

Northern Midlands Council granted KAB(Tas) funding to roll out pilot recycling program

Northern Midlands Council has received funding to kick-start a new recycling initiative at community events within the local municipality.

The grant, which will go towards the purchase and installation of five 240-litre mobile recycling bins, was provided under Keep Australia Beautiful's (KAB) \$230,000 pilot litter program being delivered across the state.

The pilot program is part of the National Bin Network's (NBN) \$100 million, five-year industry-funded plan to increase recycling and reduce litter nationally.

Northern Midlands Council acting general manager Maree Bricknell said the new mobile bins would enable Council to maximise its waste recycling services at community events across the region.

"While Council provided and emptied mobile garbage bins for events in the municipality, there weren't any bins available for the collection of recyclables," Ms Bricknell said.

"Along with event organisers, we thought it would be a great idea to roll out the bins at these venues," she said.

"It will also allow Council to educate event-goers about the environmental benefits of waste recycling as well as the problems associated with littering.

"Council holds a number of community festivals and events throughout the calendar year, including the annual Evandale Village Fair and Penny Farthing Championships, Longford Blessing of the Harvest, Longford Show and Campbell Town Show, so a need for improved recycling facilities had existed for some time."

Ms Bricknell said event organisers and community volunteers would be responsible for the collection and transportation of the bins to events.

She said Council was committed to efficient management of waste, with street bins strategically positioned at public parks and business areas to cater for litter. These are emptied every weekday for Longford and two or three times per week for other localities.

KAB (Tasmania) chairman Ken Stewart said KAB(Tas) was focused on engaging with community groups in identifying and cleaning up litter hotspots and would work with local government and private owners on these types of solutions.

“We are focused on positively working with community and industry stakeholders to deliver positive environmental and behavioural outcomes,” he said.

Mr Stewart said the NBN pilot was fully funded by the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, was in line with Option 2B of the Regulation Impact Statement and would address all litter and packaging recycling.

The Pilot Project Tasmania was officially launched at Bellerive in May 2012.

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