

# CIRCULAR

ISSUE NO 4 APRIL 2024

## WELCOME!

Welcome to Autumn and the fourth edition of AHRWMA's *In the Circular*!

**Q: When is a landfill not just a landfill?**

**A: When its gases are harvested and its cap is a biodiverse, climate appropriate woodland!**

In this edition, we are proud to bring you news from our sites, our Constituent Councils and our industry.

This includes more disposable plastic items disappearing from SA's supermarket shelves, Product Stewardship Schemes collecting thousands of tonnes of materials for reuse and recycling and ongoing engagement from our communities.

At AHRWMA, we're looking ahead to ensure that our Brinkley site will be a resource to the community now and a home to indigenous flora and fauna in the future.

**What a time to work in waste!**

## STATEWIDE

### GOODBYE, SUSHI FISH!

South Australia's 'Single Use and Other Plastic Products (Waste Avoidance) Act 2020' continues on its step by step goal to reduce the production, consumption and disposal of single use plastics. The Act mirrors the national goals described in the [National Plastics Plan \(2021\)](#) and the [Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation \(APCO\) National Packaging Targets](#) for 2025. In September of this year, South Australia's will say a cheery goodbye to thick supermarket bags, barrier bags and single use plastic food containers. Slowing the flow of single use plastics aims to reduce the volume of disposed while further research and development into avenues for plastics recycling are underway (including the [National Plastic Recycling Scheme trial](#), funded by the Australian Food and Grocery Council and the Federal Government). Green Industries SA recently called for feedback on the Amendment Regulations to the Act. AHRWMA was pleased to compile and submit feedback from Constituent Councils. Further information on how South Australia is preparing to meet its plastic reduction goals can be found at [Green Industries SA's Replace the Waste](#) page.

## SITE DEVELOPMENT

### PHYTOCAP PLAN APPROVED!

AHRWMA is thrilled to have received approval from the EPA to begin a three year 'phytocap trial'. A phytocap is the 'icing' on a landfill cake, comprising layers of clay, rubble, soil, mulch, and indigenous plant species. The aim is to mitigate the volume of rainwater entering the cell whilst increasing biodiversity on site. We can't wait! Learn about the [benefits of phytocaps here](#).



## LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS

### SARAH, RENEW FASHION, MT BARKER

Imagine if two of your passions in life could intersect through your work. That is the case for Sarah, owner of ReNew Fashion in Mt Barker. A little over a year ago her interests in sustainability and fashion led her to buy the business. She is now putting her skills as an accountant to good use as she leads the store from strength to strength.

Sarah and her family are residents of the Adelaide Hills and aim to live lightly on their land. They grow vegetables and have put effort into extensive revegetation. Their lifestyle incorporates respect for their environment and community involvement. This respect is evident in Sarah's core beliefs about her business.

ReNew Fashion is a consignment store. Clients rent a rack within the store, stocking it with clothing that they wish to sell, including children's wear, men's clothing, shoes, accessories, and a range of women's fashion. Sarah ensures that the store is inviting and well marketed. Quality brands such as Country Road, Seed, RM Williams and Levis jeans are represented. Clear photographs and descriptions of items are regularly updated for those wishing to browse from home. When the client's clothing sells, the profit is deposited into their bank account. Everybody wins! But it gets better...Consignment clothing stores are more than an affordable way to own beautiful clothing. They also offer an alternative to the 'take, make, use, dispose' model by keeping clothing in use for longer. This reduces textile waste to landfill and the need for resources, including water and energy, to be utilised in clothing production.

According to the Australian Fashion Council, Australians buy (on average) 56 items of new clothing per year. That adds up to 383,000 tonnes of new clothes! At present, it is difficult to recycle many items of clothing due to composite fabrics and components. This means a lot of textiles will end their days in landfill.

ReNew Fashion holds approximately 2000 pieces of clothing, and the stock is regularly turned over. Alongside strategies such as buying less clothing and repairing what we have, consignment shopping makes a lot of sense, environmentally and financially. With families feeling the squeeze of increasing interest rates, buying, and selling clothing on consignment can ease the cost of living. ReNew Fashion is popular with customers across the Adelaide Hills with people frequently visiting from Strathalbyn and Lobethal.

Sarah's store is light, neat and chic. Customers chat happily as they browse through well-spaced racks of good quality, well priced clothing.

*"My hope is that people will value clothing. There are beautiful and unique pieces in store with lots of life left in them"* says Sarah.

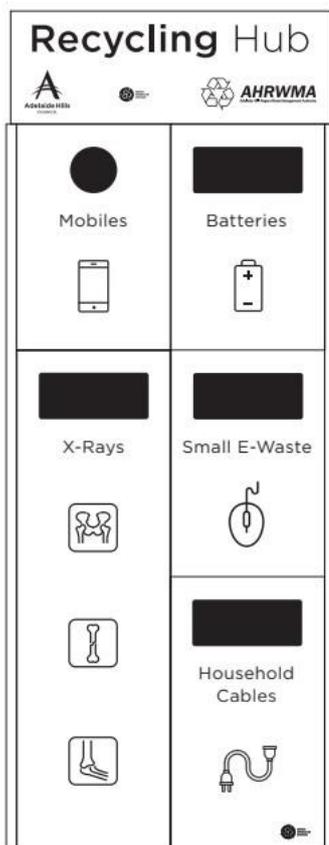
ReNew Fashion is located at [Shop 1, 46-48 Victoria Rd, Mount Barker](#) and can be found online at [www.renewfashion.com.au](http://www.renewfashion.com.au) and on [Facebook](#).



# PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP SCHEMES – WHAT’S IN FOR 2024?

Tanya Plibersek, Federal Minister for Environment, has listed the materials prioritised for Stewardship Schemes in 2024; clothing and textiles, tyres, plastics in health-care products in hospitals, mattresses and child car seats. Stewardship schemes involve applying a levy to items which are sold or imported and utilising funds from the levy to support the collection and recycling of the product. A successful example (supported by AHRWMA) is Paintback, which has collected and repurposed 45 million kg of unwanted paint and packaging since 2016. AHRWMA collaborates with Tyrecycle (the Tyre Cycle Stewardship Scheme) and the Australian Bedding Stewardship Scheme as collection points for these products. We are also members of several other stewardship schemes collecting batteries, eWaste and agricultural drums. We will continue to seek means to assist our communities in safely and responsibly transferring unwanted items in order to keep them from entering our landfill. One method we use is to review the [Product Stewardship Centre of Excellence](#) as a means of ensuring the validity and reliability of the schemes we engage with.

## ADELAIDE HILL COUNCIL’S RECYCLING WALL HUBS



Residents of the Adelaide Hills will be able to deposit a range of recyclable materials at their three libraries: Coventry (Stirling), Gumeracha and Woodside. Materials collected via the Hubs will be transferred to the Heathfield Resource Recovery Centre. The Hubs serve not only to increase convenience to residents, but also to act as a passive community education tool, reminding people that items such as batteries, X Rays and eWaste are resources that should be recovered for reuse and recycling.

[Click here to read more about the Minister’s Priority List](#)

In the FY 22/23 AHRWMA recycled:

**135.49 tonnes of mattresses**

**293 tonnes of paint**

**12.12 tonnes of tyres**

**71.63 tonnes of eWaste**

**7.62 tonnes of agricultural drums**

### STAY SOCIAL!

Stay up to date with news from AHRWMA and our industry:

[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)  
[LinkedIn](#)  
[Twitter](#)

## MATTRESS MOUNTAIN ON THE MAP!

AHRWMA has been named an Approved Recycler by the newly revamped Australian Bedding Stewardship Scheme (ABSS). The ABSS was established to assist in the responsible management of the 1.8 million mattresses that are disposed of annually in Australia. Of that number, AHRWMA accepts 109 tonnes of mattresses and bases (9 tonnes a month). The mattresses are consolidated into 'Mattress Mountain' at the Brinkley site to await shredding. The springs are then recycled as scrap metal and the 'flock' is safely disposed of.

The benefits to recognition by the ABSS include increased public awareness of mattress recycling and Resource Recovery Centres; professional networking and collaboration with organisations involved in mattress recycling as well as the communal benefit of further developments in mattress recycling technology (with potential reductions in the cost of mattress recycling).

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Mattresses placed into landfill have a nasty habit of resurfacing, sometimes after many years!**

**Mattresses are not easily compressed and therefore have a higher buoyancy than surrounding materials leading to them 'climbing' through landfill.**



## WHAT BIRD IS THAT?!



It's a Nankeen Kestrel! Nankeen Kestrels are a favourite at our Brinkley site where they have been sited setting up a nest in the Transfer Station shed.

## KNOWLEDGE SHARING FORUM

AHRWMA was thrilled to arrange our second 'Knowledge Sharing Forum', generously hosted by Mount Barker District Council. The forum is an opportunity for our colleagues at Constituent Councils and aligned organisations to meet, talk and learn. The aim is to support each other to enact best practice in our respective roles.

The Forum began with a tour of the Windmill Hill Transfer Station, operated by the Mount Barker District Council, demonstrating the services provided to residents.

Rob Gregory, General Manager of EastWaste, presented to the group on the practicalities and results of changes to kerbside collection in Adelaide's eastern suburbs.

Our next Forum will be held in May. We look forward to the opportunity to continue moving forward together!

*Would you like to attend a Forum? Let us know!  
[C.stone@ahrwma.com](mailto:C.stone@ahrwma.com)*

