

## From the Coast

### Recycling Week

Esperance's Waste Revolution front may have gone a little quiet, but there's still a lot happening behind the scenes. This week is Recycling Week, and from 1995 to 2015, Australia's population increased by 28 per cent and waste levels grew by 170 per cent! The Shire of Esperance produces around 20,000 tonnes of municipal waste every year and we need to do our bit to cut this number down.

We need to start reviewing our shopping habits. Sorting out the way we shop can greatly reduce what we waste. We don't need all those plastic bags. If you're going to buy oranges, why not consider putting them loose in your trolley rather than using a plastic bag. One of the things I do if I don't have my muslin veggie bags is put smaller vegetables into the paper mushroom bags and then make sure I tell the girl when I go through the checkout that I'm not actually buying mushrooms. Sorry if you shop in the same supermarket as me and all the mushroom bags are gone! You could also keep a big cardboard box in your car to put your shopping in or just restack the trolley to take to the car.

We might have to consider changing our favourite brands if they're not packed in recyclable material. As we put our hands on a piece of fruit or a packet, we need to ask ourselves, can we recycle it? Waste is a part of all our lives and it's up to us to solve the problem. It's what we choose to use and not use that will make a difference in the long run. Maybe it's time we started avoiding products that aren't in recyclable packets.

At the Community Waste Workshop in July, Esperance's Draft Waste Strategy was discussed and the Shire is still researching ideas that could be incorporated into the strategy. Since then the Shire has advertised for submissions from contractors that can assist the Shire to increase diversion of waste from landfill and these submissions are being reviewed.

Getting rid of rubbish, no matter how you do it, is very expensive whether it's recycled, composted, or goes into landfill; however it's generally cheaper to recycle. At the moment a total of 19 per cent of all our waste is diverted from landfill, if we get better at recycling we could reach our goal to increase this to 40 per cent over the next 10 years. Get shopping, get thinking and get recycling!