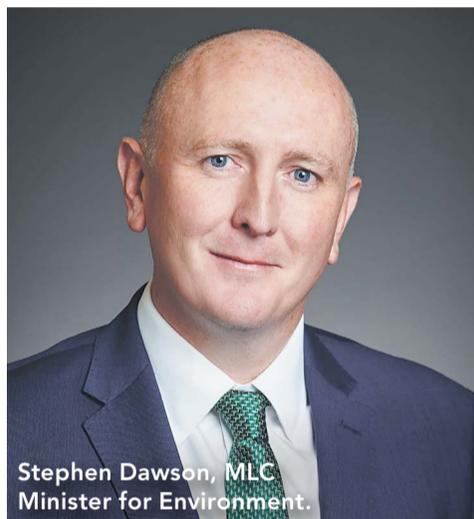


# National Recycling Week: Minister's foreword

**National Recycling Week is the perfect opportunity for everyone in Western Australia to think about their environmental footprint and assess how they can reduce their waste and recycle right.**

Held in the second week of November every year, National Recycling Week educates and inspires households, schools, workplaces and councils to rethink their rubbish by following the waste hierarchy: avoid, reduce, reuse and then recycle.

It's also a great opportunity for reflection, to look back on the changes you and your family have made and how you've applied the waste hierarchy to your daily life.



Stephen Dawson, MLC  
Minister for Environment.

This year's National Recycling Week comes just over a month since the launch of Western Australia's new container deposit scheme, Containers for Change.

This new scheme represents a great opportunity to improve our recycling rates.

Launched on October 1, Containers for Change marks the delivery of a McGowan Government election commitment, and followed strong community feedback that we needed to do better to reduce littering and improve recycling.

Ninety-seven per cent of people who responded to our surveys supported a container deposit scheme in Western Australia.

With this overwhelming support to improve our waste and litter performance, together we are already making a difference.

In WA we use more than 1.3 billion drink containers every year – and about 41 per cent of litter by volume in our state is made up of beverage containers.

Over the next 20 years, our container deposit scheme is expected to recycle an additional 6.6 billion containers.

Since the scheme's inception last year, progress towards scheme commencement was swift. 205 refund points opened across the state on October 1 – 97 refund points in Perth and 108 refund points in regional WA.

This was well over the 172 refund points



initially planned to be open as part of the State Government's minimum network standards.

Within a year of the scheme's commencement, there will be at least 229 refund locations throughout WA.

This means our scheme will be the most accessible scheme in the country, with the highest ratio of refund points to population of any container deposit scheme in Australia.

When Containers for Change launched last month, about 40 per cent of refund points were operated by not-for-profit organisations, social enterprises, community groups and Aboriginal corporations; another 40 per cent were commercial entities and the remaining 20 per cent were run by local governments.

The government has also provided more than \$200,000 to assist community groups

and not-for-profit organisations build infrastructure to participate in the scheme.

During these challenging times, Containers for Change is creating new business and employment opportunities across the state, helping to create more than 680 jobs at refund points and in processing and transporting containers.

These jobs have been targeted at people with disability, the long-term unemployed and Aboriginal people, as well as providing opportunities for apprentices and trainees.

And of course, the 10c refund for every eligible container returned gives cash back to you and encourages our children to adopt better recycling habits through earning a little bit of pocket money. The scheme also promotes the culture of giving

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to community groups and charities, with more than 1250 community and not-for-profit groups registered with a scheme ID in the first two weeks of Containers for Change.

Changing our behaviours will be key to the success of this and so many other initiatives we have implemented.

The ban on lightweight plastic bags, which we introduced from July 2018, was an initial step in creating a change in behaviour, but true change comes through the informed choices we make as individuals and as a community.

As a government we have a very important

role to play – we need to encourage the 2.5 million people in WA to change their behaviours to reduce waste, increase recycling and protect our beautiful environment.

There are simple ways to do better than landfill, and the 'Be a GREAT sort' WasteSorted campaign is assisting WA households in minimising waste and improving the recovery of recyclable materials.

You may have heard the campaign being promoted on the radio or seen it on social media, with five characters implementing easy actions to improve recycling, find another purpose for unwanted items and protect the environment.

Research shows that, while recycling levels in Western Australian homes have improved,

half of all our yellow-lidded recycling bins are contaminated with non-recyclable materials and three-quarters of all our red-lidded general waste bins incorrectly contain recyclables and hazardous waste.

It is clear that people want to do the right thing, so our campaign simplifies how to convert good intentions into good waste behaviours.

For all the right information on how to do better than the bin, visit [www.wastesorted.wa.gov.au](http://www.wastesorted.wa.gov.au).

With the three-bin food organics and garden organics (FOGO) system being rolled out by more and more local governments – supported by \$20 million of State Government funding – there are even more opportunities to get our WasteSorted.

National Recycling Week is an opportunity to remind us all about the importance of continuing to recycle and putting the correct items in the right bins to reduce contamination and increase our recovery rates.

With the McGowan Government's support, there is an opportunity for us all to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the environment around us.

We must use every opportunity to examine our waste practices and look for ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. Thank you for your continued support and active involvement in waste reduction and recycling.

**Stephen Dawson, MLC**  
**Minister for Environment**

## Three-bin system on the rise among councils

**More than 300,000 households in the Perth and Peel regions will soon be able to recycle all garden and food waste following a significant investment by the McGowan Government.**

The \$4.6 million investment into organics recycling comes from the \$20 million Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program which supports local governments to make the transition from one or two bins to a three-bin system to allow food organic and garden organic (FOGO) waste to be recycled into compost.



Three million dollars in funding will allow nine councils to transition to FOGO. In addition, nine other councils already using three-bin FOGO systems will receive \$1.6 million to support their continued transition.

Announcing the funding during National Recycling Week, Environment Minister Stephen Dawson said he was pleased to see the continued rollout of the three-bin system.

"I'm really excited to see so many local governments helping to achieve one of the aims of the Waste Strategy, to ensure local governments in the Perth and Peel regions make the transition by 2025," he said.

"The three-bin FOGO services will make a significant contribution to reducing waste in Western Australia, and local governments that have introduced FOGO can increase recovery rates to more than 65 per cent.

"Those local governments who have already made or started to make the transition to the new three-bin system have led the

way in waste management practices and deserve recognition for doing so.

"I encourage other local governments and their communities to get behind this program and support our move to better performing waste management services."

Many Western Australian households already have access to a three-bin system. However, in most cases, the green organics bin is for garden organic waste only.

Today's announcement means more people than ever will be able to recycle all their household organic waste in a new lime-green-lidded bin to go alongside an existing red-lidded bin for general waste and a yellow-lidded bin for co-mingled recycling.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Executive Director of Strategic Policy Sarah McEvoy said there were significant advantages to high-performing three-bin FOGO services.

"We know organics recovered from FOGO make the single biggest contribution to

achieving the Waste Strategy material recovery targets for municipal solid waste," she said.

"In fact, more than two-thirds of the content of the red-lidded bins doesn't have to go to landfill and can be recycled.

"Recycling can also support around three times the number of jobs compared to waste disposal and, as identified by a pilot scheme run by the City of Melville, FOGO can also reduce local government waste management costs.

"FOGO also delivers environmental benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, while FOGO products can help soil quality and can be used locally, reducing the environmental and economic cost of transporting materials over long distances."

**For more information, visit [www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/programs/view/food-organics-and-garden-organics](http://www.wasteauthority.wa.gov.au/programs/view/food-organics-and-garden-organics)**

## Roads to Reuse supporting crucial transport infrastructure

**Pieces of Subiaco Oval are not lining the bottom of landfill as many would expect, but is in fact settling into a new home closer to your daily commute.**

The home of football in Western Australia for many years, Subi – as it was affectionately known by sporting fans Australia-wide – is best remembered for its epic State of Origin matches in 1977 and 1986, the Demolition Derby in 2000, Justin Longmuir's game-winning kick after the siren in 2005 and many memorable Western Australian Football League finals, including its largest-ever crowd of more than 52,000 fans in the derby Grand Final of 1979.

The oval saw its fair share of historic occasions, hosting the likes of Led Zeppelin, Elton John, Paul McCartney, AC/DC, U2 and Guns N' Roses in our very own western suburbs.

And now, thanks to an innovative government reuse and recycling scheme, the oval lives on.

Demolition rubble from the site is being used in the construction of the new bridge over Kwinana Freeway, connecting Armadale Road and North Lake Road.

Due for completion in early 2021, construction of the bridge will include 18,000 tonnes of recycled demolition and construction material, including 1500 tonnes from the old Subiaco Oval.

The innovative use of this material, which would otherwise end up in landfill, is part of the Waste Authority's Roads to Reuse program.

Environment Minister Stephen Dawson said he was excited to see the recycling program working to benefit crucial transport infrastructure and reduce the amount of materials going to landfill.

"The benefits of the Roads to Reuse program include lower transport costs and emissions – because recycled materials are normally available closer to construction sites, compared to materials sourced from a quarry – reduced disturbance to the natural environment from quarrying and reduced waste to landfill," he said.

"We've successfully used the process in a number of road projects and are always looking to see it employed in others, including the forthcoming Bunbury Outer Ring Road, which is the biggest transport infrastructure project ever planned for the south-west of the state.

"And by reusing this construction and demolition waste, including material from Subiaco Oval, not only do we prevent it from going to landfill but we have supported local recyclers to deliver a viable product from which the new road can be built."

Transport Minister Rita Saffioti said improvements to transport infrastructure south of Perth would make a big difference.

"I'm really excited about this partnership between Main Roads WA and the Waste Authority that is now delivering a reliable and cost-effective product for the construction of our roads and bridges," she said.

"With almost \$12 billion worth of transport infrastructure projects and upgrades planned over the next four years, there is certainly more opportunity for this partnership to grow and more demolition waste to be utilised in transport construction projects."

To support WA's economic recovery from COVID-19, the State Government will build on the success of Roads to Reuse to further support jobs, investment and local market development.

The State Government has embraced recycled content and demonstrated its effectiveness and will work with local governments to ensure infrastructure projects across WA also benefit from this cost-effective recycled product.

The Waste Authority – with support from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Main Roads WA and the Waste and Recycling Industry Association of WA – tested the concept in a successful pilot which saw more than 30,000 tonnes of recycled construction and demolition waste used in several Kwinana Freeway widening projects.

