



# **Robyn Parker MP**

## **Minister for the Environment**

## **Minister for Heritage**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday, 10 April 2014

#### **NEW WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE OPENS IN LAKE MACQUARIE**

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today opened a new community recycling centre for paints, oils, batteries and other household problem wastes in Lake Macquarie following a \$250,000 grant from the Environment Protection Authority.

Ms Parker was joined at the opening of the Awaba Community Recycling Centre by Charlestown MP Andrew Cornwell and Swansea MP Garry Edwards.

Ms Parker said the centre will open seven days a week to residents to freely dispose of household problem wastes that cannot be disposed of in kerbside bins and which are normally taken to the annual Household Chemical CleanOut events.

“This is the first community recycling centre funded by the EPA to be opened in NSW and is a great example of the waste improvements that councils can achieve when they apply for grants from the \$465.7 million waste initiative,” Ms Parker said.

“Over the next four years, \$70 million will be provided in local government grants to improve systems for household problem wastes across the state.”

Mr Cornwell said lower Hunter residents are the first to benefit with year-round access to safely dispose of their household problem wastes with free disposal costs funded by the EPA.

“The Household Chemical Clean Out program collects an average of 737,000 kg of chemical wastes each year and 85 per cent of that is household problem waste that can be collected at community recycling centres like this new one in Awaba,” Mr Cornwell said.

Mr Edwards said the centre will make it easier for people to do the right thing and dispose of their waste safely.

“We are not only helping to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping and waste to landfill but also protecting our environment and the health of our communities,” Mr Edwards said.

Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Cr Jodie Harrison, said the EPA grant has enabled a recycling facility that will bring long-term environmental benefits to the Lake Macquarie community.

“Lake Macquarie residents have always shown strong support for smarter ways to manage waste, and I’m sure the Community Recycling Centre will be no exception,” Cr Harrison said.

“This new facility will assist our City to continue to effectively and economically manage our waste and ensure we stay on track to achieve our target of a 70 per cent reduction in waste to landfill over 10 years.”

Located at Awaba Waste Management Facility, the Community Recycling Centre will be open between 8am and 4pm seven days a week and will take problem wastes not suitable for kerbside bins including:

- water-based and oil-based paints
- used motor and cooking oils
- lead-acid and hand-held batteries
- gas cylinders and fire extinguishers
- conventional tube and compact fluorescent lamps
- smoke detectors
- polystyrene, and
- electronic waste

The Centre will also accept surplus mixed dry recyclables.

The *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative has been developed to deliver long-term change to the way we create and manage waste in NSW. More information about the \$465.7 million *Waste Less, Recycle More* program can be found on the EPA website here: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/wasteless.htm>