



Recycling

In the Mount Barker and Murray Bridge Council Areas

You may have heard about recycling in the media lately, including a *60 Minutes* story about plastics being exported to Malaysia from Australian kerbside recycling services.

We want to keep you in the loop regarding recycling within our region and what happens to the material you put in your yellow top recycling bin.

Within the Murray Bridge and Mount Barker Council areas, **plastics make up a small portion of our kerbside recycling bin contents, with the majority being paper and cardboard and the remainder being aluminium cans, steel cans, glass bottles, jars** and non-recyclable waste (contamination).

The Murray Bridge and Mount Barker Councils send their recycling to Visy Recycling in South Australia. Visy Recycling has a long history within the recycling industry, with over 25 years' experience in the Australian market.

The recent media coverage raises concerns regarding the processing of some of the mixed plastic materials from the recycling bins. We are continuing to communicate with our Member Council's service providers regarding recycling. We are advocates of transparency within the recycling industry and aim to encourage recycling as much as possible within Australia.

The Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority (AHRWMA), assists Councils with the management of their waste and resources. We have a key focus on reusing/ recycling/ reprocessing as much as possible and establishing end markets for the reprocessed materials, along with encouraging reducing/ avoiding the use of materials in the first place. For example, refusing packaging and plastic bags at retail outlets.

It is important that the community only places recyclable materials within the recycling bin, including items such as paper, cardboard, plastic milk and soft drink bottles, cans, glass bottles and jars.

The market for recycling these items to be re-processed into new materials is strong.

If the wrong items – such as soft plastics, chip packets, plastic bags or heavily soiled items are placed in the kerbside recycling bins they are classed as contamination and cannot be recycled, which impacts on the overall effectiveness of the recycling service.

Reducing waste to landfill reduces costs. For every tonne of waste disposed to landfill the State Government currently charge a levy of \$50 in rural areas. Across the Murray Bridge and Mount Barker Council areas this equates to approx. \$745,000 per year. This is collected through Council rates, waste service charges and transfer station fees and is then paid to the State Government. Reducing the waste disposed to landfill directly reduces this cost and also helps to ensure that our landfill facilities last as long as possible.

South Australians are very good recyclers (the best in Australia) and we encourage our Member Council's residents to keep this up as their efforts matter and do make a difference.

The Authority and our Member Councils continue to support reuse and recycling wherever we can. Some examples of AHRWMA and Council projects include;

- Crushing and reusing concrete
- Processing green organic waste for sale as mulch including using this mulch in our own operations
- Working with Salvage and Save Facilities to re-sell reusable items
- Bulking up and bailing materials ourselves for direct sale to local markets
- Providing Mobile Muster collections for mobile phones
- Providing free E-waste (electronic) drop off services
- Ensuring steel and other recyclables are separated from the waste stream at drop facilities
- Reviewing our purchasing policies to ensure we support the circular economy where we can
- Separating recyclable materials such as steel and timber so it does not end up in landfill.



The Rural City of
MURRAY
BRIDGE



MOUNT BARKER
DISTRICT COUNCIL



AHRWMA
Adelaide Hills Region Waste Management Authority

"Sustainable Waste Management Through Shared Services"