



# **Code of Best Practice**

**for the**

**Demolishers, Recyclers and Asbestos Contractors  
Association of Queensland Inc.  
(DRACAQ)**

**Green Waste Sector**

**June 2010**



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## 1. Introduction

It is important for members of the Demolishers, Recyclers and Asbestos Contractors Association of Queensland Inc. (DRACAQ) to continually demonstrate a high level of professionalism and business management skills during the performance of all business and operational practices.

It is also important for DRACAQ members to demonstrate the philosophy of sustainable development. This means meeting the needs of the present generation, without compromising the needs of future generations from economic, environmental and social perspectives. This requires us to use scarce natural resources more efficiently and minimise the overall environmental impacts of our business and operational outcomes.

The present practice of mixed landfill disposal is unsustainable as the problems caused by contaminated land; air, soil and groundwater pollution; and the need for remediation, are all passed on to future generations. Reducing wastes by improved avoidance practices, reusing or recycling will decrease liability to future generations.

It is important therefore that DRACAQ members work together toward developing the best possible operational practices to achieve a reduction in landfill.

It is the specific aim of member businesses in the green waste sector to ensure that green waste remains out of landfill, with every opportunity being provided for the green waste to be beneficially reused as feedstock by the recycled organics industry and produced into any number of compost derived products.

### **Code of Best Practice**

This Code is provided to assist green waste sector businesses to understand the desired objectives of DRACAQ and the guiding principles for the establishment and management of the GardenBagMan group within DRACAQ.

It is an agreement upon applying for membership that all members abide by the association's Rules of Association, By-Laws, Code of Conduct and this Code of Best Practice, and any amendments which may from time to time be implemented.

DRACAQ members who fall under the GardenBagMan group are subject to additional conduct criteria relating to any breaches of clean green waste requirements.

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## 2. The Association

The Demolishers, Recyclers & Asbestos Contractors Association of Queensland Inc. (DRACAQ) was established primarily to represent demolishers, recyclers and asbestos contractors, however this representation is extended to include all environmentally responsible recycling activities, including clean green waste.

The objects of the association as defined in its Rules of Incorporation are:

- (a) To act as the representative body for member demolishers, recyclers and asbestos contractors in dealings with government and regulatory authorities, other industry sectors and the general public.
- (b) To promote and seek the recognition of members as professionals, and to promote public awareness of the demolition, recycling, asbestos removal and associated industries.
- (c) To improve the standard of operational practices within the industry for the benefit of workers and the protection of public health and safety.
- (d) To provide members with specific information to enhance work practices, including workplace health and safety, and industrial relations information.
- (e) To adopt and promote a code of conduct for the guidance of members as to the proper professional conduct within the industry.
- (f) To promote interest in, and progress of, any matter which will improve the technical and general knowledge and efficiency of the industry.
- (g) Such other objects as the association may from time to time determine.

In recognising the need for inclusion of the green waste sector, for the purposes of this Code of Best Practice, objectives (a) and (b) above can be interpreted as:

- (a) To act as the representative body for garden bag industry operators in dealings with government and regulatory authorities, other industry sectors and the general public.
- (b) To promote and seek the recognition of members as professionals, and to promote public awareness of the recovery and disposal services for clean green waste or other services offered by the industry.

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### 3. DRACAQ Membership

Membership of DRACAQ is offered to licensed demolishers and asbestos contractors, recyclers and other businesses in related resource recovery industries as follows:

Ordinary Member: Organisation holding Queensland Government *Business Certificate to Perform Prescribed Activity* specifying Type of Work as *Demolisher of building or structure or Asbestos Removalist*, or organisation holding Queensland or Local government licence or certification for recycling activities.

Associate Member: Organisation whose business activities are related to demolishing, recycling or asbestos removal, eg: developers, architects, engineers, designers, material suppliers, waste transporters, machinery suppliers, professional services, green waste recyclers, end users.

Members are required to abide by DRACAQ's Code of Conduct which requires members to follow ethical principles in the way they conduct their business and how they represent the industry and the association.

Businesses in the green waste sector are eligible to be Associate members of DRACAQ.

For the purposes of establishing an industry group within a recognised association structure, it is the consensus of the foundation members of this group, known informally as the GardenBagMan group, to become Associate members of DRACAQ and to be managed by the DRACAQ secretariat.

Further, it is the consensus of the GardenBagMan group that eligibility to receive disposal cost benefits at Brisbane City Council transfer stations, or other benefits determined by the DRACAQ Committee of Management, be restricted to businesses who operate in the garden bag/garden bale sector as this is the sector directly affected by the introduction of Council's green waste bin service.

Other garden services such as lawn mowing/garden maintenance will be eligible for DRACAQ Associate membership, however they will not be included under the GardenBagMan group for the purposes of receiving cost benefits referred to above.

Where a garden bag/garden bale business has an arrangement with a subcontractor to undertake the collection and disposal of clean green waste, it will be a decision for the business and the subcontractor to determine if the subcontractor needs to carry its own membership or come under the banner of the main business. It is anticipated that in circumstances where a subcontractor carries on these activities in their own right, apart from the other business, then they should consider becoming a member in their own right.

Where an operator is found to be in breach of clean green waste disposal requirements, a penalty may be imposed and membership will be reviewed.

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## 4. Green Waste Sector Standards

To achieve the desired industry standards and objectives of members, garden bag/garden bale businesses will ensure customers are made aware that general waste is not to be included with green waste. Businesses are to inspect bags/bales at the time of collection to ensure only clean green waste is present.

Clean green waste is defined as:

- lawn clippings
- garden prunings
- light wood
- small branches
- palm tree leaves.

The following is not regarded as clean green waste and will not be deemed as such by Brisbane City Council transfer stations:

- logs, tree stumps
- vegetables, kitchen waste
- animal droppings
- cardboard
- soil
- rocks, concrete, bricks
- asbestos
- plastics
- other general waste.

General waste and green waste should never be disposed of as green waste feedstock.

## 5. Environmental Policy

DRACAQ is committed to sustainable development and best practice environmental management in all its activities. DRACAQ's environmental objectives include:

- conducting all activities in accordance with 'best practice' and prevailing legislation;
- conserving and protecting the natural environment through protection of ecosystems;
- promoting the efficient use of all resources;
- minimising negative environmental outcomes through reducing wastes, construction impacts, emissions and other pollutants, while minimising energy usage;
- encouraging members to clearly identify the environmental roles and responsibilities of each staff member and/or subcontractor(s);
- encouraging members to provide appropriate resources and environmental training commensurate with the roles and responsibilities of all personnel;
- communicating the association's environmental concerns and performance to employees, contractors, customers and the community.

Members are to commit to ensuring their operations have no or minimal impact on the environment and comply with the Environmental Protection Act and Regulations as a minimum.

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## 6. Workplace Health and Safety Policy

DRACAQ members are required to abide by the requirements under the Workplace Health and Safety Act, Regulations and Codes of Practice in the conduct of their business, and to provide a safe working environment for themselves and their employees.

Members have a duty of care to take all reasonable measures to protect their employees from foreseeable risks arising from their employment. DRACAQ members are encouraged to meet their legislative obligations and exceed them where feasible. This will be a risk management approach to include the provision of:

- Safe systems of work and work environment at all sites,
- Safe plant, equipment, tools and personal protective equipment,
- Safe use, handling, storage and disposal of substances,
- Adequate information and training (ongoing),
- Rehabilitation programs for injured workers,
- Appropriate supervision and enforcement of policies and procedures to ensure safe work practices, and
- A risk management approach to hazards.

Employees of member businesses have an obligation to follow safe work practices, not to act in a manner so as to cause harm to people or property, to report hazards, and not to misuse anything provided in the interests of safety.

## 7. Transport of Waste Material

An important step in the process of recycling is the safe and efficient transportation of materials from home/business sites to a waste disposal facility.

Members are to ensure the following best practice initiatives are adopted:

- Vehicles engaged for transporting materials are registered and currently certified as roadworthy.
- The driver of the vehicle holds a current driver's licence applicable to the vehicle being driven.
- The driver of the vehicle to ensure the load is appropriately loaded within its safe working legal limit.
- The load is to be covered to minimise the loss of debris during transport.