

5 July 2024

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **WASTE INITIATIVES CONTINUE TO ROLL OUT**

Coonamble Shire Council started directly operating the kerbside garbage collection service throughout the Shire from 1 July, rather than through a contractor.

This will give the service greater responsiveness to customer's needs and mean the Shire will have a single, integrated service from collection through to landfill.

The move to direct operation of the kerbside collection is one of the many changes Council has made to waste service operations since December 2023.

Mayor Tim Horan said, "I am very pleased with our big improvements in waste management over the past six months. The two most recent recycling initiatives in the re-use shop and return and earn clearly demonstrate our commitment to a sustainable waste future for the Shire."

"The change of kerbside collection from a private contractor to in-house collection will give us greater control and the ability to deliver further operational improvements", the Mayor said.

In recent letters sent out, businesses and owners were advised of the current number of paid weekly bin services for each property. They were given the option of either paying for any additional services or advising Council that they no longer want any additional unpaid services.

Regular audits will be conducted to better align service charges with the actual services provided to customers. From now on, Council will have much better information on what services people have requested and what they are actually paying for. This is fundamental to having a fair system of charging for services.

The Return and Earn scheme (sometimes known as cash for cans) started on 24 June as planned.

Council started paying for recyclable cans and plastic containers delivered to the Coonamble Waste Management Facility. Each container is worth 10 cents. Containers are taken between 9am and 1pm, Monday to Friday.

The containers must be between 150mL and 3L, made from aluminium, glass, plastic, steel or paperboard. However, plain milk cartons and wine and spirit bottles cannot be accepted.

Business is also booming at the re-use shop with most initial stock gone and replenishment ongoing. Items already collected include furniture, household goods, golf clubs, kitchen utensils, builder throw outs.

This initiative keeps resources circulating in the economy and reduces waste going to landfill. It means we have to use less new resources, which is what sustainability is all about.

General Manager Paul Gallagher said ““In the area of recycling, in the short time so far an incredible 18,112 containers have been received and taken away for recycling by Tomra over just the first 8 days. I am continuously amazed at how much waste is actually produced across the Shire so this recycling initiative really helps.”

Paul Gallagher

**GENERAL MANAGER**

*First happy customer*



*Re-use shop*

