



SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL COUNCIL

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Recycle Right this Christmas!

Date: December 13, 2012



During the Christmas season most households generate more waste than usual. SMRC Chairperson Tony Romano is urging residents in the Southern Metropolitan Region to reduce their waste, reuse what they can and recycle what's left this Christmas.

Waste generated from Christmas parties and celebrations should be separated and put in the correct bin. Christmas wrapping, packaging, cans, bottles and plastics should all be placed loosely in the yellow topped bin to enable the recovery of recyclables for reprocessing.

Excess food from celebrations can also generate a large amount of waste over the Christmas period and residents are encouraged to only open what they need to eat, serve smaller portions and store and re-use leftovers instead of throwing them out. Food scraps should be wrapped in newspaper and placed in the green-topped bin along with garden waste from tidying up the garden for Christmas day.

Cr Romano said, 'Try giving low-impact gifts that give an experience such as rock climbing or movie tickets and avoid gifts with excess packaging and packaging made from different material which make it impossible to mechanically separate and recycle.'

Buying good quality decorations that can be reused next Christmas or trying your hand at making your own out of recycled materials also helps to generate less waste over the festive season.

'Think of giving gifts this year that create minimal waste or if you are buying a battery operated gift, why not give a set of rechargeable batteries with it' Cr Romano said

For the correct information on what goes in which bin and to recycle right this Christmas please visit [www.recycleright.net.au](http://www.recycleright.net.au)

For information about the Southern Metropolitan Regional Council please visit [www.smrc.com.au](http://www.smrc.com.au)

## **Tony's Tips to reduce waste and recycle right this Christmas!**

- Give low impact gifts that create minimal waste and have a good end of life solution
- If you must give presents with lots of packaging, please be sure to place it loosely and separately in the yellow-topped bin. Please do not put plastic packaging and strapping inside cardboard boxes
- Use paper wrapping rather than foil or plastic or save your paper wrapping for reuse next year
- Recycle your old mobile phones, TV's and computers this Christmas
- If you are having a Christmas Party at work, make someone responsible for ensuring waste is recycled
- Try to minimise food waste this Christmas, only open what you need, serve smaller portions and store and use leftovers.
- Wrap food waste in newspaper and put it in the green-topped bin together with your garden waste
- Visit [www.recycleright.net.au](http://www.recycleright.net.au) this Christmas to find out what goes in which bin.

\*\*\*ends\*\*\*

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### **Media backgrounder – About the SMRC**

The SMRC is a statutory local government authority established by Local Councils in the southern part of metropolitan Perth. It is responsible for developing environmentally sustainable waste management solutions and climate change abatement measures for the communities of Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana and Melville.

The SMRC is committed to assisting the State Government to work towards achieving its Zero Waste objective by 2020.

Each year the SMRC diverts more than 60,000 tonnes of waste from landfill and prevents about 70,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere which is equivalent to taking more than 16,000 cars off the road. Its Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) in Canning Vale produces more than 25,000 tonnes of compost each year for use in agriculture and soil amendment programs and recovers approximately 70 sea containers per month of recyclables.

The SMRC employs 72 staff and provides work for 100 local small businesses and contractors each month. This contributes more than \$20 million to the economy.

Recycle Right is a campaign by the SMRC which encourages and assists residents and businesses in the Southern Metropolitan Region to recycle, reduce their rubbish and buy more recycled products. To find out what goes in which bin visit [www.recycleright.net.au](http://www.recycleright.net.au)