

Lockhart Shire Council drumMUSTER Program

Procedures for Volunteer and Community Groups and Organisations

drumMUSTER is a highly successful recycling initiative operating under the AgStewardship program, and promotes the safe and eco-friendly disposal of farm chemical containers. A Collection Agreement was signed in 1999, allowing Council to become part of the drumMUSTER recycling program. Since that date, Council has collected over 140,000 drums at its collection compounds at the Lockhart, The Rock, and the Pleasant Hills Waste Facilities.

Recently, Council has called for expressions of interest for community groups to take over the general running of drumMUSTER collection events, purely as a fundraising initiative. While drumMUSTER has offset Council's expenses in the past, and is happy to continue doing so, volunteer-run programs such as that at Pleasant Hills are proving very successful. For each drum collected, the volunteer organisation will earn 25 cents – which, when calculated against 140,000 drums, is a substantial amount of money that could be going to a good cause.

Following the call for expressions of interest, Council has become faced with the dilemma of sharing the drumMUSTER facilities, in a fair and unbiased manner, between the various volunteer groups that responded.

Council staff have proposed the following solution:

- Council will arrange approximately four (4) drumMUSTER collection events at each facility per calendar year (essentially, on a quarterly basis – the number and timing of events to consider growing needs and fit with farming activities and seasons, and Council staff availability);
- residents wishing to dispose of drums on a day of collection will be required to book an appointment time through contacting the Council Office;
- approximately two (2) months prior to a collection event, Council will call for expressions of interest from volunteer parties wishing to participate, with separate expressions required for each collection event (expressions of interest to be made in writing, and addressed to the General Manager, Lockhart Shire Council); and
- the successful party will be chosen on the basis of their ability to comply with Council's and drumMUSTER's requirements, while also effectively staffing the site. In the event that several eligible parties have expressed an interest, Council will endeavour to ensure that the privilege will be evenly shared across successive events (only one party can operate a collection event on a given day).

An eligible volunteer organisation must have at minimum, Public Liability Insurance to the value of \$10,000,000; as well as fit and healthy staff that are able to work outdoors unsupervised. Furthermore, all participating volunteers must participate in a drumMUSTER training program, and are to be deemed competent by a drumMUSTER representative.

Once chosen, the successful party will be required to:

- read and agree to the conditions set out in Council's Collection Agreement with AgSafe;

- arrange all promotions regarding their collection event, and in accordance with AgSafe's guidelines for publications. Promotions may still be advertised in Council's monthly newsletter;
- participate in a site induction and risk assessment conducted by Council staff;
- have an adequate number of staff trained and accredited as drumMUSTER inspectors;
- sign in and out of the site at the start and end of the day;
- adhere to Council's requirements regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
- follow directions as instructed by the Director of Engineering or his relevant nominee;
- follow the booking schedule for drum disposal;
- correctly fill out all reporting paperwork and forward it to drumMUSTER;
- fill out claim for reimbursement; and
- provide Council with a copy of all paperwork, including collection totals, and public liability insurance coverage.

At the end of each collection event, Council will arrange to have the collection compounds emptied, and will be reimbursed for this expense separately.

In the event that no organisation expresses an interest in running a collection event, Council staff will run the drumMUSTER collection event as per normal and claim reimbursement separately.