

## Media Release

18 May 2018

### RECYCLING MATTERS – RECYCLING RIGHT, EVEN BETTER

Throughout recent months, there has been a strong and consistent message of ‘*continue to recycle*’ from Gippsland’s local councils and from the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group.

Gippsland households have a great record when it comes to recycling. The total amount of material set aside for recycling has increased by 70 per cent since 2001. Across the region, approximately 25,000 tonnes of recyclables is collected from kerbside, equating to around 200kg per household.

Matthew Peake, Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group executive officer said, “We know recycling is essential for reducing waste going to landfill, but it’s important to recognise that communities and the economy benefit because recycling maximises resource recovery, encourages innovation and creates jobs in the recycling industry.”

“With the recent changes in global recycling markets, triggered by China’s new standards for recyclable material, we now have the opportunity to focus on not just continuing to recycle but to make sure we’re recycling right.”

Putting the wrong things into recycling bins causes contamination which increases costs for processors who have to spend more time and money sorting and removing the rubbish from the recyclables.

“The best way to combat this as a community is to know what can and can’t be recycled in your local council.” Mr Peake emphasised. “It’s now more critical than ever for residents to correctly sort their recycling for kerbside collection.”

In support of this, the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group, under the banner of **RightCycle Gippsland**, advocates four clear ways to encourage everyone to minimise waste and maximise resources.

**RETHINK** – Really stop to think about what you need and want, what you buy and consume, how you use and reuse.

**REDUCE** - Use your buying power to shop smart. Your purchasing habits can help prevent waste from the start by avoiding things like unnecessary packaging.

**REUSE** – Cut down on disposable items, substitute reusable products. A great place to start is with reusable water bottles and coffee cups. Reusing can also come about by borrowing or repurposing something someone else has already used.

**RECYCLE** - Know what can and can’t be recycled in your local government area. If in doubt, don’t put it in your recycling bin. Visit [www.gwrrg.vic.goc.au](http://www.gwrrg.vic.goc.au) to find out what can go in your recycling bin. Importantly, buy Australian recycled products; this draws on fewer natural resources and closes the loop when it comes to resource recovery and waste minimisation.

“There are challenges and opportunities when it comes to recycling in Gippsland,” acknowledged Mr Peake. “We are keen to focus attention on communities continuing to recycle and in encouraging them to consider the broader benefits of creating a circular economy by recycling right.”

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**For further information or comment, please contact:**

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