

# CIRCULAR

ISSUE NO 1 JULY 2023

## WELCOME!

We welcome you to AHRWMA's inaugural edition of In the Circular.

We are a subsidiary of four councils (Mount Barker District Council, Adelaide Hills Council, the Rural City of Murray Bridge and Alexandrina Council) who strive to ensure that residents can be sure that their waste and recoverable resources will be processed in ways that are environmentally responsible, cost effective and forward thinking.

We operate from the Brinkley Waste and Recycling Facility in the Murray Bridge region and the Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre in the gorgeous Adelaide Hills.

Our staff are skilled and passionate in ensuring that we do our job safely and responsibly. We take pride in the quality of our operations, the volume of materials that we return to the circular economy and the role that we play in our communities.

The aim of this quarterly newsletter is to keep you updated on what is happening in waste and resource management around our region. We want to keep you informed as to our actions and to assist you in understanding our industry. We also welcome articles from our local councils, stakeholders and beyond so that stories of best practice can be shared.

We add value to our Member Councils by applying a resource sharing model. In this case, the resource is information!

## DIVERSION OF RESOURCES TO LANDFILL

### 5000 MATTRESSES PROCESSED

Five thousand mattresses were processed into flock and steel using a shredder, with 73 tonnes of steel recovered through processing and returned to the circular economy. Mattresses (in their complete form) are difficult to manage in landfill due to their tendency to 'climb' through the waste mass, sometimes reappearing years after burial!

### POLYSTYRENE MELTER

The Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre is accepting polystyrene from the public and processing it into compact blocks. These blocks are sold on to be further processed into useful products.

## SITE DEVELOPMENT

### BRINKLEY LANDFILL - EXTENSION OF CELLS 8 AND 9

Construction of the final stage of Cell 8/9 is underway and anticipated to be completed later this year.



## AWARDS AND GRANTS

### WHS AWARD

The AHRWMA was announced as the major winner of the LGA's WHS Award. Our Training Module and Verification of Competency program development was led by Matt Sharp, our Risk, WHS and Project Officer. Its aim is to ensure that our staff are competent in operating the high risk machinery that is necessary for the tasks that we perform. The judging panel commended AHRWMA for innovation and dedication to ensuring the safety of our staff.

Please take a look at the LGA Scheme Awards 2022-23 Highlights reel for further information: <https://vimeo.com/816371343/4fd9d8c7fa>

### GISA FUNDING FOR STEEL MAGNET

GISA has approved funding of \$36,000 under the 2022-23 Recycling Infrastructure Grants Program to enable us to purchase a steel magnet. The magnet, which will be fitted to our excavator, will allow us to further improve resource separation from mixed loads of construction and demolition waste. This furthers our aim to reduce the volume of non-essential materials entering our landfill cells and increasing the volume of materials retained in the circular economy.



## SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

### ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD WASTE

Recent flooding activity along the Murray River led to devastating losses for communities and property owners. With support from the SA Government and GISA the AHRWMA has received flood affected material. In conjunction with commercial clean ups, a system of vouchers to property owners was also implemented. Through this voucher program AHRWMA has accepted 90 loads of flood affected materials since late February.

A huge variety of materials including damaged furniture, housing materials, sports equipment, green waste, and concrete have made their way to our site. This equates to approximately 36 tonnes of flood affected materials via the voucher program and over 500 tonnes in total. Facilitating the disposal of flood damaged materials allows communities to begin the process of repairing and rebuilding. It also seeks to prevent the potential risks to human health that are associated with water damaged housing. The voucher scheme has been extended to the 31st of July.

## IN OTHER NEWS...

### INCREASES TO THE SOLID WASTE LEVY

The Solid Waste Levy has increased as of 1st July 2023. The Waste Levy is now \$156/tonne of solid waste for Metropolitan Adelaide and \$78/tonne for non-metropolitan South Australia. The Solid Waste Levy is used, in part to fund GISA initiatives.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW CIRCULAR ECONOMY OFFICER

AHRWMA has recently appointed Catherine Stone as our Circular Economy Officer. Catherine's role will involve supporting our Member Councils to seek and apply for grant funding, provide tender support for resource recovery related services, delivering projects relating to regional community engagement and transition to a circular economy and assisting in the implementation and transition of alternative kerbside services (and other waste minimisation projects).

## FROM OUR MEMBER COUNCILS

### NAPPY LOOP, MT BARKER

A cooperative venture involving G8 Education (Mt Barker), Peats Soils, Kimberley Clarke and the CSIRO aims to tackle the huge volume of disposable nappies that enter landfill each year. Nappies from G8 are undergoing a process of anaerobic digestion at Peats Soils with the aim of producing compost. As a bonus, the anaerobic digestion process produces bioenergy which can be utilised onsite. Further research into recovering and recycling the plastic from the nappies is being undertaken by APR Plastics.

### THE HUT REPAIR CAFE, ALDGATE

Volunteers are assisting members of the public to repair their belongings and give them a new life. Minor electrical repairs, general maintenance, tool sharpening and clothing repairs are all possible. The Repair Cafe is open every second Sunday.

### KESAB INFORMATION SESSION, MURRAY BRIDGE

The Murray Bridge Performing Arts Centre hosted a KESAB information session for residents on 13th of July. Information on how to make sustainable choices and to recycle effectively was provided.

### ALEXANDRINA COUNCIL'S FORTNIGHTLY KERBSIDE COLLECTION CONTINUES TO SERVE A GROWING COMMUNITY

Increases in the population in the Fleurieu region mean more FOGO! Alexandrina Council has successfully implemented fortnightly kerbside services for several years. As of July, pick up schedules will change to bring councils across the Fleurieu region into sync, increasing efficiency. Bin audits conducted in South Australia in 2022 indicated that approximately half of the waste generated by South Australians is FOGO and a quarter is recyclable materials.

