

# Household Problem Waste programs

2016-17 Summary Report  
Household Chemical CleanOut  
and Community Recycling Centres

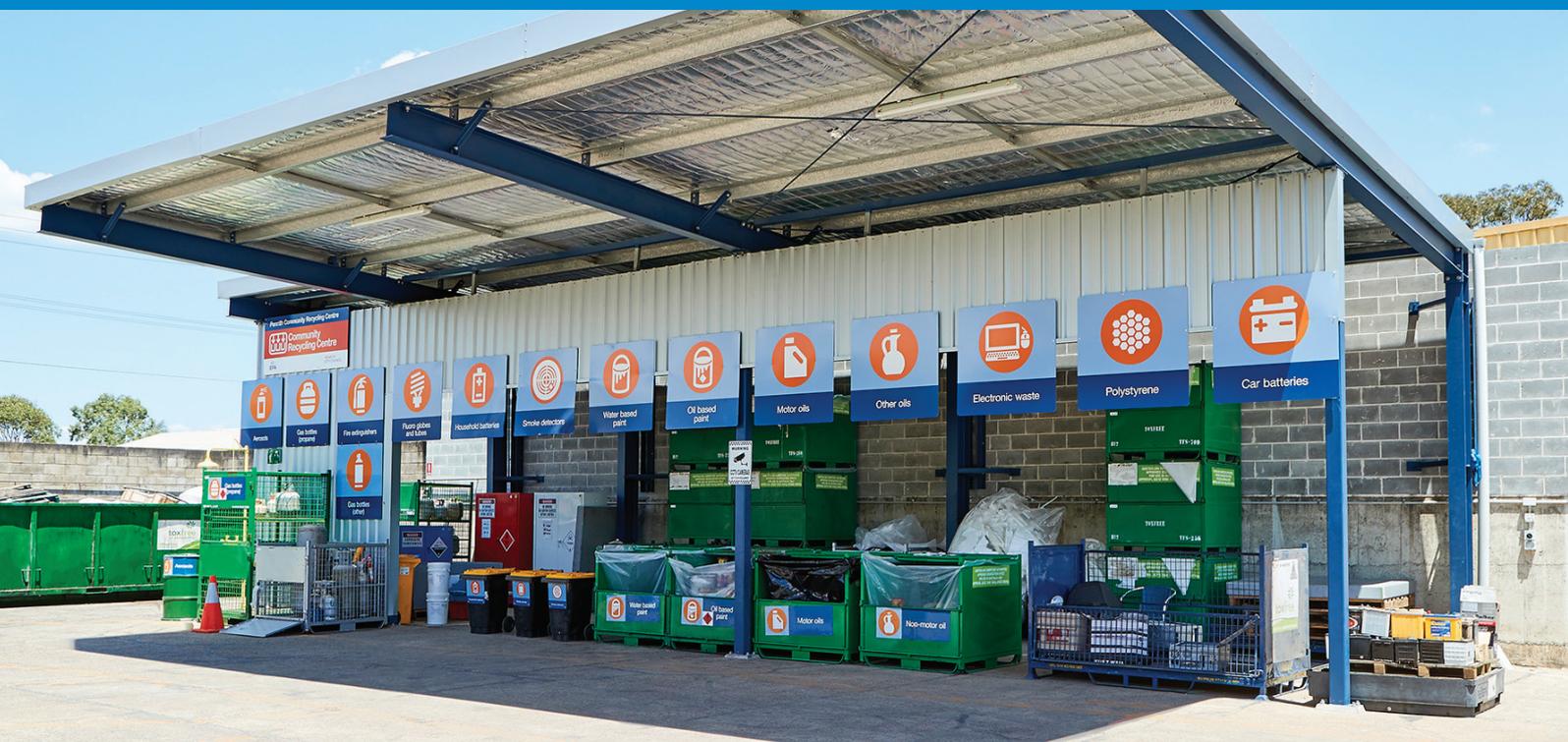




Photo: Paint (EPA)

## Key results

Throughout 2016-17 the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) saw continued support from the community for the collection of household chemicals and problem waste.

Over the 2016-17 financial year across the Sydney, Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast regions, the CleanOut program:

- held 72 collection days
- supported 48,593 households to use the service
- recycled and/or disposed of 1,688,101 kilograms of potentially hazardous household waste.

Across rural and regional New South Wales (NSW), the CleanOut program (including permanent drop-off facilities):

- held 50 collection days
- recycled and/or safely disposed of 159,762 kilograms of potentially hazardous household waste.

Additional Community Recycling Centres were established across NSW for the collection of household problem wastes. In 2016-17:

- 26 new CRCs opened bringing the total to 60
- 1,167,308 kilograms of problem wastes were collected.

As the EPA strives to be an exemplar organisation, no incidents occurred at Community Recycling Centres and CleanOut events.



Photo: Unpacking paint from car boot (EPA)

## Background

All of us, will at some point have potentially hazardous materials in our homes, cars and garages. These include household cleaners, garden chemicals, paints, gas bottles, motor oils and fuels. The safe disposal of leftover and/or unwanted chemicals is a problem for many residents. The CleanOut program is run by NSW state and local governments to give householders a place to take their potentially hazardous household chemicals for safe disposal.

Since 2003, the CleanOut program has continued growing with greater community awareness and support. This success has led to increased recycling and a decrease in waste going to landfill.

At many locations, the CleanOut program has outgrown the capacity of the site. To reduce pressure on CleanOut events and to create a more sustainable solution, the EPA has funded and established permanent Community Recycling Centres (CRCs).

Community Recycling Centres make it easier and more convenient for NSW householders to safely dispose of their household problem waste. EPA funding through the Waste Less, Recycle More program has been used for upgrading facilities, building new facilities and developing and trialling innovative solutions where fixed CRC sites are not practicable. The CleanOut program continues across NSW as CRCs are rolling out. In future, the CleanOut program will transition to only collecting household chemicals as CRCs will be collecting all other core problem wastes.

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**Just wanted to tell you how impressed my friend and I were with the incredible organisation of the Chemical CleanOut day at the Clovelly car park. You made it extremely easy for us to get rid of some nasty chemicals which had been hanging around home for a while. Thank you so much. We were still talking about how well done it was today.**

**Participant, Randwick 2017**

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# Urban CleanOut program

The urban program covers the Sydney, Illawarra, Hunter and the Central Coast regions. Materials collected in 2016-17 declined slightly compared to 2015-16 with an 8% decrease of tonnages collected. Participation rates remained on par with only a 0.3% decrease in the number of households participating in the programs. These trends are attributed to establishing new Community Recycling Centres in areas where less quantities were collected at CleanOut events.

A total of 48,593 households used the CleanOut service in the urban area and 1,688,101 kilograms of household hazardous waste were collected in 2016-17.

The decrease in tonnes collected at the CleanOut events can be attributed to the opening of Community Recycling Centres

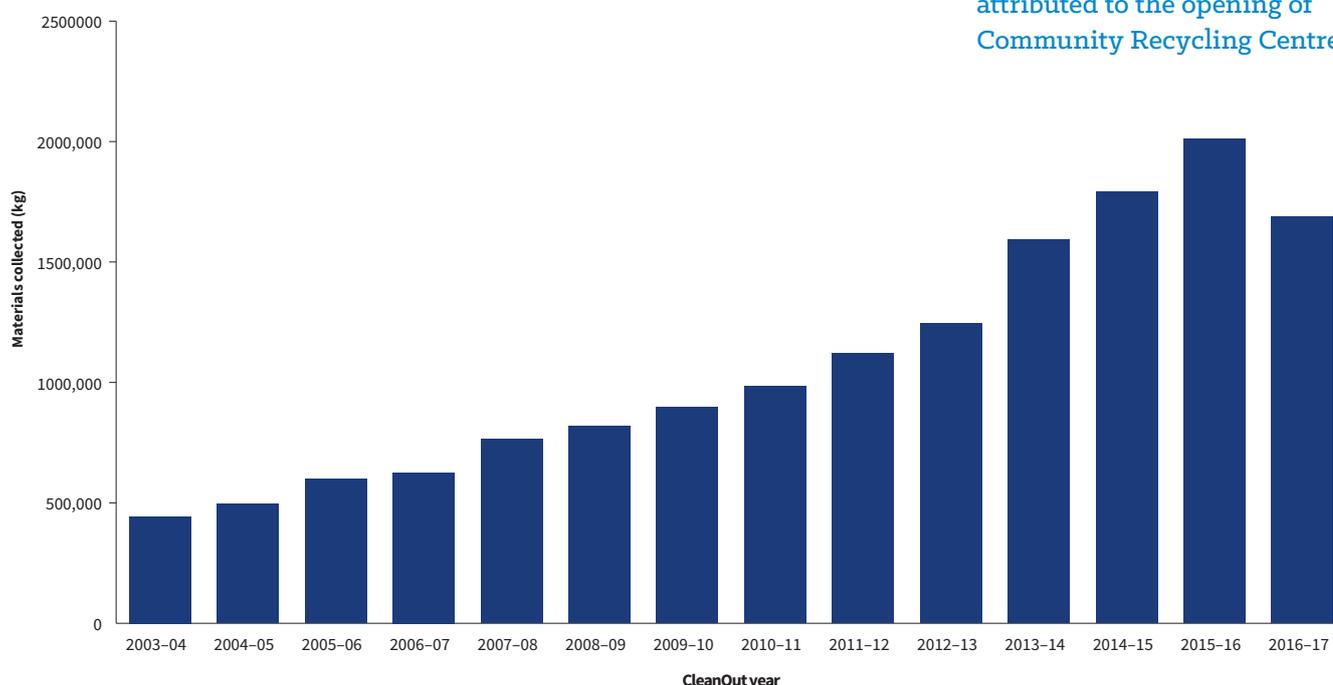


Figure 1: Quantity of materials collected (kg) per year (March 2003 to 30 June 2017)

Thanks for this great service!  
 This was the first time we used  
 it and my husband was very  
 impressed by the way it was  
 all organized.

Participant, Camden 2017

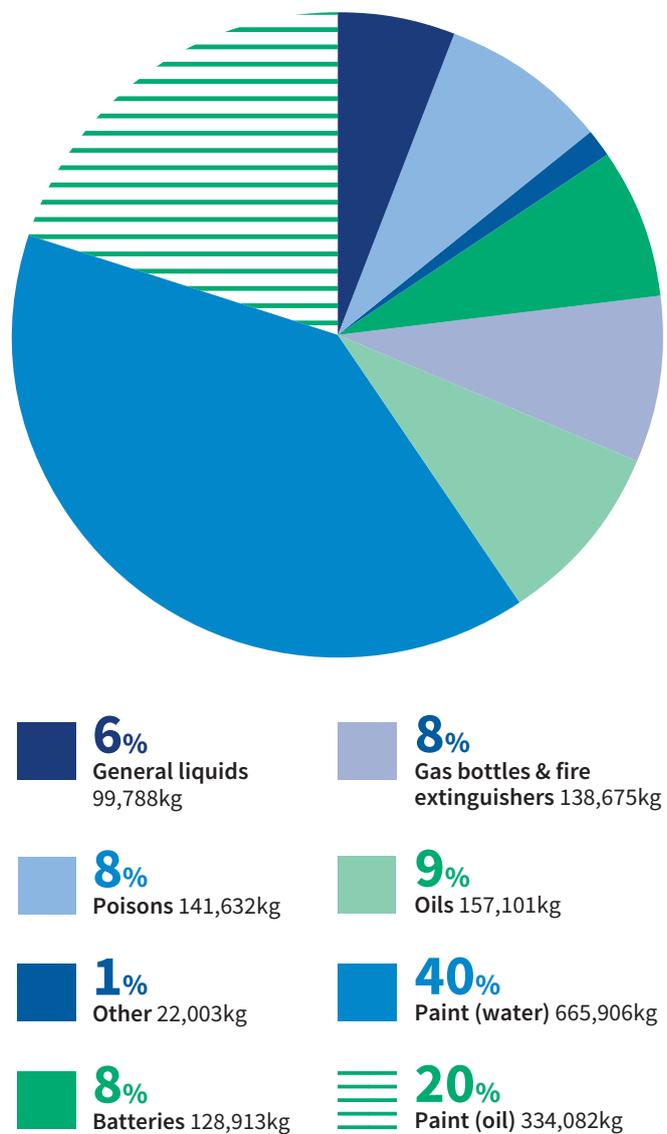


Figure 2: Total materials collected by group: Sydney, Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast regions (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017)

# Rural and regional CleanOut program

In rural and regional areas of NSW, the CleanOut program is coordinated by the Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWG). This is proving to be an effective way to provide the service state-wide.

## VRWGs in 2016–17:

- held 50 collection events
- collected 159,762 kilograms of potentially hazardous materials for recycling and/or safe disposal.

During 2016–17, CleanOut program events were held in the following regions:

- NetWaste – west and north west of New South Wales
- Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CBRJO) – south east regions of New South Wales
- Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) – New England and north-west regions of New South Wales
- MidWaste – mid-north coast of New South Wales
- North East Waste – north coast of New South Wales.

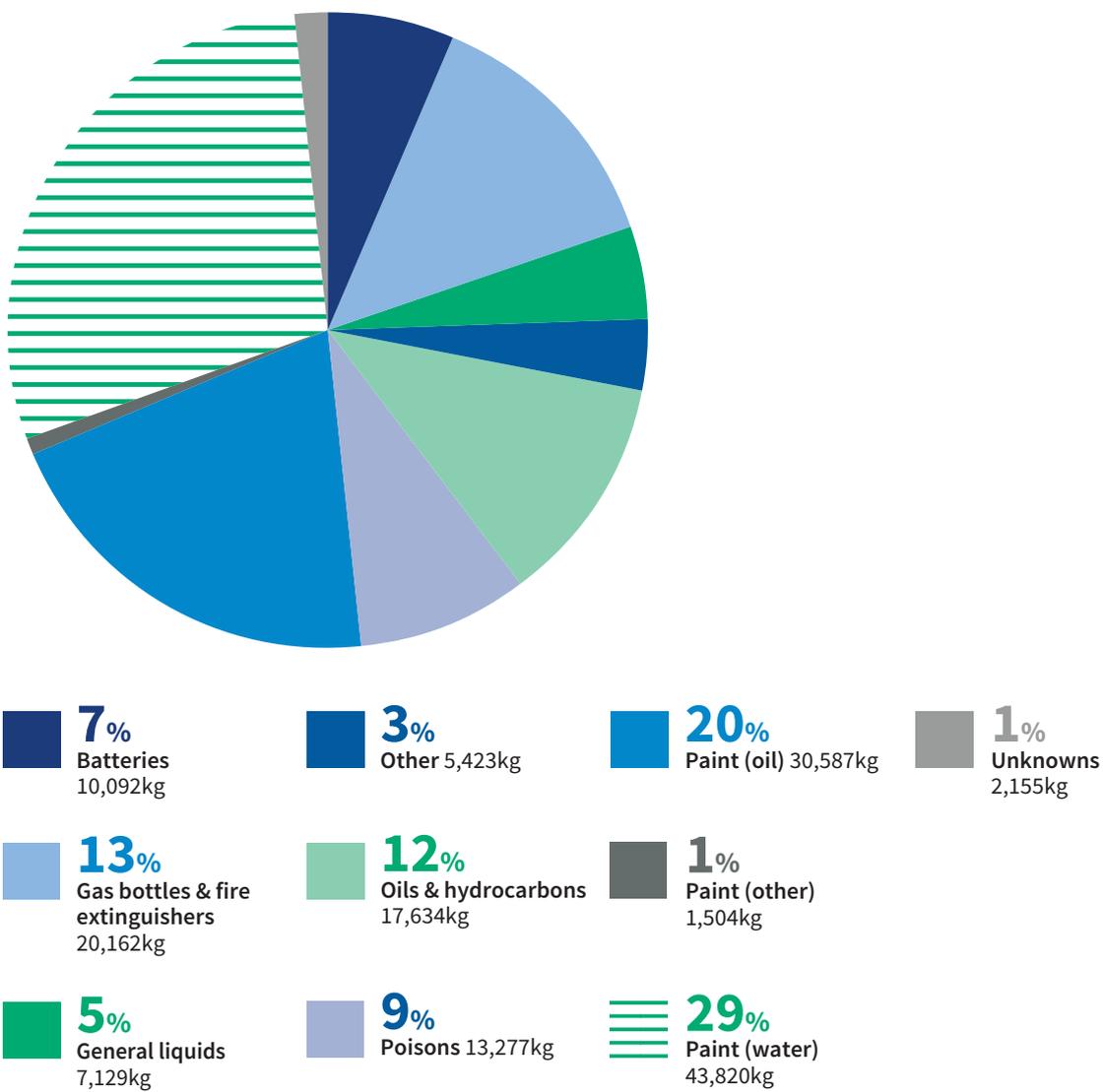


Figure 3: Total materials collected by group in rural and regional New South Wales (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017)



Photo: Wingecarribee CRC (EPA)

# Community Recycling Centres program

The NSW Environment Protection Authority and the NSW Environmental Trust supported the establishment of CRCs to complement the CleanOut program to provide a permanent solution for the disposal of problem waste.

The CRC program aims to provide NSW householders with safe and convenient locations for the disposal of problem wastes including:

- paint
- gas bottles and fire extinguishers
- household and car batteries
- motor oils
- fluorescent globes and tubes
- smoke detectors.

Twenty-six new CRCs were launched in 2016–17 at:

- |                |                   |               |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| • Albury       | • Gundagai        | • Shoalhaven  |
| • Bland        | • Inverell        | • Snowy River |
| • Canada Bay   | • Junee           | • Temora      |
| • Coolamon     | • Kiama           | • Tumbarumba  |
| • Cooma        | • Lockhart        | • Tumut       |
| • Cootamundra  | • Manildra        | • Tweed Heads |
| • Cowra        | • Mudgee          | • Urana       |
| • Greater Hume | • Northern Sydney | • Wentworth   |
| • Griffith     | • Randwick        |               |

Across these 26 sites, 306,140 kilograms of problem wastes were collected, bringing the total quantity collected for all 60 operational CRCs to 1,167,308 kilograms in 2016-17.

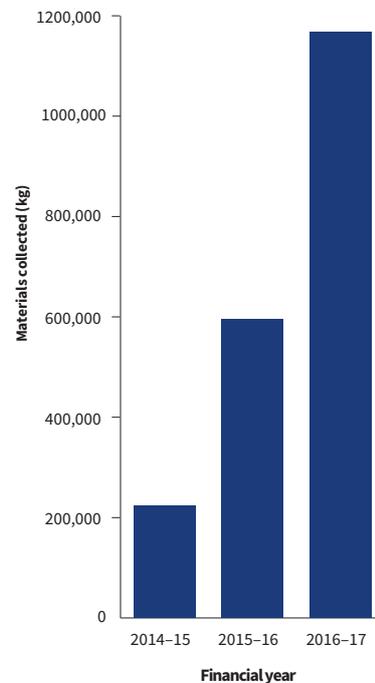


Figure 4: Quantity of materials collected (kg) at CRCs per year (1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017)

The 2016–17 financial year saw the completion of phase one of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative. Phase two that builds on the success of phase one, commenced in July 2017.

All successful grantees are supported by the NSW EPA throughout the design and construction phases and are provided with additional funding for communication and education activities. In addition, the EPA trained 226 staff at CRCs in the safe handling of dangerous goods and general facility operations to ensure the safety of staff and the public at CRCs.

Twelve independent audits of operational CRCs found a high level of compliance with operational standards.

The EPA continues to enhance the tailored online reporting tool, known as ‘dropoffwaste’ which is used by the EPA, contractors and CRC operators to ensure efficient operations.

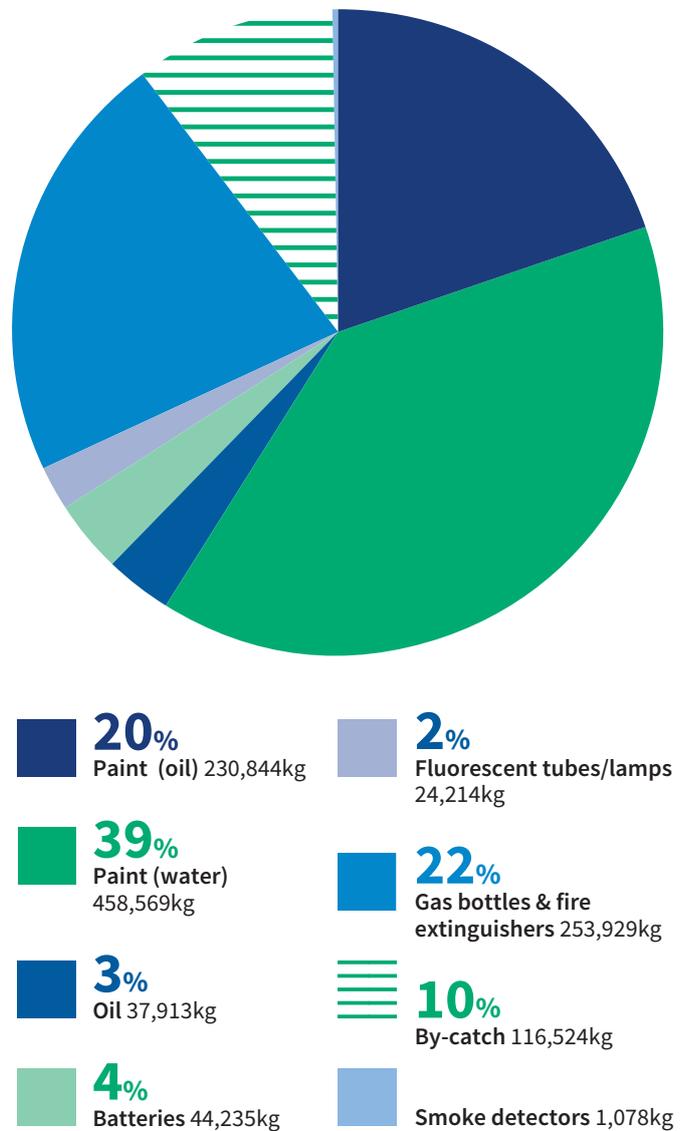


Figure 5: Total materials collected by CRCs (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017)



Photo: Batteries (EPA)

## Future directions

The NSW Government has invested a total of \$127 million over nine years (by 2021) into Improved Systems for Household Problem Waste. Phase two of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative will see \$57 million over four years injected into Household Problem Waste programs.

This includes:

- \$3 million for Community Recycling Centre infrastructure grants, with a focus on filling existing gaps to provide equitable access for all NSW residents
- \$37 million for Community Recycling Centre receptacles and processing
- \$9 million for household chemical collection and processing
- \$8 million for education, training and support for problem waste collection.

If successful in delivering these grants, the CRC network will provide one CRC for every 50,000 Sydney metropolitan residents amounting to more than 90% reach and one CRC for every 20,000 rural and regional residents amounting to more than 90% reach.

The CRC program will continue to make it easier for NSW householders to responsibly dispose of common problem wastes all year round.

The CleanOut program continues to be well received by NSW residents with attendance slightly decreasing in areas where CRCs have been established. The CleanOut program will continue and will transition to only collecting household chemicals as CRCs will collect all other core problem wastes.

By providing convenient accessible services, the EPA is increasing the state's capacity to capture and reuse recyclable material and preventing valuable resources from going to landfill. Combined, CRC and CleanOut programs have improved the management of household problem waste across NSW.

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