

Media Release

70% RECYCLING CONTAMINATION RATE UNACCEPTABLE

You may have noticed an increase in the number of media releases and advertisements about recycling and rubbish collections lately. Why is that?

Cleanaway, which has recently taken over many of the Council's waste responsibilities, has advised that collection of household recycling from townsites in the Shire now have a 70% contamination rate. The contaminations are mainly food scraps and plastic bags.

Contaminated recycling is required to be put into landfill, resulting in extra costs to the Council and eventually, ratepayers.

Mr Dominic Le Cerf, Manager Works and Services expressed his frustration. 'Residents may not realise that contaminated recycling forces the Council to pay twice for the disposal of rubbish. The Council is charged to process recycling and then again when contaminated recycling is required to be put into landfill. Such an increase is unsustainable and residents may find rubbish charges rise dramatically in the next few years.'

Recycling bins that continue to be contaminated will, in the future, not be picked up by the waste contractor. This will cause a good deal of inconvenience for a household as that rubbish would need to be taken separately to a waste facility at extra cost.

The answer though, is straightforward. Place recyclables only loosely into the 240L green recycling bin (not in plastic bags).

For more information on what can and can't be placed in your recycling bin, call the Cleanaway Albany Customer Service Centre on 1300 784 468.