

**TO: TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2016**

**SUBJECT: FLUORESCENT LIGHT RECYCLING**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Fluorescent lighting tubes contains mercury making them unsuitable to send directly to landfill. A Tube Terminator device was purchased, providing a solution to light recycling that can be managed in Alice Springs.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That it be a recommendation to Council:

**That Council adopt the recommended prices for light recycling.**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

Compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) tubes contain mercury making them unsuitable to send directly to landfill. There are currently no options to recycle the fluorescent light tubes at the Regional Waste Management Facility.

#### **2. DISCUSSION**

A Tube Terminator device was purchased, providing a solution to light recycling that can be managed in Alice Springs. The Tube Terminator is a machine that sits on top of a steel drum. It crushes fluorescent light tubes and High Intensity Discharge (HID) lamps in a safe manner, removing the mercury in a carbon filter. The life of the carbon filter is 2 years and when spent, must be sent to a mercury recycling facility. The full cost of the machine was \$3500 + freight.

A replacement filter was provided with the purchase of the machine. The Tube Terminator machine is to be operated by staff from the Regional Waste Management Facility.

Proposed landfill fees are below. These fees will partially cover the cost of the Tube Terminator, and, keeping the prices low will encourage recycling of the lights as opposed to disposal in landfill.

#### **Proposed landfill fees:**

- Commercial operators: \$0.25/CFL tube (GST included) or \$0.50/HID lamp
- Residents: free recycling

4. **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

Nil

5. **SOCIAL IMPACTS**

Nil

6. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

An environmentally responsible method for recycling light tubes is made available to the public.

7. **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Nil

8. **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A - Tube Terminator poster



Hayley Michener  
**ENVIRONMENT OFFICER**



Greg Buxton  
**DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES**



# HOME GROWN INNOVATION

Aug 2015



**Mercury-containing lamps are the single largest category of products that contain mercury**

## On Site Recycling

The accumulation of mercury in landfill across Australia is a cause for concern across the wider environment. Currently it is estimated that 95% of mercury-containing lamps are simply sent to landfill in Australia. We can stop this from happening by on site recycling!

## Carbon Foot Print

The crushing and filtering function of the Tube Terminator reduces bulk by 95 percent creating more space, reducing cartage costs and your carbon footprint

## Think of the future and the environment

The Tube Terminator is an environmentally safe destruction system for fluorescent tubes and HID lamps. It is the ideal point of use solution because of its manoeuvrability and ease of operation. It eliminates the risk of transport breakage, and therefore fugitive mercury vapour emissions are prevented.

*"After numerous requests from maintenance staff and environmental officers I finally decided to re-design the old Tube Terminator and make a product that is good for the environment and the end user"*

• Stefan Ammann

[www.tubeterminator.com.au](http://www.tubeterminator.com.au)



## Recycle on Site

- Portable
- Light
- Reduce bulk
- Recycle the glass and metal
- Environmentally sustainable
- Think of the future generation