

# Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

## Reasons for changes to the Waste Collection Service?



### Waste production in Australia

Australia's growing economy in manufacturing and production has brought employment and wellbeing to many Australians. However, one of the consequences of our fast growing economy is the production of large quantities of waste. As our lifestyles become increasingly fast paced, the emergence of products designed to reduce time and pressure in our everyday tasks has led to the development of what is now known as 'A Throw Away Society'.

Over the past decade, the total volume of waste generated in Australia has nearly doubled from 22 million tonnes in the late 1990s to 43 million tonnes in the late 2000s. An audit of the red lidded general waste bin undertaken in Forbes in May 2015 found that the bin was filled with 60% food and garden waste, 16% recyclables and 24% garbage. Due to the fact that our main household waste is food and garden waste, Governments all over the world are progressively moving towards recovering this valuable resource from being disposed of at landfill.

### The Solid Waste Levy

Many landfills in NSW are required by State Government to pay a Solid Waste Levy for each tonne of waste received for disposal at the facility. As the amount of waste sent to landfill has continued to increase at a rapid rate, so has the levy. The purpose of the levy is to encourage recycling and recovery of materials in an attempt to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of at landfill. The Sydney Metropolitan Area pay \$133.10 per tonne, while Extended Regulated Areas pay \$76.70 per tonne. These figures have increased at a steady rate since 2009. There is currently no Solid Waste Levy for Forbes Shire Council, however the State Government conducts annual reviews of the levy, which may see Forbes fall under new standards, and hence be required to pay a levy in the near future.

### What happens to food and garden waste at landfill

The decomposition of organic material in the oxygen-poor landfill environment is another impact from our increasing waste consumption. When organic material (food and garden waste) begins to biodegrade (break down) it produces a greenhouse gas known as methane which is approximately 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. These landfill gases contribute to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions and are not the only form of pollution being produced at landfills. Rotting waste also produces a liquid pollutant known as leachate which contains chemicals and compounds which can seep into surrounding soil if landfills are not properly maintained. This can not only affect plant and animal life living downstream from landfill sites but can also become a management issue with respect to landfill operations and compliance.

### Our growing population

Population size is a strong factor influencing the amount of waste produced in Australia. Between June 2013 and June 2014, the Australian Bureau of Statistics estimated a population growth of 109,100 people in NSW. Every year Australians throw away food worth \$7.8 billion and there are currently over 23 million people residing in Australia. As our population continues to grow so does the amount of waste being sent to landfills and as a result we are seeing the closure of landfills earlier than predicted throughout the state and an increasing demand to develop new landfill sites.

The development of a new landfill site is a lengthy and costly process which includes extensive planning, gaining approvals, building community support and finally constructing the landfill site. By diverting your food and garden waste from landfill and increasing the amount you recycle, you are not only reducing the amount of waste being disposed of at landfill and helping to extend the life of existing landfills but also helping to recover valuable resources which would otherwise be buried at landfill and lost forever.



[www.forbes.nsw.gov.au](http://www.forbes.nsw.gov.au)

Waste Hotline 1300 725 415

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## Reasons for changes to the Waste Collection Service?

### Reasons for a Food and Garden Waste Collection Service

- By effectively managing your waste we are reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and conserving this valuable space
- By using your green lidded food and garden waste bin you are supporting the NSW Government in reducing the amount of material being buried in landfills
- Less material being disposed of at landfill means you are conserving landfill space and reducing the need for a Solid Waste Levy charge for every tonne of waste disposed of at landfill
- By conserving landfill space you are reducing the need to construct more landfills throughout Australia. Creating new landfill sites are a lengthy and costly process and can harm plant and animal life through the clearing of trees and habitat destruction as well as utilising important agricultural land
- When food and garden waste begins to break down it produces greenhouse gases such as methane and carbon dioxide. Less gases produced at landfills will reduce the amount of greenhouse gases being produced in Australia
- As our population continues to grow so does our waste. To reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill we need to recover valuable resources such as food and garden waste and recyclable products
- By utilising the Food and Garden Waste Service you are helping to recover a valuable resource that would otherwise be buried in landfill, producing pollution and taking up valuable landfill space
- Many Councils and businesses all over Australia are moving towards improving waste management through food and garden waste processing
- Food and garden waste processing increases Australia's economy through the purchasing of new bins and trucks as well as creating new jobs through the construction of food and garden waste processing facilities
- The **WEEKLY** Food and Garden Waste Service will make waste management a more affordable option for residents, businesses and Council bodies who may end up having to pay more when new landfill sites are needed

### Tips for managing a Food and Garden Waste Collection Service

- To help transport food scraps to your food and garden waste bin, place the small kitchen caddy in an easily accessible spot in the kitchen so you can scrape leftovers directly from your plate or bowl into the caddy and then transfer it to the food and garden waste bin when it is full
- To lessen the smell of food scraps coming from your bin, line the kitchen caddy with a sheet of newspaper and wrap the contents in a ball when transporting it to the food and garden waste bin
- Place a sheet of newspaper over the contents in your food and garden waste bin to help prevent insects from getting into your waste material
- Try to place your bin in a shaded area. Rotting material is produced when heat and air make contact with organic material
- Normal compost systems cannot manage denser items such as meat and bones/seafood shells, these can all be placed in the food and garden waste bin where they will be turned into compost

