



# Our Environment

Edition 2 - Winter 2019

Welcome to the second edition of Baw Baw Shire Council's Our Environment newsletter.

## Stay informed

Interested to receive further updates? Sign up here [www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/OurEnvironment](http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/OurEnvironment)

**Have a question? We're here to help.**

### Contact our enviro team

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## Building Resilience Guide

Gippsland faces a number of varying climate risks including:

- More frequent and intense heavy rainfalls causing flooding
- Harsher bushfires
- More days of extreme heat
- More storms including hailstorms.

As there is a large volume of valuable, existing information regarding climate risk and resilience profile, this guide has been developed by Baw Baw Shire Council to assist the local community in adapting to climate change. The

guide aims to provide practical advice and information on building and renovating your home to be more resilience to extreme weather. The two main aims of the guide are;

1. To be a one-stop-shop for all information regarding the risk of climate for residents and their homes.
2. To support the community in protecting one of their biggest assets; their home, as well as themselves, against climate change and extreme weather.



## Building Resilience

A guide to safeguard your home against climate change and extreme weather





Ragwort outbreak

## Rural Weed Control Grants

Baw Baw Shire Council offers weed control grants. These grants are available to help new landholders and community groups control Declared Noxious weeds on private and adjoining public land.

Declared Noxious weeds are plants which have been listed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 with the requirement for a landholder to control or eradicate these weeds.

The grant is available for new landowners in rural areas and community groups such as Landcare or 'Friends of' groups within Baw Baw Shire that clearly demonstrate a need for funding.

Funding through this grants program is available for the following categories of approved weed control works:

- Purchasing herbicide (if the landowner holds a current

Agricultural Users Permit - ACUP). The maximum grant amount is \$50 for properties below 5 Ha, or \$100 for properties over 5 Ha or community groups.

- Hiring contractors (to be eligible, landowners must employ a licensed spray contractor). Maximum funding amounts are:
  - \$50 for properties between 0.5 Ha and 2 Ha
  - \$100 for properties between 2 Ha and 5 Ha
  - \$200 for properties over 5 Ha or community groups.

Please visit Council's website to apply <http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Resident-Information/Rubbish-and-Environment/Environment/Environmental-Grants-and-Rebates/Rural-Weed-Control-Grants>

## Hello, new rural land owners!

Did you know Council has a New Rural Land Owner Information Pack?

To make your transition into Baw Baw Shire as seamless as possible, we'll be sending all new rural land owners (with properties over one hectare in size), an information pack with lots of useful information that is specific to this region. This information will help you manage local common weeds and vegetation on your property.

This information pack includes:

- A booklet titled, Common Weeds of Gippsland,
- A \$20 voucher to purchase native plants,
- A booklet titled, Managing Your Rural Property, and
- An offer for a visit to your property by our Natural Environment team.

This information pack is also available upon request.



## National Tree Day

National Tree Day is on Friday 26 July 2019 (Schools Day) and Sunday 28 July 2019 (community day). On average, Council plants approximately 20,000 plants annually. This includes community planting days and projects.

This year for National Tree Day, Council's Natural Environment Team will be at Brooker Park, near the St Pauls Anglican Grammar School Gymnasium from 10:00am on Sunday 28 July. The public are invited to come along for a free sausage sizzle and to plant some trees. Please register here <https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10021168>



## St Pauls Students and Community Revegetation of Brooker Park's Hazel Creek

Council's Natural Environment Team will be supporting St Paul's Anglican Grammar School in adding to the revegetation works that have been carried out in Brooker Park over the past few years for National Tree Day. To date Brooker Park has received approximately 4,000 plants a year for the past four years.

St Paul's were successful in receiving a grant from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DEWLP)'s On-ground Action – 2018 Community and Volunteer Action Grants.



*Tree planting day for National Tree Day*



*Inside Polytrade Recycling*

## Tour of Baw Baw Shire's Recycling Facility

Have you ever wondered where our recycling goes? Join us for a tour of Polytrade Recycling, where all all of Baw Baw's recycling gets handled! There are lots of items that we can recycle, but if the bin is too contaminated with the wrong items, it means things end up in landfill when they don't have to! We as a community need to ensure we are sorting our waste and recycling properly.

Let's also try to remember the three R's.

- Reduce waste and packaging (avoidance).
- Re-use items through fixing, upcycling, borrowing and buying second hand.
- Recycle items that can't be reduced or re-used.

Check out the video here <http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Resident-Information/Rubbish-and-Environment/Recycling/Residential-Recycling>



## Waste Guide

Council delivers a Recycling and Waste Guide to its residents at the end of August each year. The booklet includes the rubbish (landfill), recycling and green organics collection dates, along with information on Council's waste services such as, the free kerbside hard waste collection and the compost bin and worm farm rebate. The booklet also includes information on what to put in your kerbside bins and an A-Z guide for waste (landfill) and recycling. Each household will receive the waste booklet, although if you would like a copy please contact Council's customer service on 5624 2411 or you can download a copy from Council's website.



## 8 Myths and Truths about kerbside recycling!

**Myth 1:** I don't need to sort my rubbish because recycling all goes to landfill anyway.

**Truth:** No, it doesn't! Our recyclable items continue to be recycled; we just need to make sure they're not contaminated. That means it's really important to sort your recyclables from your regular rubbish (landfill).

**Myth 2:** Soft plastics can be recycled in our bin service.

**Truth:** No, they can't. Soft plastics including clean cling wrap, bread bags, pasta bags etc., can't be recycled by putting them in your recycling bin at home. But they CAN be recycled at all Coles and Woolworth Supermarkets, so drop them off there.

**Myth 3:** If I bag my recyclables, they'll still get recycled.

**Truth:** No, they won't. Due to Occupational Health and Safety reasons, bags cannot be opened by sorting staff, even if they are full of recyclables. Therefore, any bag found at the recycling plant will go straight to landfill. If you want to bag your recyclables to make them easier to take out to the bin, please bust the bag open before putting the contents into the recycling bin, then put the bag in the rubbish (landfill) bin or take it to the supermarket.

**Myth 4:** If I put clothes into the recycling bin, they will be recycled.

**Truth:** No, they won't. If you have unwanted (but useable) items and clothing that you'd like to get rid of, please take your items to an Opportunity Shop where they can be re-used. If they are unusable, please place them in the rubbish (landfill) bin.

**Myth 5:** Polystyrene is recyclable if it has a recycling symbol on it.

**Truth:** No, it isn't. Even if there is a recycling symbol on the polystyrene product, it cannot go into our recycling bins in Baw Baw Shire. It must go in the rubbish (landfill) bin.

**Myth 6:** Coffee cups are recyclable.

**Truth:** No, they aren't. Coffee cups have a thin lining of plastic which makes them unable to be recycled within our municipality. The plastic coffee cup lid is recyclable though, so please separate the two and put the cup in the rubbish (landfill) bin and the lid in the recycling.

**Myth 7:** You must clean glass jars and bottles before recycling.

**Truth:** No, you don't. If there is some residue left in the container, that's fine. Just make sure they don't have significant food or liquid left in them.

**Myth 8:** Pizza boxes aren't recyclable

**Truth:** Yes, they are. Just remove the left-over pizza.



Solo Resource Recovery kerbside rubbish truck.



Cr Cook and Cr O'Donnell with new illegal dumping CCTV

## Illegal dumping CCTV project

Illegal rubbish dumping is costing Baw Baw Shire ratepayers a substantial amount of money each year. And this cost is increasing annually.

Illegal dumping is irresponsible, wasteful and harmful to our environment. Dumped rubbish allows rust, rot and toxic chemicals to enter our environment damaging native plants, animals and their habitats, as well as polluting our waterways.

In February 2018, Baw Baw Shire Council teamed up with Sustainability Victoria to undertake an Illegal Dumping CCTV project with the aim of reducing illegal dumping in Baw Baw Shire's green spaces.

The \$20,000 project was jointly funded by a \$10,000 grant from Sustainability Victoria's Litter and Illegal Dumping Grants program

and a matched contribution from Council's Capital Works budget. The cameras are in various hotspot sites around Drouin, Longwarry and Nilma.

The surveillance is accompanied with new signage and an educational program was undertaken to ensure the community are aware of the cost to rate payers, as well as the fines and penalties that can occur when prosecuted. Council also wants to ensure the community are aware of the support Council can provide in assisting the community in disposing of their unwanted goods. Council offers an annual free hard waste pick up for residents and many items are accepted for free at the transfer station.

Since installing the illegal dumping CCTV in July 2018, Council has seen a 16 per cent reduction in illegal dumping.

## Electric vehicle infrastructure charging point feasibility study

Electric Vehicles are becoming more popular within Australia, with The Guardian (April 2019) indicating from a recent poll that 50 per cent of Australians support shifting all sales of new cars to electric vehicles by 2025.

Baw Baw Shire Council in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council, South Gippsland Shire Council, Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire Council and East Gippsland Shire Council are working on a, 'Charging Gippsland for Future Transport - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in Gippsland' project.

The project, funded by a \$32,000 Collaborative Councils - Sustainability Fund Partnership Round 8 grant, will outline the principles for planning a network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure

across Gippsland. This will aim to support the selection of the right type of infrastructure in the right location. The project intends to assist local government authorities, town planners, developers and landholders while investigating installing EV charging infrastructure across Gippsland.

Electric Vehicles are innovative technology that presents a unique opportunity for Councils across Gippsland to capitalise on the economic, environmental and social benefits. The project will help to ensure that the opportunities for a well-planned and integrated network of EV chargers that can be maximised. A full report will be available to the community within a few months.



Wellington Shire Council's electric vehicle



## ResourceSmart Schools in Gippsland

ResourceSmart Schools is a free program offered by Sustainability Victoria that supports Victorian schools to embed sustainability across the school facilities, community and curriculum, while saving resources and money for the school.

In Gippsland, ResourceSmart Schools is delivered by the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group. The program is delivered by a network of ResourceSmart Schools Facilitators who visit schools and design individual sustainability plans to help schools reduce their environmental footprint. The ResourceSmart Schools Facilitators also conduct audits of water, waste, energy and biodiversity so that schools understand how they are operating. Schools are also supported to create student green teams that undertake sustainability work around the school.

A range of events are held by ResourceSmart Schools each year and include student workshops and teacher training. These events are free for participants and help students and teachers learn essential skills so that they can work to change their school environment.

In Gippsland, 90 schools participate in the program and in 2018 participating schools saved \$103,000 in our region. Schools participating in the program received the following benefits:

### Recognition

Schools can receive Sustainability Certification and can enter the ResourceSmart Schools Awards to be recognised and rewarded for school activities and achievements.

### Facilitation and support

Sustainability experts support schools on their journey to embed sustainability into operations and provide support on how to measure and track their school progress.

### Savings

Schools learn to operate more sustainably; reducing costs to save on electricity, water and waste bills – and greenhouse gas emissions to minimise their impact on the environment.

### Flexibility

Schools work through the ResourceSmart Schools program and create a unique environmental management system tailored to their needs.

### Curriculum

Schools are assisted to embed sustainability into all learning areas and levels of the Victorian Curriculum.

For information on participating, please contact Alison Taylor at [alison.taylor@gwrrg.vic.gov.au](mailto:alison.taylor@gwrrg.vic.gov.au) or on 0409 879 910





## Victorian Residential Efficiency Scorecard

With energy prices rising, understanding how you can reduce energy consumption can save a lot of money, as well as ensure your home is more comfortable during warmer and cooler months.

The Victorian Residential Efficiency Scorecard (Scorecard) is a Victorian Government initiative. The Scorecard gives you a star rating for your home, like the star rating on your fridge, as well as suggestions on how to improve your rating. The Scorecard is delivered by independent accredited assessors using the government-supported Scorecard webtool. The assessor rates the energy efficiency of your home's construction, fixed

appliances, and other key features such as solar PV energy production. The Scorecard also rates how comfortable your home is in hot weather.

There are local providers of the Scorecard across Gippsland and assessments can range from \$250 and \$500 - depending on the assessor, your home, your location and the complexity of the assessment. If you are interested in getting a Score assessment, please visit <https://www.victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au/save-energy-and-money/get-a-home-energy-assessment>

**WHAT IS E-WASTE?**

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

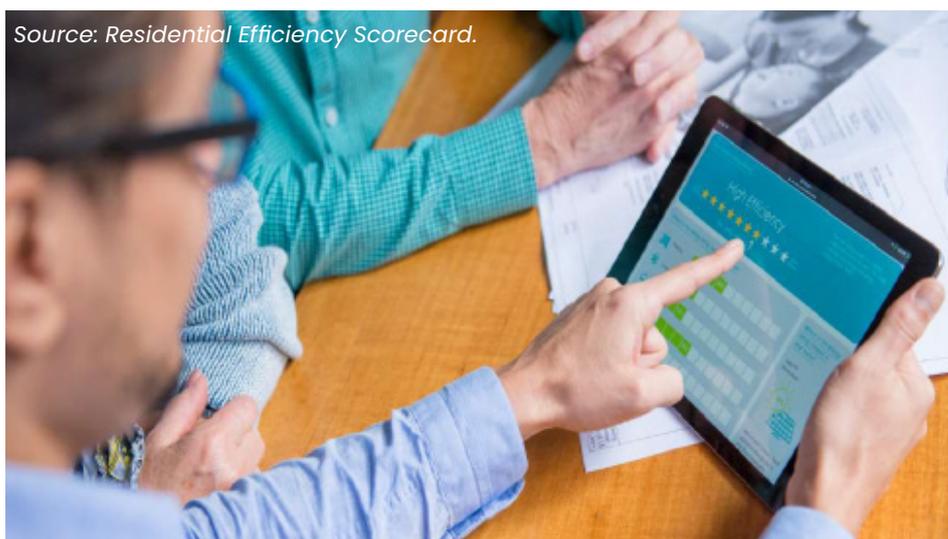
- Computer hard drives (internal and CD drives)
- Computer mice
- Web camera's
- USB's
- iPad
- Notebooks
- Palmtops
- Television
- Camera
- Phone chargers
- Scanners
- Faxes
- Multi-adapter plugs
- Keyboard
- Refrigerator
- Washing machine
- Dryer
- Fluorescent tubes
- Light bulbs

**YOUR E-WASTE TO A BETTER PLACE**

[www.ewaste.vic.gov.au](http://www.ewaste.vic.gov.au)

Sustainability Victoria

Source: Residential Efficiency Scorecard.



## Compost Bin and Worm Farm Rebate Scheme

Composting is a great way to recycle naturally and help to reduce food waste going to landfill, where it creates nasty methane gasses. Council offers a compost bin and worm farm rebate to ratepayers for 100 per cent of the cost of a compost bin and worm farm of up to \$100 (conditions apply). Applications forms are available from Council offices (or call 5624 2411) or can be downloaded from our website; <http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Resident-Information/Rubbish-and-Environment/Recycling/Home-Composting>



## Did you know an E-waste ban is coming? – commencing 1 July 2019

The Victorian State Government is implementing an e-waste ban

1 July 2019. E-waste refers to unwanted and discarded electrical and electronic products – essentially anything powered by batteries or an electrical cord and plug. Electronic waste (e-waste) can be recycled. E-waste items that are currently accepted at Council drop off centres include TVs, phones, computers, batteries, light bulbs and their accessories. This means e-waste is not permitted to go in any of the kerbside waste bins. E-waste contains valuable materials that can be recycled, as well as hazardous materials that are important to keep out of landfill sites. E-waste can also be very dangerous, causing fires in bins, trucks and in recycling facilities. Contact Council to find out what you can recycle, and your nearest recycling drop off centre.

E-waste will be banned from kerbside bins commencing 1 July 2019.