

Media Release

WHERE DO YOUR RECYCLABLES GO?

Four months ago (1 January 2018) China stopped taking certain waste products from Australia and other countries. This ban included co-mingled recyclable materials that are collected in the household recycling bins.

All co-mingled recycling material in the local councils of Albany, Denmark and Plantagenet are collected by Cleanaway and sorted into categories at the Albany Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located at Hanrahan Road. From Albany these bales are then transported to the Cleanaway MRF in Bayswater and sold on the open market around the world, where they are made into new consumables.

Whilst China was one of the overseas markets that Cleanaway sold bales to, it is not the only one. Other countries that buy bales of recyclable products from Cleanaway include India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. So whilst the recent decision by China has affected the prices that Cleanaway receive for their product it has not affected the ability of Cleanaway to sell the bales.

For further information on how your recyclables are sorted and managed at the Albany Material Recovery Facility a short video is available on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YOvskrsKnw&feature=youtu.be> or you can search You Tube for 'Albany MRF'.

Residents can be confident that the co-mingled recyclables they place in their household recycling bins and take to the transfer stations are not going to landfill. To help ensure the viability of recycling in our region, the Manager of Works and Services Mr David Lynch reminds residents 'to place glass and plastic bottles, cans and paper loosely in the bin and not to wrap them in plastic bags. Clothes, toys, books and other household pieces in good condition can be donated to local charity shops or tip shops and other recyclable materials such as larger steel pieces and mattresses can be taken to the O'Neill Road landfill site'.
