



## We're turning one!

**Our eNewsletter is having its first anniversary this month. It is twelve months since we created our very first eNewsletter - we hope you've found them helpful and informative.**

Livingstone Shire Council is committed to diverting waste from our Landfill and increasing the reuse and recycling of materials by residents in our community. Our vision is to guide the Shire in the continual improvement of its waste management practices through innovation, education and the promotion of avoiding, reducing, reusing and recycling of waste before disposing of it.

## Make a Pledge

We encourage our residents to make a new small pledge each quarter that is easily implemented into your way of life. A little bit of effort by us all will make huge changes and become part of our lifestyle permanently. Some examples for this quarter are listed below, or you can research to find a pledge that suits you.

- I pledge to take my household batteries to Bunnings to recycle; or
- I will take my empty cans and bottles which display the refund symbol to Containers for Change and donate to a charitable organisation; or
- I pledge to take all soft plastic waste to a Red Cycle bin at Coles and Woolworths for recycling.



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## Waste Starts With You!

This quarter we are going to focus on reducing the contamination of our household kerbside bins. **What is contamination?**

**Contamination is when the incorrect items are placed in your kerbside bin. We will now outline what can and can't go in your bins, please place only the items allowed in each of your bins.**

If you are unsure how to dispose of a waste item, please refer to Council's A-Z list which can be found in the Livingstone Waste Wise App on your phone or tablet or on Council's website <https://apps.impactapps.com.au/livingstone/waste-info/menu/a-z>. A little bit of extra effort by us all will make a HUGE difference to the life and hence cost of a new Landfill space!

## Your Kerbside Recycling Waste Bin

This is your yellow lidded bin, the newer recycling bins already have a sticker on the lid advising what can and what can't be placed in these bins. You can place plastic containers, cardboard cartons, new pots and pans, glass bottles and jars, plastic toys, tins and cans, paper, magazines and folded flat cardboard boxes in this bin. You cannot place food scraps, garden waste, mirrors, light globes or window glass, plastic bags or nappies in this bin. Only glass bottles or jars that came with food or drink in it can be recycled in this bin.

The contents of these bins are sorted manually by staff at the recycling facility, non-recyclable items can be dangerous and hazardous to them. Waste contamination can also cause break downs to the plant's equipment and machinery due to the incorrect materials wrapping around and getting caught in the equipment; this being costly to local business and ultimately to ratepayers. We encourage you to rinse out cans, bottles and containers in the sink after washing your dishes; this also conserves water in our Shire. Residents can take their excess recyclables that don't fit into their kerbside bin to one of Council's waste facilities for free.



Previous editions of our Clean and Green Waste eNewsletter can be read on Council's website here <https://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/downloads/download/149/waste-and-recycling-newsletter>

## Your Kerbside General Waste Bin

This is your red or green lidded bin. You can place food scraps, general household waste, nappies, plastic bags and polystyrene foam in these bins. You cannot place recyclables, hazardous waste, garden waste, medical waste, batteries or paint in this bin. If sharps are generated from your household, these need to be placed in a sharps container and taken to your chemist or hospital who will dispose of these containers. Hazardous waste (e.g. chemicals, paints, solvents) should not be placed in your general waste bin because they end up at the Landfill, get buried in the ground and cause contamination, and potentially run off into our water ways.

Explosives, ammunition and flares should not be disposed of in this bin as they place the truck driver and the Landfill staff at risk. Hot ashes can start a fire in your bin; wait until they are completely cold and bag and seal them before placing in your bin. Waste motor oil and cooking oil must not be placed in the general waste bin, these domestic oils can be disposed of at a waste facility for free up to a maximum of 20 litres (this is for domestic households and not commercial businesses).

Construction and demolition waste cannot be put in your kerbside bin as it can make the bin too heavy for the "grab arm" on the collection vehicle to lift and empty; these items can be disposed of at a waste facility.



## Exciting News at the Yeppoon Landfill

Construction of the \$3 million Community Resource Recovery Centre (CRRC) commenced early April 2022. The facility will divert waste from landfill by increasing the level of sorting and capturing of reusable, recyclable, or recoverable materials. The project includes a covered check-in for domestic customers, regulated waste storage and a resource recovery shed connecting to the existing landfill road system.

Landfill volumes at the current rate of disposal will fill our existing cell by October 2025 therefore changing our behaviour to divert recyclables away from the Landfill is crucial. The CRRC will help expand the lifetime of the current cell due to the diversion of waste. Further details in relation this project can be found on Council's [website](#).

*Photo taken at the Sod Turning Event held on 4 April 2022.*



# Plastic Free CQ - Have you heard?

Plastic Free CQ has been in operation for 12 months now, and in that time 60 amazing local businesses have come on board and eliminated nearly 200,000 pieces of single-use plastic from our waste and litter stream! We help our members avoid using single-use items, or replace them with reusable or compostable alternatives.

In the process, we also help them change the way they look at waste and dispose of it. Cutting down waste also cuts down costs, it makes a lot of businesses sense as well! After making the changes, many businesses can look towards in-house composting for food and packaging (including back-of-house items like compostable bin liners and gloves) making a closed-loop system.

A compost system can be as large or small as needed - it can be for chooks, or it can be to make your soil for your gardens. Either way, it is better than a landfill every time. If you're a local food retailer, join us at [www.plasticfreecq.org/join](http://www.plasticfreecq.org/join), or if you're a local, ask your favourite cafe to join us. It costs nothing but a few minutes of your time!

## WTF... It's not what you think - Waste The Facts!

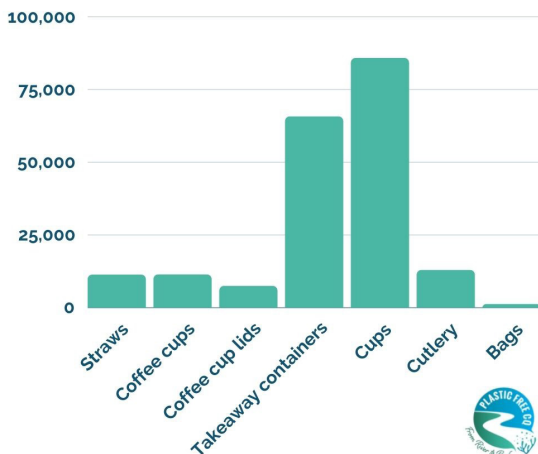
In Australia over 17,000 tonnes of household batteries end up in landfills each year! Currently Bunnings, Woolworths, Drakes IGA in Emu Park and Aldi stores offer a free recycling collection point to take used batteries so they don't end up buried at landfill.

There are many different types of batteries which contain toxic dangerous chemicals including lead, mercury, cadmium, zinc, manganese, and lithium. When batteries begin to break down (think of that gunk oozing out of the battery end that's been in a toy or flashlight for a long time), the chemicals may leach into the ground reacting to rainwater that seeps into the landfill creating a toxic soup, called leachate, that can get into the groundwater contaminating the supply.

Batteries are the main cause of fires in the waste truck compactors due to the friction and heat and also when contacted by our waste machinery during processing and turning of waste at the Landfill; there is the potential of exposure to acid burns to these staff as well. Think of the journey our waste goes on; from your kitchen bin to your household kerbside rubbish bin to the waste collection truck and then to the landfill, if there's a battery in the waste mix the risk of a fire starting somewhere during that journey is high. Disposing of batteries is easy and can be done by storing them in a bag or container and then taking them to one of the stores mentioned and the store then transports them to a battery recycling company.

**Did you know?** Our local MRF (Material Recycling Facility) in Rockhampton was destroyed by fire in December 2020 with a rebuild cost of several million dollars most likely caused by batteries. Currently all of Livingstone's recyclables have to be bulk hauled to Brisbane or Mackay.

NO. OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS ELIMINATED  
1 APR 2021 - 1 APR 2022



## Livingstone Waste Wise App

Check out Council's new Waste Wise App.

CHECK YOUR BIN COLLECTION DAY

A-Z LIST OF DISPOSAL OPTIONS

DISPOSAL SITES

LOTS OF OTHER HANDY HINTS



To read all of Council's Clean & Green waste eNewsletters go to Council's website at [www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/newsletters](http://www.livingstone.qld.gov.au/newsletters)

