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MEDIA RELEASE

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TEN MILLION KILOGRAMS OF CHEMICALS SAFELY RECYCLED

The NSW Government's Household Chemical CleanOut program has achieved an impressive milestone, collecting more than 10 million kilograms of potentially dangerous household waste and disposing of it safely.

Environment Minister Rob Stokes said the program, run in partnership between the Environment Protection Authority and councils, has helped hundreds of thousands of people dispose of potentially toxic waste in a safe and secure way.

"The ten million kilograms of waste is enough to fill four Olympic size swimming pools and is a significant amount of waste that otherwise would have ended up in landfill," Mr Stokes said.

"By choosing to dispose of your household problem waste in this way you are making your home safe and protecting the environment, our water and soil.

"Household paints, oils, batteries and gas bottles are the most common items dropped off by residents and make up 85 per cent of all the materials collected to date.

"More than 5.7 million kg of paint was collected over 11 years that is enough paint to cover the Sydney Harbour Bridge 62 times," Mr Stokes said.

"Over one million kilograms of oils, 655,000 gas bottles and 1 million batteries have also been collected and disposed of safely.

"The NSW Government is committed to reducing the impact problem waste has on the environment and has committed to \$70 million to the Household *Problem Waste* program, as part of the EPA's \$465.7 million *Waste Less Recycle More* initiative.

"As well as continuing the Household Chemical CleanOut events, \$70 million in funding is also being used to build a number of Community Recycle Centres in NSW which are designed to complement the services provided by the CleanOut program."

"Three of these centres are already open and operating in Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens and Liverpool. Offering local residents the chance to drop-off those common items such as paint tins, batteries and gas bottles on a permanent basis.

For more information about the Household Chemical CleanOut program visit:
<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/warr/householdproblemwaste.htm>