

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

LET'S GET EXCITED ABOUT WASTE

Waste management on Norfolk Island has been an ongoing issue for many years. The Waste & Environment Section of the Norfolk Island Regional Council is pleased to announce that there has been a significant shift at the Waste Management Centre and it is well on the way to contributing to make Norfolk Island the *'best small island in the world.'*

The Waste Management Centre is working towards becoming a streamlined Waste Transfer Station with reuse and recycling facilities and sustainable management of waste.

The team at the Waste & Environment Section cannot achieve this without the help of the Norfolk Island community. If everyone on the island sorts their rubbish and aims to reduce their waste, then the waste management team can have the time to efficiently process the communities waste.

It is acknowledged that the community can see trucks with mixed waste being transported to Headstone for processing and this has discouraged people from properly sorting their waste. This article is, however, aiming to inform the community that sorting our rubbish is actually worth it.

Many in the community would know that John Wichman from EcoReset Pasifika has been engaged by the Norfolk Island Regional Council to remove certain waste streams from the island for processing in both Australia and New Zealand.

Since the engagement of EcoReset Pasifika the following waste streams have been exported for processing:

- Over 14 tonnes of scrap metal
- 5 tonnes of aluminium cans
- 3 tonnes of steel cans
- 1 tonne of copper
- 2 pallets of Airport Landing Equipment
- 21 tonnes of shredded tyres
- 8.5 tonnes of waste oil

'Just by sorting our rubbish at home we can halve the rubbish that is processed at Headstone,' said Lotta Jackson, 'and the team at Waste & Environment recognise that there is still a way to go. However, they are really excited about working with the community to create a sustainable Waste Management Facility to be proud of.'

'I also urge all residents, businesses and accommodation houses to minimise waste wherever you can', said Lotta Jackson, 'and this can be done through some simple tips such as:

- Think about **packaging** when you purchase – less packaged, less waste
- **Compost** green waste, food scraps and newspaper
- **Reuse** containers and building materials where possible
- Give toys, furniture and clothes **to charity** (clean first)
- Bring a **cloth bag** to the shops, less plastic bags
- **Buy drinks in cans** rather than glass or plastic bottles
- Use **containers** instead of gladwrap.

'Council will provide updates to the community as we progress towards sustainable waste management. Lastly, if you have a bright idea on how to minimise waste let us know by emailing regionalcouncil@nirc.gov.nf or send a letter addressed to the General Manger, PO Box 95, Norfolk Island, 2899,' Lotta Jackson said.

Lotta Jackson
General Manager

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