a declared local pest; or
- (b) offer or display a declared local pest for sale or supply.

Maximum penalty—50 penalty units.

15 Prohibition on introducing, propagating etc. a declared local pest

- (1) A person must not—
- (a) introduce, propagate or breed a declared local pest; or
 - (b) provide harbour to a declared local pest.

Maximum penalty for subsection (1)—50 penalty units.

- (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply to a person who has been prescribed under a subordinate local law for this subsection as exempt from the offence in subsection (1) in relation to a specified pest.

Example of persons that might be exempted from subsection (1) in relation to specified pests—

- Staff of research organisations such as universities or the CSIRO who require a particular pest for research purposes.
- Staff of an organisation using a particular pest as part of an education program.

- (3) In this section—

² See *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*, section 22, regarding the requirements for compliance notices and the offence for not complying with a compliance notice.

³ See the Act, section 140, in relation to the owner's right to enter property where the owner is not the occupier to take action to comply with a remedial notice, and section 141, in relation to an occupier's right to recover amounts incurred to satisfy an owner's obligations.

introduce means to introduce, or cause to introduce, into the local government's area.

Part 4 Overgrown and unsightly allotments

16 Overgrown allotments

- (1) This section applies where an authorised person forms the opinion that an allotment is overgrown with vegetation to such an extent that it—
 - (a) has seriously affected the visual amenity of the allotment; or
 - (b) is likely to attract or harbour reptiles.
- (2) The authorised person may, by compliance notice⁴ given to the responsible person for the allotment, require the responsible person to clear the vegetation to an extent specified in the notice.
- (3) However, the notice cannot prevent a use of land authorised under the Planning Act⁵ or the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld).
- (4) In this section—

vegetation includes a tree, bush, shrub, plant or grass, but does not include vegetation that is protected under a law of the State⁶ or Commonwealth or under the local government's planning scheme.

17 Accumulation of objects and materials on allotments

- (1) This section applies where an authorised person forms the opinion that objects or materials brought on to, or allowed to accumulate on, an allotment—
 - (a) have seriously affected the visual amenity of the allotment; or
 - (b) are likely to attract or harbour reptiles.

Examples for paragraph (a) of objects and materials that may seriously affect the visual amenity of an allotment—

- Discarded or disused machinery or machinery parts.
- Broken-down or severely rusted vehicles.
- Discarded bottles, containers or packaging.
- Refuse or scrap material.

- (2) The authorised person may, by compliance notice⁷ given to the responsible person for the allotment, require the responsible person to—
 - (a) remove objects or materials that are causing the circumstance mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b); or
 - (b) take other specified action to remedy the circumstance mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (b).

Example of action that might be required under paragraph (b)—

Erecting an appropriate structure (in accordance with requirements under the Planning Act) to screen unsightly objects or materials from public view.

⁴ See footnote 2.

⁵ See definition of Planning Act in the Act, Schedule 4.

⁶ For example, vegetation may be protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld), the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (Qld) or the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld).

⁷ See footnote 2.

- (3) However, the notice cannot prevent a use of land authorised under the Planning Act or the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld).
- (4) Despite any other provision of this or the local government's other local laws, if a person fails to comply with a compliance notice given in accordance with section 17(2) and a local government worker enters the allotment pursuant to the powers in section 142 of the Act, the local government worker may take the steps required in the compliance notice, including removing the objects or materials from the allotment.
- (5) If a local government worker has seized and removed objects from the allotment, the local government may dispose of the objects or materials in the way prescribed in section 32 of *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*.

Part 5 Fires and fire hazards

18 Regulation of lighting and maintaining fires in the open

- (1) This section does not apply to the lighting or maintaining of a fire that is authorised under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* (Qld).⁸
- (2) The local government may, by subordinate local law, prohibit or restrict the lighting or maintaining of fires in the open in the whole, or designated parts, of the local government's area.

Example—

The subordinate local law might prohibit the lighting of fires, or a particular type of fire, in the open, unless the fire is contained in an approved incinerator.

- (3) A person must comply with a prohibition or restriction imposed under this section.
Maximum penalty for subsection (3)—10 penalty units.
- (4) A person must not light or maintain a fire if the fire exposes property to the risk of damage or destruction by fire.
Maximum penalty for subsection (4)—50 penalty units.
- (5) However, a person does not commit an offence under subsection (3) or (4) if the person is authorised or required to light or maintain the fire in the performance of duties under a law of the State or Commonwealth.

19 Fire hazards

- (1) This section applies where an authorised person forms the reasonable opinion that a fire hazard exists on an allotment.
- (2) The authorised person may, by compliance notice⁹ given to the responsible person for the allotment, require the responsible person to take specified action to reduce or remove the fire hazard.¹⁰
- (3) In this section—

fire hazard means—

⁸ See the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* (Qld), section 63, regarding fires authorised by notification; section 65 regarding fires authorised by permit; and section 69, regarding notices requiring occupiers to take measures to reduce the risk of fire.

⁹ See footnote 2.

¹⁰ See also the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*, section 69, under which the Commissioner can give a notice to the occupier concerned or publish a general notification in the gazette requiring occupiers of land to take measures to reduce the risk of fire occurring or the risk to persons, property or environment in the event of fire occurring.

- (a) anything that, because of its flammable nature, its position or its quantity, exposes property to significant risk of damage or destruction by fire; or
- (b) a thing that is declared to be a fire hazard under a subordinate local law for this paragraph.

Examples of fire hazards for paragraph (a)—

- A substantial accumulation of grass clippings that is liable to spontaneous combustion.
- Dry vegetation that could be easily ignited or other flammable materials.

Part 6 Community safety hazards

20 What is a community safety hazard

A **community safety hazard** is—

- (a) a fence or structure on land that, because of its nature or its position, poses a significant risk of causing injury to a person or damage to property;
- (b) objects or materials on land that are likely to become airborne in periods of high wind in a way that poses a significant risk of causing injury to a person or damage to property; or
- (c) a thing that is declared to be a community safety hazard under a subordinate local law for this paragraph.

Example of a fence or structure that may be a community safety hazard for paragraph (a)—

- Barbed wire fencing.

Example of an object or material that may be a community safety hazard for paragraph (b)—

- Sheet metal and guttering.

21 Power to enter property to inspect for community safety hazards

- (1) This section applies if an authorised person wants to enter a property to inspect it to identify any community safety hazards.
- (2) After giving reasonable written notice to the owner and the occupier of the property, the authorised person may—
 - (a) enter the property without the permission of the occupier; and
 - (b) take reasonable action to inspect the property for community safety hazards.
- (3) However, the authorised person—
 - (a) must, as soon as the authorised person enters the property, inform any occupier of the property—
 - (i) of the reason for entering the property; and
 - (ii) that the authorised person is authorised under this local law to enter the property, excluding a home on the property, without the permission of the occupier; and
 - (b) may enter a home that is on the property only with the permission of the occupier of the relevant part of the property.

- (4) If the occupier gives permission under subsection (3)(b), the authorised person may ask the occupier to sign a document that confirms that the occupier has given permission.

22 Removal or reduction of community safety hazards

- (1) This section applies where an authorised person forms the opinion that a community safety hazard exists on an allotment.
- (2) The authorised person may, by compliance notice¹¹ given to the responsible person for the allotment, require the responsible person to take specified action in relation to the community safety hazard to—
 - (a) remove the hazard; or
 - (b) reduce the level of risk to persons or property.

Example of specified action that might be required under paragraph (b) to reduce the risk to the community from a community safety hazard—

Securing objects or materials that may become airborne in periods of high wind.

23 Prescribed requirements

- (1) The local government may, by subordinate local law, prescribe requirements that must be met by responsible persons relating to specified types of community safety hazards located on the owner's land.

Example of prescribed requirements—

A requirement to place barbed wire fences at a certain height to avoid injury to passers-by.

- (2) A responsible person must comply with requirements prescribed under this section.

Maximum penalty for subsection (2)—10 penalty units.

Part 7 Noise standards

24 Prescribed noise standards

- (1) This section applies if the local government is the administering authority for the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), Chapter 8, Part 3B.¹²
- (2) The local government may, by subordinate local law, prescribe a noise standard in the whole, or designated parts, of the local government's area by—
 - (a) prohibiting the making of a stated noise (for example, by reference to the activity making the noise and the time at which the noise is made); and
 - (b) stating the section, in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), Chapter 8, Part 3B, Division 3, for which the subordinate local law provision is prescribing a noise standard.¹³

¹¹ See footnote 2.

¹² See the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), section 514, for the making of a regulation to devolve the administration and enforcement of parts of the Act to local governments as the administering authority. The *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008* (Qld), section 99, devolves the administration and enforcement of noise standards to local governments. Section 109 of the Regulation declares local government authorised persons to be authorised persons under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), section 445(1)(c). Chapter 9 of that Act provides for the investigation and enforcement powers of authorised persons.

¹³ Section 440O(3) provides that a local law that prescribes a noise standard replaces the nominated default noise standard in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld), Chapter 8, Part 3B, Division 3.

Part 8 Liability for Party Houses

25 Owner's liability for party houses

- (1) For the purpose of this section, the following words have the following meanings—

owner means the person who—

- (a) for the time being, is entitled to receive the rent for the residential property or would be entitled to receive the rent for the residential property if it were let to a tenant at a rent; and
- (b) includes a tenant of the residential property, if the tenant has a right of exclusive occupation of the property under a lease.

residential property means a property of a type that would ordinarily be used, or intended to be used, as a place of residence or mainly as a place of residence.

noise abatement direction means a direction given to a person by a police officer under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Qld), section 581(3).

- (2) It is an offence if the owner of a residential property receives a noise abatement direction more than 3 times within any 12 month period.

Maximum penalty –50 penalty units.

- (3) In a proceeding about a contravention of subsection (2)—

- (a) a noise abatement direction given to a person at a residential property is evidence of excessive noise being emitted from the property; and
- (b) a copy of information recorded in the register of enforcement acts under the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (Qld), about the giving of a noise abatement direction is evidence of the matters stated in it.

- (4) Despite subsection (3) a defendant may, with the leave of the Court, require the local government to call any person involved in the giving of the noise abatement direction to give evidence at the hearing.

- (5) The Court may give leave only if the Court is satisfied that—

- (a) an irregularity may exist in relation to the information or the giving of the noise abatement direction; or
- (b) it is in the interests of justice that the person be called to give evidence.

26 Police commissioner to give information

- (1) The Chief Executive Officer of the local government may ask the Police Commissioner to give the Chief Executive Officer information about a noise abatement direction given to a person in the local government area.
- (2) The Police Commissioner must comply with the request given under subsection (1).

Part 9 Miscellaneous

27 Subordinate local laws

The local government may make subordinate local laws about—

- (a) designating areas for general waste, recyclable waste or green waste collection;¹⁴
- (b) deciding the frequency of general waste, recyclable waste or green waste collection in designated areas;¹⁵
- (c) the supply of waste containers to premises;¹⁶
- (d) requirements for storing general waste in waste containers;¹⁷
- (e) requirements for keeping waste containers at serviced premises;¹⁸
- (f) requirements for storing general waste at particular serviced premises;¹⁹
- (g) requirements for storing industrial waste;²⁰
- (h) requirements for treating industrial waste;²¹
- (i) unlawful disposal of waste at a waste facility;²²
- (j) declaring animals or plants of specified species to be local pests;²³
- (k) persons exempted from introducing, propagating etc. a declared local pest²⁴
- (l) lighting and maintaining of fires in the open;²⁵
- (m) fire hazards;²⁶
- (n) community safety hazards;²⁷
- (o) prescribed requirements relating to community safety hazards;²⁸ or
- (p) prescribed noise standards for the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld).²⁹

¹⁴ See section 5(1).

¹⁵ See section 5(2).

¹⁶ See section 7(1).

¹⁷ See section 8(2)(a)(iv).

¹⁸ See section 9(1)(b).

¹⁹ See section 10(2)(b).

²⁰ See section 13(1)(b).

²¹ See section 14(1)(b).

²² See section 15(1)(h).

²³ See section 23(1).

²⁴ See section 29(2).

²⁵ See section 32(2).

²⁶ See section 33(3)(b).

²⁷ See section 34(c).

²⁸ See section 37(1).

²⁹ See section 38(2).

Schedule 1 Dictionary

Section 3

allotment means an individual parcel or piece of land.

animal means an organism (other than a human being) that is not a plant and includes eggs and semen.

compliance notice means a compliance notice mentioned in *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*, section 27.

declared local pest means a plant or animal declared to be a pest under section 9 or 10.

designated town area has the meaning in *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2018*.

local government worker has the meaning in the *Local Government Act 2009*.

plant means vegetation of any type, including its flowers, roots, seeds and other parts.

reasonable written notice means a written notice given at least 7 days before a property is to be entered, that informs the owner and the occupier of the property of—

- (a) the local government's intention to enter the property; and
- (b) the reason for entering the property; and
- (c) the days and times when the property is to be entered.

responsible person means the person who has control or management of the place and includes a person in charge of activities or structures in the place that may result in contravention of this local law.

the Act means the *Local Government Act 2009*.