

## **Brisbane encouraged to recycle at this year's EKKA**

The Queensland Government's \$1 million public place recycling initiative will see recycling bins available at this year's Royal Queensland Show, making it easy for visitors at the EKKA to recycle.

"The Ekka receives around half a million visitors and generates around 40 tonnes of waste, much of which has the potential to be recycled," said Andrew McNamara, Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation.

"One of the major problems with existing public recycling schemes is that people contaminate recyclables by putting food scraps into recycling bins.

"The new recycling and general waste bins feature new signage, making it easy for Ekka goers to see what goes in each bin, reducing contamination and the amount of rubbish going to landfill," Mr McNamara said.

Mr McNamara congratulated the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland (RNA) for its strong support of this recycling initiative.

"From the very first Show in 1876, the Ekka has always showcased the new initiatives and technologies of our State," said RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards.

"Recycling is of major importance and the more we stop, think and learn about the proper disposal of the rubbish we create, the better our planet will be for future generations of Ekka visitors."

Mr McNamara said as Queensland's population continues to grow, there is more pressure on Queensland's natural resources, such as water and energy.

"Increased recycling will not only reduce waste going into landfill and create a new life for these materials, but will also reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and water usage associated with extracting, transporting and processing new materials and products.

"It takes the same amount of energy to produce the metal for one aluminum can from virgin materials as it does to recycle the can 20 times," Mr McNamara said.

"Queenslanders have responded well to the challenge of kerbside recycling, but around half of all recyclable material is generated away from home. Queenslanders will now be able to continue recycling when they are out and about.

"It's clear that people want to do the right thing, and the new program will make it easy for people to recycle when they are away from home," he said.

Mr McNamara thanked Veolia, Cleanevent and Queensland Rail, for their partnership with the RNA and EPA to help to make this project a success.

[Veolia quote]

[Cleanevent quote]

The EPA's Public Place Recycling Program will see recycling bins placed at major public events, shopping centres and parks over the next two years.

Partnerships between the EPA, venue managers and Councils will be established to help Queenslanders continue their successful recycling efforts away from home.

For further information about public place recycling, visit the EPA website at [www.epa.qld.gov.au/recycle](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/recycle)

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#### **Note to Editors**

The Queensland Government is matching the industry contribution of \$0.5M under the National Packaging Covenant to reduce packaging waste across Australia.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/covenant/index.html>

Additional funding is also being provided by the Packaging Stewardship Forum <http://www.afgc.org.au/index.cfm?id=447>