

CIRCULAR

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WELCOME!

Is there ever a dull moment in waste management and resource recovery?

Not a chance!

In this edition of 'In the Circular' we say a sad goodbye to our Executive Officer, Leah Maxwell. It was thanks to Leah's vision and hard work that we are able to tell you about a couple of additions to our Brinkley site...

Our new electric magnet and rotating grapple are assisting us in sorting valuable materials to put back into the economy.

Speaking of sorting valuable materials, the Murray Bridge community are sorting X Rays, eWaste, batteries and more out of their kerbside bins and into their new Recycling Hub.

We're also pleased to share the latest news regarding soft plastic recycling returning to South Australia to complement the 'Replace the Waste' single use plastic bans.

SITE DEVELOPMENT

MEET OUR MAGNET!

We are the proud owners of an electric magnet and rotating grapple, thanks to grant funding from Green Industries SA. The magnet and grapple are used to facilitate separation of recyclable resources (including ferrous metals) from Construction and Demolition waste and shredded mattresses. This task was previously performed manually. Utilising the magnet and grab reduces risk and allows staff to focus on other responsibilities on-site.

Watch a video of the magnet in action at:

<https://bit.ly/AHRWMAmagnet>

(Thanks to Craig and Kai for photo and video).



FAREWELL!



WE FAREWELL LEAH MAXWELL

Leah Maxwell has been the Executive Officer of the AHRWMA since 2021 and was employed in various roles at AHRWMA since 2010.

Whilst in the position of Executive Officer, she was able to achieve several important changes including the revision of AHRWMA's Charter, appointment of an Independent Chair to the Board, development and endorsement of the Strategic Plan, growing AHRWMA's team and seeing successive budgetary surpluses.

Leah skillfully steered AHRWMA through the difficult years of COVID and through the challenge of supporting our communities as they cleared the debris caused by the Cuddlee Creek fires and the recent River Murray floods.

Leah will be greatly missed at AHRWMA. However, as in any industry it is the quality of connections between individuals that supports successful collaboration and knowledge sharing. We are glad to know that Leah continues to be a professional within our industry.

Leah has accepted the role of CEO at the Central Adelaide Waste and Recycling Authority (CAWRA) where we know she will use her extensive knowledge and skills in her field to successfully guide CAWRA in its future endeavours.



NEW RECYCLING HUB FOR MURRAY BRIDGE

BRING IN YOUR BOOKS, BATTERIES AND BIFOCALS!

The Murray Bridge Library is now home to a Recycling Hub which is shared with the Rotary Club of Murray Bridge. Feedback from the community to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

Tim Law, Senior Library Officer and avid recycler (shown above) has welcomed the Hub as an additional service that the library can provide for the community.

The Recycling Hub strengthens the efforts of the Brinkley ReUse Centre (owned by the Rural City of Murray Bridge) to divert resources from the Brinkley Landfill.

The Brinkley ReUse Centre diverts an average of 1.5 tonnes per week of materials back into the community!

IN OTHER NEWS...

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING ON THE HORIZON FOR SA

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and Green Industries SA have announced a new project funded by the Recycling Modernisation Fund. \$20 million dollars will be used to establish a facility in Kilburn, 'Recycling Plastics Australia' (RPA).

RPA expects to process and purify over 14,000 tonnes annually of soft plastics, diverting from South Australian landfills. Shopping bags, chip packets, and food wrappers will be recycled to produce material for new soft plastic packaging.

It is expected that RPA should be open for business two years from now. That allows two years to determine the most efficient method of collecting plastic from the community and transporting it to RPA. It also allows time for the development of end markets for the recycled material.

Soft plastics collection and recycling is just one half of the story. South Australia has also continued to eliminate unnecessary plastics via the Single Use Plastics Bans which have been incrementally rolled out since 2021. The most recent bans (under the *Single Use and other Plastic Products Act (2020)*) include thick plastic bags, bread tags and single use coffee cups.

But that's not all! The Australian Government is also advancing soft plastics recycling through new national packaging laws, which will ensure that packaging is designed with recovery, reuse, recycling, and reprocessing in mind.

Want to know more? See the following sites for more information:

- <https://minister.dccew.gov.au/plibersek/media-releases/joint-media-release-new-soft-plastic-recycling-technology-south-australia>
- <https://www.replacethewaste.sa.gov.au/>
- <https://www.dccew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/national->



'Plastic Free July' display in the Coventry Library, Stirling



'Replace the Waste' collateral is available for use from Green Industries SA

