

Heron Island Research Station (HIRS) General Waste

1. Scope

This operational procedure is limited to the general waste stream at the Heron Island Research Station.

2. Objectives

- To avoid risk to health and safety;
- To ensure the Heron Island Research Station is aesthetically pleasing;
- To avoid incidence of littering; and
- To ensure that the waste is disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner.

3. Waste Procedures

3.1 *Waste Minimisation Strategies*

A recycling scheme is in place. For further information, refer to the “**Operating Procedure - Recycling**”, Section 9E

3.2 *Sorting*

It is the responsibility of the individual users to sort and dispose of their waste thoughtfully. There are appropriate bins for the general waste stream placed at the research station.

3.3 *Collection from Source*

It is the responsibility of the Manager, Heron Island Research Centre to ensure the following:

- The cleaner will empty all the general waste bins on the site into a 240 litre blue wheelie bin;
- That the 240 litre wheelie bins of general wastes are emptied into a skip and loaded onto the barge for removal by the waste contractor.
- Upon servicing, the bins are returned to their original position.

3.4 *Collection for Disposal*

It is the responsibility of the Manager, Heron Island Research Station to ensure the following:

- That contractors collect the wastes from bulk volume bins placed on the barge;
- That the general wastes are disposed of in landfills approved by Local Authorities; and
- That the contractors’ environmental licences and any other licences to dispose of general wastes have been approved by the Administering Authorities.

3.5 Disposal Frequency

3.5.1 Clearing of General Waste Bins

Bins used for the collection of general waste are cleared once every two days or as required.

3.5.2 Waste Collection

General waste is placed in bulk volume bins and loaded on the barge on a weekly basis. These bins should be loaded on the barge every **Wednesday**. No additional services are available.

4. Equipment

The equipment for collection of general wastes consists of:

- Small waste bins for collection of waste as source (kitchens, labs, offices, dormitories, etc);
- 240 litre wheelie bins for collection of waste by cleaners;
- Bulk Volume bins.

5. Enquiries

Any enquiries regarding the management of the general waste stream should be addressed to personnel as follows:

Table 1 - Contact personnel per campus.

Department	Contact	Telephone
Centre for Marine Studies	Manager, Heron Island Research Station	4978-1399 Ext 222

6. Definitions

6.1 Waste

Under Section 13 of the *Environmental Protection Act, 1994* **waste** is defined as “any gas, liquid, solid or energy (or a combination of wastes) that is surplus to, or unwanted from, any industrial, commercial, domestic or other activity, whether or not of value.”

6.2 General Waste Stream

It is the stream that contains wastes of domestic characteristics which are solid and inert in nature.

7. References

- Environmental Protection Act 1994
- Health Act 1937
- Draft Waste Management Strategy for Queensland
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 and Regulations
- Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000