



HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Huon Valley Waste Management Update

The Huon Valley Council constantly monitors its waste management practices in the Valley and as a result has produced some interesting facts and figures around our waste.

Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor says the current situation regarding China refusing to take contaminated recycling from Australia, has forced Local Governments across Australia to look at innovative solutions to the amount of waste we produce and the way we currently recycle.

“The Huon Valley Council is confident that we have adequately allowed for the increased recycling costs and that Huon Valley recycling is being handled properly.

“The expansion of the Re-Use Shop at the Southbridge Waste Transfer Station in February 2018 has had an ongoing effect. We have seen an increase in revenue from the shop, which in turn means fewer items going to landfill and allows us to mitigate the increase in recycling costs and improve management of some troublesome waste types.

“We now have a collection point for household batteries which contain minerals that can be very damaging to the environment if improperly disposed of. Lithium Ion Batteries have the added hazard of bursting into flame if damaged which has caused problems at the Copping Landfill in recent times.

“We encourage residents to bring their household batteries to Southbridge for disposal. Please remember to remove the batteries from power tools and laptops prior to disposal. These can also be placed in the new battery bin. Fluorescent tubes, light globes and X-rays can also be disposed of at Southbridge.

“In the past twelve months, the Huon Valley Council has handled the following quantities of waste and recycling.

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“5,900 tonnes of general waste; 1,201 tonnes of recycling, more than 1,000 tonnes of scrap metal, 700 tyres, 4,500 cubic metres of timber and green waste, 11.5 tonnes of car batteries, 12,000 litres of waste oil and 1,700 kilograms of aluminium cans (approximately 123,600 cans).

“The estimated total tonnage of waste and recycling material processed in the last year is 9,735,000 kilograms. It is a very large number, but remains hard to envisage. This is enough waste to cover the Main Street and footpaths of Huonville between the bridge and the roundabout to a height of 2 storeys.

“I would like to thank the Environmental Services department and Waste Management staff for their ongoing work and innovative approach to problem solving the issues we all face around waste disposal.

“I would also like to thank the residents of the Huon Valley for supporting the Re-Use Shop and engaging with us over the delivery of recycling services. They are very passionate about this subject and that augurs well for the Valley’s future,” Commissioner Taylor said.

For more information
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