

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Kerbside Recycling**

Coonamble Shire Council advises residents that kerbside recycling services are not currently provided across the Shire, with recycling efforts instead focused on alternative, targeted programs.

At present, recycling opportunities are available through the NSW *Return and Earn* scheme, as well as contractor-based collection services for specific materials such as cardboard, mattresses, tyres and e-waste. These services allow for the responsible disposal and recovery of key recyclable items, despite the absence of a kerbside system.

A recent regional report into waste management services has highlighted that only three out of ten councils currently offer kerbside recycling. This reflects the significant financial and logistical challenges faced by rural and regional councils in delivering and maintaining such services. The report also identified a 15–18 per cent decline in recyclable material volumes following the introduction of Return and Earn. While the scheme has successfully reduced litter and improved container recovery, it has also impacted the volume of materials typically collected through kerbside recycling. This reduction can affect the overall efficiency of recycling operations and increase the cost per tonne to process materials.

For councils like Coonamble, relatively low population density and waste volumes further compound these challenges. Combined with ongoing fluctuations in recycling markets, these factors make it difficult to establish a financially sustainable kerbside recycling service at this time.

Council remains committed to exploring opportunities to improve waste management and recycling outcomes for the community. Residents are encouraged to continue utilising existing recycling programs and services to help reduce waste to landfill and support environmental sustainability.

For more information on available recycling options, residents can contact Coonamble Shire Council or visit Council's website.

Greg Hill  
**GENERAL MANAGER**