

Monday, 16 September, 2024
11:39 AM
Our Ref: PG:BB

MEDIA RELEASE

TURNING METAL INTO MONEY AND SAVING THE PLANET

Another great waste initiative is now happening here in Coonamble.

It involves removing unsightly dangerous scrap metal from around the Shire and selling it to benefit rate payers.

Around 200 tonnes have been accumulated so far and stored at the Coonamble transfer station.

Meetings with the various scrap metal dealers across the region were held at Coonamble, Quambone, and Gulargambone sites. It led to a waste partnership with NetWaste who recycle the metal for other uses.

Metal recycling is the process of taking used metals and repurposing them so they can be used to make new products. Scrap metals can be recycled and reused an infinite number of times, which allows the preservation of these precious limited resources.

This initiative addresses 5 big problems:

Environmental Pollution – metal can leach into the soil, contaminate groundwater, and even enter nearby bodies of water like rivers or lakes. This can lead to severe problems like toxic algal blooms if left unchecked.

Loss of Resources - most metals are 100% recyclable. By throwing them away instead of recycling them, we are throwing away potential resources that could be used again to create something new.

Energy Losses - when we do not recycle our scrap metals and have to extract more from nature, energy losses occur due to all the steps involved in mining for new resources.

Overflowing Landfills - with the ever-increasing amounts of waste produced, landfills are struggling to keep up. If we do not take steps towards more sustainable solutions like recycling these sites will overflow with rubbish, and toxic chemicals will be released.

Loss of Natural Habitat - mining for new materials creates costs, labour, and strain on resources, but this type of extraction also has a detrimental effect that lasts long after operations have ceased because mining disturbs natural habitats in search of raw material components.

If anyone sees scrap metal around or wants their scrap metal picked up, please call Coonamble Shire Office or Council's Waste and Recycling Employment Initiatives Manager Janelle Whitehead on 0457151287

General Manager Paul Gallagher said, “There are not many initiatives that create so many different wins. Firstly, by removing this waste we protect the environment. Secondly, by recycling we use less resources and contribute to the circular economy”

“By stopping waste going to the landfill we also reduce our waste management costs. And finally, we generate revenue for Council by selling the scrap metal.”

Paul Gallagher
GENERAL MANAGER







Infrabuild account executive Brett McGovern Left pictured with Crusher operator Nick and Coonamble waste recruit Liana Rose