



THE SHIRE OF
EXMOUTH RESPECTFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE
BAIYUNGU, THALANYJI AND
YINIKURTIRA PEOPLE AS THE
TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE
LAND AND WATER ON WHICH THE
SHIRE CONDUCTS ITS BUSINESS
AND PAYS RESPECT TO THEIR
ELDERS PAST AND
PRESENT.

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## **EXECUTIVE** OVERVIEW

The Exmouth Waste Resource Strategy 2022-27 provides direction to sustainably manage the waste resource the community produces and build a circular economy around the resource it captures.

The Shire of Exmouth is committed to providing a sustainable and progressive approach to waste management and recognises waste as a resource with potentially many forms of reinvention and reuse. The Exmouth Waste Resource Strategy 2022-27 aligns with the State Government's Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy 2030 and provides an innovative way forward to decrease waste generation and manage our community's unwanted waste resources

THE SHIRE OF EXMOUTH AIMS TO SUSTAINABLY SUPPORT A RECYCLING CULTURE AS HIGHLIGHTED REPEATEDLY BY THE COMMUNITY

Recent changes to international recyclable commodity policies have heightened community demand for sustainable waste practices and highlighted Australia's vulnerability in relying on offshore solutions for waste generated here. Central to the Strategy are the waste hierarchy which prioritises waste avoidance and minimisation and the circular economy model which values waste resources and maximises use of materials by keeping them in circulation as long as possible.

Exmouth's resident population has a strong desire to be part of a recycling culture and expects sustainable and environmentally sensitive management of its waste.

In response to community expectation the Shire has recently tested the market to provide a comingled kerbside recycling collection for residential and commercial properties. Unfortunately, due to its remoteness and the underlying freight overheads the cost of providing a mainstream recycling service was determined to be cost prohibitive. While mainstream services available to larger less remote communities are presently unviable, opportunities still exist to provide a creative approach to building a bespoke recycling model for the town.

Opportunities also exist in the management of the Shires landfill to maximise the life expectancy of the facility and enhance the ability to reuse materials otherwise destined for burial.

The Strategy recognises an ongoing need to build community accountability for the waste it produces and the role each resident and business must play in minimising output and maximising reuse and recycling potential.

To meet the waste challenges ahead the following guiding principles have been established:

- **Empower the Community** Think Creatively
- **Build Employment**
- Manage Waste as a Resource
- Plan for the Future





# WHAT IS THE CURRENT SITUATION?

### ABOUT EXMOUTH

The Shire of Exmouth is a thriving tourist town situated 1,270 kilometres north of Perth on the tip of the North West Cape in Western Australia. Covering 6,504 km2 the district is bordered by the Exmouth Gulf and the pristine Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area.

While the town was founded around defence industries, tourism is now the largest industry in the Shire with eco-tourism development experiencing significant growth. Other industries that contribute significantly to the local economy include defence, government services and industries to support the offshore oil and gas industry, tourism support services such as hospitality and accommodation along with fishing, pastoral, aquaculture, light engineering and construction.

Every year, in the winter months (May to August) when the weather becomes mild the number of visitors arriving in Exmouth triples the towns resident 2,935 population. While this presents significant challenges for a small community with limited financial resources, it also provides important stimulus for the local economy.

The tourism industry alone contributes more than \$110M and 1,053 direct and indirect jobs per annum (Deloitte Access Economics, June 2020).

Recent Australian Bureau of statistics figures indicate Exmouth has 1,699 private dwellings and 2,935 residents (2016 Census QuickStats).

## WASTE SERVICES IN EXMOUTH

The Shire of Exmouth provides a weekly kerbside general waste bin collection for residential properties and undertakes a similar service for commercial customers.

No kerbside service is provided for co-mingled recycling or green waste. The Shire investigated the opportunity to provide a comingled recycling collection and advertised a request for tender to test the market. Unfortunately, there was an underwhelming response from contractors and the pricing received was beyond the Shires financial resources.

In the absence of a kerbside comingled service some drop off opportunities are available for recycling with extra collection bins for recyclable product eligible for Containers for Change at several locations. Community groups and businesses also provide opportunities for specific product stream recycling

such as food scraps, plastics and some e-waste ancillary items.

All residents have six day a week access to Qualing Scarp landfill to dispose of most categories of waste acceptable under a Class 2 licence including construction and demolition materials, green waste, offal and asbestos. Some recyclable products such as steel, car batteries and oil are collected and reprocessed.

Septage ponds are also located at Qualing Scarp landfill and are used by the towns liquid waste contractors.

An annual bulk green waste collection is provided prior to the commencement of cyclone

QUALING SCARP WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY **OPERATIONS** 















1.602 **ELIGIBLE VOTERS 18+** 



\$727.500

1,699

DWELLINGS



MEDIAN WEEKLY







### RESIDENTIAL KERBSIDE COLLECTION

A one bin kerbside service is provided to residents by way of one weekly 240L general waste bin collection. Residents have the option to pay for a second bin if required. The kerbside collection is an in-house Shire service using its own staff and waste truck.

02

### **COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

Commercial customers are comprised of a broad diversity of local businesses who request 240 L bin collection. There is no limit to the number of bins businesses can request. Approximately 1,000 bins are registered for commercial collection on various service schedules.

03

### **PUBLIC PLACE BINS**

The Shire provides more than 90 public place general waste bins in town areas, coastal reserves, facilities, and public open space. Additional bins are provided at some locations during peak periods.

Recycle bins are provided at an increasing number of locations in conjunction with events and to increase the

04

### **GREEN WASTE**

capture of containers for change collection.

A drop off point for green waste is located at the Qualing Scarp landfill and is available for residential and commercial customers.

05

### **BULK VERGE COLLECTIONS**

An annual verge green waste collection is undertaken at the commencement of each cyclone season to encourage garden cleanups prior to potential storms. The service is normally undertaken by a contractor with the green waste collected fed through an onsite chipper and the mulch deposited directly into a truck.

Any material such as palm fronds which can't be mulched is collected by Shire staff and disposed at the green waste stockpile at Qualing Scarp landfill.

06

### **RECYCLABLES**

The Shire currently has a limited recycling capability but offers the opportunity for the public to drop off product eligible for the Container for Change scheme if they choose to recycle after hours and forego their reimbursement. Products such as oil, steel, non-ferrous metals and car batteries can be disposed of at Qualing Scarp landfill and are later removed by recycling contractors. A fee is charged for their disposal, but this is to cover the cost of recycling.

07

### **QUALING SCARP LANDFILL**

Qualing Scarp landfill is a waste disposal facility operating under a Class 2 DWER licence.

The landfill accepts a broad variety of waste types from putrescible waste to construction and demolition. Residents are allowed free entry for general waste types and green waste under 1 m3 in volume with a fee applying thereafter. There is also a discounted fee structure applicable to some waste types if loads are sorted, enabling the opportunity to collect recyclable product before it reaches landfill.







THE SHIRE OF EXMOUTH IS OPERATING IN A DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT.

CHANGES IN WASTE MANAGEMENT AT AN INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL SCALE INFLUENCE OUR OPERATIONS.











### WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

Waste infrastructure owned by the Shire of Exmouth:

 Qualing Scarp Waste Management Facility



 Qualing Scarp Liquid Waste Septage Ponds

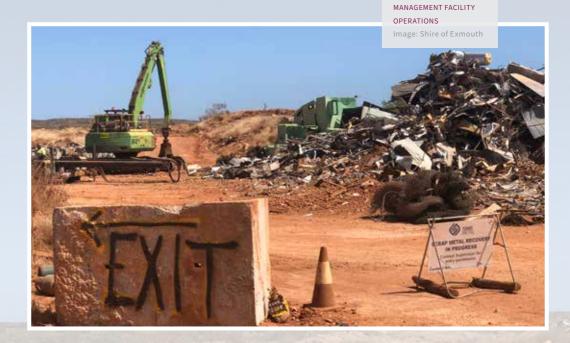
- Recyclable product baler2 x IVECO side loading
- waste trucks1 x Caterpillar excavator
- I x Caterpillar excavator
- 1 x Caterpillar front end loader



# WASTE TRENDS AND REPORTING

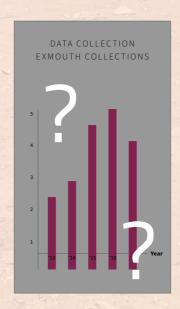
In compliance with licence conditions and federal and state regulations, regular environmental monitoring is conducted to determine impact of waste facilities on groundwater, pollution and the environment. Annual Environmental Reporting incorporating water monitoring, volumes of waste types, receipt of asbestos and contaminated materials, and any environmental complaints is submitted to the Department of Water & Environmental Regulation as per conditions of the applicable

Annual reports on quantity of materials collected, disposed to landfill and recovered for recycling are submitted to the State Waste Authority's annual census of waste and recycling services



## KERBSIDE COLLECTION

Information regarding waste volumes collected from kerbside services is unavailable as there has been no mechanism for capturing this data either by physically counting the number of loads taken



to landfill or through electronic measuring systems.

To achieve operational efficiencies domestic and commercial bins are serviced on a combined schedule which would preclude the ability to separate the volumes of each of the services.

The ability to access kerbside waste collection data would help manage current and future waste services.

Data collection and management will be reviewed as an action of the Strategic Plan.

## BULK VERGE COLLECTIONS

QUALING SCARP WASTE

No measurement of green waste volumes has been recorded for the annual bulk verge collection.

Future data could be collected relatively easily by counting the loads of processed material.

### WASTE COMPOSITION

Waste is received at Qualing Scarp landfill where loads are categorized by waste type and volume and then charged accordingly. For reporting purposes waste is classified according to the Waste Facility Licence as listed in the table below.

Data collection and landfill product receival software will be reviewed as an action of the Strategic Plan.

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#### TABLE 001: WASTE COMPOSITION EXMOUTH - QUALING SCARP WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

	2018	2019	2020
Clean Fil	213.70	213.70	0
Hazardous Waste	0	0	0
Inert Waste Type 1	319	312.10	206.70
Inert Waste Type 2	12.78	5.56	0.56
Putrescible Waste	1913.70	1287.30	1858.2
General Waste	1701	822.30	1136.70
Contaminated Solid Waste	0	0	0
Special Waste Type 1 Asbestos)	4	17	470.50
Special Waste Type 2 (Biomedical Waste)	0	0	0
Green Waste	417.30	143.70	136.35
Recyclables removed from landfill	465.18	0	0
Total (Tonnes)	4581.48	2810.66	3809.01

### RECYCLING COMPOSITIONS

As previously mentioned products such as oil, steel, non-ferrous metals and car batteries can be dropped off at Qualing Scarp landfill where they are stockpiled to await collection by recycling contractors. Again, data is very limited and where quantities have been captured no specific breakdown of product type is available.

Changes to international recycling policies have cast intense public scrutiny on recycling services provided by local governments and end markets for recyclables. Contamination of recyclable material streams is a current challenge for the waste industry.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STRAETEGY?

The Exmouth Waste Resource Strategy 2022-27 sets the management direction for the next five years. While the Shire of Exmouth may have its unique challenges, the fundamentals are the same and we need to align ourselves to state and national plans as well as the community's aspirations.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

waste hierarchy to avoid and minimise waste and as possible (the Proximity Principle). the optimised use of resources through the circular economy model.

The Exmouth Waste Resource Strategic Plan The Shire also acknowledges the need to ensure 2022-27 timeline aligns with the Avoid, Recover, shared responsibility for waste management and Protect objectives of the State Government's Waste minimisation between those who generate, produce Avoidance and Resource Recovery (WARR) Strategy and use goods and services (the Polluter-Pays, 2030 and the goals and targets it provides. By User-Pays and Product Stewardship principles), while association the plan is guided by the priorities of the dealing with waste as close to the place of production

> The Exmouth Waste Resource Strategic Plan also aligns with the vision, objectives and priorities of the Exmouth 2030 Community Strategic Plan.











PROGRAM (CCP) IN EXMOUTH

Community Priorities 2.3.2: Investigate sustainable waste management and recycling

THE STRATEGY IN-**CORPORATES THE FOLLOWING PRI-ORITIES FROM** THE SHIRE OF

EXMOUTH'S 2030 COMMUNITY

STRATEGIC PLAN: THEME: ENVIRONMENT Objective: To Protect and Value our Unique Natural and Built Environment as we Grow

Outcome 2.3: Advocate and

promote opportunities for the

development of environmen

tally sustainable essential infrastructure and services

## WASTE HIERARCHY

The waste hierarchy ranks waste management options in order of environmental impact and is designed to be applied together with other tools to analyse environmental, economic and social impacts. Action is required by community, industry and all levels of government to maximise efficiency and avoid unnecessary consumption.



# **ECONOMY**

The circular economy is the underlying principle of the WARR Strategy 2030 and an internationally-recognised foundation for strategic planning models of a growing number of organisations and governments.

This differs significantly from the "take, make, use and dispose" behaviour in the linear economy which has driven retail markets and lifestyles for several decades. A linear economy places a low value on a natural resource by viewing it as a single use commodity where, once it has had its primary use, it is discarded and replaced with a new product manufactured from new resources.

BUILDING A CIRCULAR

The objective of circular economy planning is to increase the value of a natural resource by keeping it in circulation until its productive life is exhausted. As an ingredient of one manufactured product a resource can be kept in circulation through reuse or repair of the product or recycle and remanufacture into another product.



### REGIONAL FOCUS

The Shire of Exmouth does not have any regional waste management alliances with its neighbouring local governments. This could be attributed to its geographical isolation and the impact it has on resource sharing or the economic viability and logistical practicality of combining contractual services.

However, the potential opportunities partnering with other local governments still needs to be explored and is contained as a key focus area within the plan.

reduce

WASTE WASTE WASTE

14 | 15

DISPOSE

## WHAT ARE OUR OBJECTIVES

## AND PRIORITIES?

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The Exmouth 2030 Community Strategic Plan lists "innovative and proactive approach to addressing water supply, recycling, renewable energy and waste management" as one of the key findings of its public engagement. Subsequent community surveying has only reinforced the strong desire of Exmouth residents to participate in innovative and sustainable waste practices.

With its Exmouth Waste Resource Strategic Plan, the Shire has nominated six principles which will guide its waste management services over the next five years and into the future



Build long lasting community relationships to facilitate behaviour change and a readiness to participate in waste minimisation and new methods of resource recovery.



Work with and encourage all community stakeholders to be innovative when looking for new solutions and commercial opportunities.



Encourage new commercial opportunities and developing social enterprise initiatives which will create new jobs.



Help the community understand the principles of a circular economy and the value of waste resources.



Plan for the best possible outcomes for our community and environment – now and into the future.



Reinforce a regional partnership to support larger goals and economies of scale

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Underpinning the guiding principles are 5 strategic objectives, which will target key focus areas:

- 1. Minimise waste to landfill | 2. Engage Stakeholders | 3. Lead and advocate for best practise waste management
- 4. Encourage innovation | 5. Provide cost effective services.

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

### MINIMISEWASTE TO LAND FILL

WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING **PRIORITIES** KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES 1.1 Improve waste reduction and · Decreased waste output and increased recycling within Shire of Exmouth proportion of recycled material operations, worksites and events 1.2 Investigate and provide further · Decreased waste to landfill and opportunities to reduce waste outputs increased proportion of recycled material and increase recycling by commercial operators 1.3 Increase range of materials accepted Increased number of products accepted for recycling at the MRF, waste facilities and across the 1.4 Explore options for the processing of • Increased diversion volumes of C&D C&D waste



### **PROCUREMENT**

#### **PRIORITIES**

2.1 Develop a Sustainable Resource
Management Plan for the Shire of
Exmouth organisation which gives
direction to procurement of and planning
across all business units

2.2 Investigate the inclusion of a waste management component to the evaluation criteria of Shire tenders and questions.

#### KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Implementation of Sustainable Resource
 Management Plan

management rian

 Inclusion of waste management criteria in tender and RFQ evaluation documentation

## WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING PRIORITIES KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

3.1 Review product stewardship schemes

List product stewardships explored

for opportunity to target problematic waste streams

· Dialogue held with government,

3.2 Identify opportunities to support circular economy business initiatives

business and community and reported back to Waste Management Working

3.3 Investigate the implementation of a Tip Shop model as a means of diverting goods • Numbers of customers using facility and volume of goods diverted

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

### **ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS**

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

LEAD AND ADVOCATE FOR BEST PRACTICE WASTE MANAGEMENT



## 01 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

#### KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1.1 Develop profile as waste resource recovery innovator

 Increased number of SOE led community waste initiatives based on 2021 figures

1.2 Actively lobby all levels of government for changes to waste-related policies and funding for new waste initiatives  Increased number of SOE waste initiatives which are externally funded or subsidised based on 2021 participation

## 02 W

### WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITIES

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

2.1 Review practices at Qualing Scarp Landfill and implement operational changes

 Successful Implementation of operational changes

2.2 Plan and design of recycling operations at the Bring It Centre

• Construction and commissioning of a recycling facility at the Bring It Centre

## 03

### REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

PRIORITIES

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

3.1 Explore regional partnership opportunities within the Gascoyne

Report updates to CEO and Council

3.2 Explore and extend regional partnership opportunities within the Pilbara

Report updates to CEO and Council

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

4.2 Engage with the business sector to

 Creation of a formalised business w network

develop strategies to enable the Shire's network waste messaging to be delivered to its customers and visitors

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4

### **ENCOURAGE INNOVATION**

### **ALTERNATIVE PRACTICES**

• Successful implementation of

alternative practices

- 1.1 Openly consult with business to discuss alternative waste practice opportunities
- 1.2 Investigate and implement an
- Successful implementation of alternative practice for separating and alternative practices processing food organics from the general

### TECHNOLOGY & DEVELOPMENT

waste stream

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 2.1 Investigate and implement alternative methods to divert target waste streams
- alternative practices
- 2.2 Investigate new technologies to manage waste at landfill and recycling
- · Successful implementation of new
- 2.3 Review process for design, planning and installation of public place bins and
- Successful implementation of new bins

### **DATA COLLECTION**

**PRIORITIES** 

**KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES** 

- 3.1 Review data collection and reporting
- · Increased reporting on waste categories
- 3.2 Improve data collection of household
- · Increased data collection
- 3.3 Regular audits of waste composition at landfill and recovery sites
- · Improved availability of data

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PRIORMES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5 SERVICE

PROVIDE A COST-EFFECTIVE

**CONTRACTS PRIORITIES** 

### KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 1.1 Explore opportunities for contract sharing among regional partners
- 1.2 Investigate other contractual opportunities which may benefit waste
- Report opportunities to CEO and Council
- Report opportunities to CEO and Council

### COLLECTION

**PRIORITIES** 

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 2.1 Annually review the collection schedule and location of public place bins, including
- frequency during peak and seasonal times
- 2.2 Review bin size and collection model and determine feasibility of offering a tailored collection service
- Report opportunities to CEO and Council

**FLEXIBILITY PRIORITIES** 

#### KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

3.1 Review sorted waste pricing options for commercial operators

• Report opportunities to CEO and Council

#### **TABLE 003:** RESOURCE RECOVERY RATE

HOW WILL WE MONITOR,
MEASURE AND REPORT
PROGRESS?

The Strategy's Actions and Key Performance Measures will be monitored on an Action Plan Scorecard and reported on quarterly.

# TARGETS WASTEAUTHORITYTARGETS

After recording the nation's highest rate of waste generation per capita and the equal second lowest rate of resource recovery in 2014/15 the WA Waste Authority

has set ambitious targets to increase recovery rates and divert waste from landfill.

# WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY (WARR) STRATEGY TARGETS

The Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030 builds on Western Australia's previous waste strategy Creating the Right Environment, which was introduced in 2012 and achieved significant

improvements in recycling, reducing waste generation, diverting construction and demolition waste, and better managing commercial and industrial waste.

**TABLE 002: WASTE GENERATION** 

	2025	2030
Reduction in waste per capita compared to 2014-15	10%	20%
Waste generation (kilograms per capita)	2,361	2,098

9000	2020	2025	2030
All sectors Western Australia		70%	75%
Municipal Solid Waste Perth metropolitan region	65%	67%	70%
Municipal Solid Waste Major regional centres	50%	55%	60%
Commercial and Industrial Western Australia	70%	75%	80%
Construction and Demolition Western Australia	75%	77%	70%

### SHIRE OF EXMOUTH TARGETS

Waste Authority and Resource Recovery (WARR) 2030 Strategy targets are focused on minimising waste in Perth metropolitan regions and major regional centres. These areas of high population density share similar waste management practices and provide a good opportunity to foster a relatively fast positive change to a large percentage of the Western Australia population.

Smaller rural and remote towns have their own unique waste management challenges which can be difficult to approach with the same broad-brush technique and not all will have the ability to achieve targets made for the metropolitan area.

Determining immediate targets for the Shire of Exmouth which align with Waste Authority aspirations is problematic due to the lack of historical data the Shire has available and its

Baseline figures can be calculated using total annual tonnages to landfill until the Shire is able to improve its data collection capability, but this will not reflect the volatile fluctuation of visitor numbers during holiday season.

current ability to collect it.

While not ideal, it will nevertheless enable Waste Authority targets to be applied to the Shires baseline and trends tracked from this point. This Strategy aligns with Waste Authority targets for waste reduction and resource recovery to improve current waste trends. Significant innovation and collaboration with community, business, and the state government will be required to meet the ambitious goals which it sets.

Federal government leadership in the advancement of a sustainable circular economy model by providing supporting will be essential in seeing targets met.

This strategy and target definition was produced in line with the above mentioned State's WARR Strategy and relevant Shire strategic documents.



# DELIVERY OF MAJOR

The Exmouth Waste Resource Strategy (EWRS) provides a framework for effective, efficient and sustainable management of waste within the Shire of Exmouth from 2022 - 2027.

There are many actions to be delivered over the life of the Strategy including several exciting projects which will be undertaken to substantially change the

Exmouth community's waste behaviour and waste treatment infrastructure.

In line with the purpose of the EWRS initial projects have been formalised and will be realised and adovated for within the given strategy's timeframe.



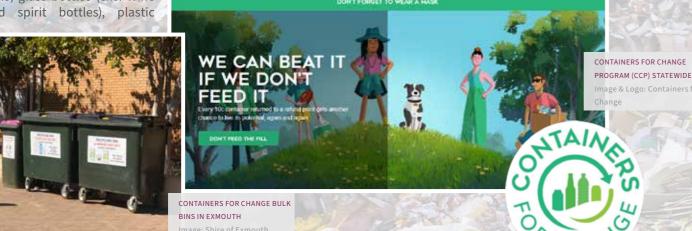
## CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE-RECYCLING PROGRAM

The state-wide Containers for Change (CfC) scheme commenced in Exmouth on Saturday, October 3, 2020. The SOE supports this program, run by community clubs, with the placement of bulk bins to increase the

capture of eligible containers for the local registered mobile collection point. The Change scheme currently covers any cans, glass bottles (exc. Wine and spirit bottles), plastic

bottles (exc. Milk bottles) and some PET packs. Locals are encouraged to participate in the scheme and are provided with free collection bags at the SOE offices and the mobile collection point itself.

The SOE will continue to work with community groups and CfC Coordinators to enhance and develop the service, so further recycling opportunities can be considered.



### BRING IT RECYCLING CENTRE

Central to the Shire of Exmouth's Waste Resource Planning is its "Bring It Centre" concept located at the SOE's Hudson St property. While a kerbside recycling collection service is currently unviable, providing a community drop off point for nominated recyclable products will offer residents a recycling option. At this stage, cardboard, steel cans and glass containers have been identified as products showing potential for small scale processing at the proposed facility.

The development of the Bring It Centre features as an action of this Waste Resource Strategy and will be an exciting project offering many layers of potential growth and opportunity.



Residents and participants of the Community Waste Working Group were extremely interested in a SHire Tip Shop, which could include a Repair Cafe - often mentioning similar services in Karratha and Kununurra as good examples of what could be achieved. The SOE is currently investigating the possibilities within its Waste Resource Strategy actions to implement such a Tip Shop at its facilities.

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