



# **Robyn Parker MP**

## **Minister for the Environment**

## **Minister for Heritage**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday, 8 August 2013

#### **NSW EPA AND MAITLAND CITY COUNCIL JOIN FORCES TO SUPPORT 2013 GARAGE SALE TRAIL**

Australia's fastest growing community and sustainability event, Garage Sale Trail, has attracted the support of Maitland City Council and NSW EPA for this national waste minimisation and reuse event.

Maitland City Council joins over 30 local councils across NSW to encourage local residents everywhere to come together on Saturday 26 October to reduce waste and reuse pre-loved items in a fun and creative way.

Environment Minister and Maitland MP Robyn Parker and Mayor of Maitland City Council Cr Peter Blackmore have joined forces today to launch Maitland's involvement in the campaign.

"Garage Sale Trail's aim of reducing waste and reusing items that otherwise might end up on our roadsides or in landfill is a very important one," Ms Parker said.

"It's a grassroots initiative that will reduce impact on the environment in our local area by encouraging us to think about how we can live more sustainably.

"The NSW Government is committed to reducing waste and it is great to see that the EPA is sponsoring fantastic initiatives such as this one that help to achieve that aim."

"It's a wonderfully creative and enjoyable way to spend the day. I'm sure that Maitland City Council residents will embrace Garage Sale Trail as it's the perfect community event in which everyone can take part – individuals, families, schools, local businesses, community groups and charities," Mayor Blackmore said.

Garage Sale Trail aims to promote positive community connections and provide a novel way for residents to connect with each other, make money and reduce waste at as many as 8,000 garage sales across the country on Saturday 26 October. The 2013 campaign is supported by the NSW EPA and eBay.

According to Darryl Nichols, co-founder of the not-for-profit Garage Sale Trail community campaign, the event to date has redistributed one million items from potential landfill, generated more than \$1 million in local economic activity, facilitated \$3 million in fundraising and created hundreds of thousands of neighbourly connections across Australia.

“Our partnership with local councils is key to the success of Garage Sale Trail and I’m delighted to have Maitland City Council involved in the event this year along with the state-wide support of the NSW EPA,” Nichols said.

Maitland City Council residents, local businesses, schools and community groups can register their garage sales now at [www.garagesaletrail.com.au](http://www.garagesaletrail.com.au) Registration is free and includes a seller webpage as well as tips about how to grab a bargain.

Ms Parker and Mayor Blackmore along with Maitland City Council councillors (TBC) will each donate an item they no longer use to a registered garage sale on Saturday 26 October to raise funds for charity.