



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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ENCOURAGING LESS WASTE AT SYDNEY'S CROPFEST

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today encouraged people to take part in Sydney's CropFest tonight, an event aimed at encouraging education about new ways to reduce food waste.

Ms Parker said NSW households generate more than 800,000 tonnes of food waste each year, which is \$1,000 per household worth of good food going to waste.

"This equates to filling an Olympic swimming pool worth of food every nine hours," Ms Parker said.

"The Government is committed to reducing food waste and an important part of the \$465 million Waste Less Recycle More initiative has been the allocation of money to local government, community and not-for-profit groups to run waste avoidance programs.

"The Australian Youth Food Movement was successful in securing a Love Food Hate Waste grant and has used this money to organise CropFest and encourage people to adopt good food practices to reduce the impact of food waste on the environment.

"By buying only what you need, preparing and cooking correct amounts and storing food items properly we can reduce the amount of food we throw away by and the impact this has on the environment."

Co-founder of the Australian Youth Food Movement, Joanna Baker said CropFest is a celebration of 'wonky' fruit, and aims to encourage people to use the whole crop.

"We're only buying a fraction of what farmers actually grow – the produce we think is pretty. Farmers can't find customers to buy anything that doesn't fit our rigid expectations of what fresh produce 'should' look like," Ms Baker said.

Since it began in 2011 Love Food Hate Waste has offered more than \$800,000 in grants to local government and community groups.

CropFest will be held at St Marys Cathedral Square tonight from 5.30pm. For more information visit <http://www.youthfoodmovement.org.au/>

For more information about the EPA's Love Food Hate Waste program visit <http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au/>

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