

# BIN HEALTH CHECKS

Let's get it  
sorted



**We are currently rolling out a Bin Health Check program across the Scenic Rim. You might see some members of our team around your neighbourhood lifting bin lids and carrying out visual checks.**

## WILL I BE PART OF THE PROGRAM?

This program involves a random selection of households, your household may or may not be a part of the program.

No formal notice will be provided to residents as the aim of this program is about providing information to residents on the correct use of bins and gathering data for future waste education programs.

## WHAT IS A BIN HEALTH CHECK?

A Bin Health Check is a simple 'lift of the lid' visual assessment of the general waste and recycling bins presented on the kerb on bin collection day.

### **We will not be searching through the contents of your bin!**

The checks will allow for our Waste Services team to gain an on-the-spot understanding of what items are being sorted into a household's general waste and recycling bins.

Please note, we are not collecting any 10c bottles and/or cans during the program.

### **Our Waste Services team are looking for:**

- **Recyclable materials** mistakenly placed in the red-lid general waste bin
- **Contamination** in the recycling bin (items that don't belong)
- **Bin presentation rate** of the area sampled
- **Fullness** of the bins presented.

## WHY ARE WE DOING THESE CHECKS?

We will gather information over a period of time to develop future waste education materials to support households in understanding correct general waste and recycling disposal habits.

We all play a part in collectively reducing contamination in the recycling stream and keeping waste out of our natural environment. The roll-out of this program is working towards our goal to provide sustainable and long-term waste solutions for our region.

## WHEN WILL THE CHECKS START?

Bin Health Checks will be carried out several times annually at various areas across the region. Checks may be conducted at random, at any time (prior to bin collection) on a bin collection day.

## HOW MANY TIMES WILL MY BIN BE TAGGED?

Households who are selected may be visited a number of times throughout the program. Households with a bin/s that have a high level of contamination might need to be revisited to see if any improvements in disposal habits have been made.



## WHY DO BIN HEALTH CHECKS WORK?

Bin health checks in other local government areas within Australia have proven to be a successful strategy for reducing contamination in yellow-lid recycling bins because they allow for the opportunity to provide on-the-spot feedback about the contents in your individual bins.

Previous kerbside bin audits have told us that 19% of all items placed in the yellow lid recycling bin should have **instead** been disposed of in the red-lid general waste bin.

When we work together and put the right items in the right bins, we can produce high quality recyclables, reduce waste to landfill and reduce processing and disposal costs.

## WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT TAGS MEAN?



### YOUR BIN LOOKS GREAT!

You'll receive this tag if your yellow-lid recycling bin shows little or no contamination.

Thank you for recycling right. Your efforts help recycle valuable resources.



### UH-OH! WE SEE A MIX-UP!

You'll receive this tag if your yellow-lid recycling bin is contaminated and a friendly note on what waste to leave out next time.

## WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT MY BINS TO BE CHECKED??

The contents of the household bins are the legal possession of the property owner when on private land, however, once the bins are left out for collection, the contents become the property of Council. Officers will conduct a simple, quick and visual assessment – not a manual search through the contents of household bins. Information about individual kerbside bins will not be published.

## MY BIN WAS INSPECTED AND IT WAS NOT COLLECTED, WHAT DO I DO?

Remember, Bin Health Checks focus on education rather than enforcement.

If a bin/s is found to have a high level of contamination, the bin/s will not be able to be collected from the kerb until the contaminants have been removed.

If the contaminants have been removed and you would like your bin/s to be collected before the next collection date, an unscheduled collection charge

will apply, per the current Fees and Charges register. Refer to Council's website for more details.

## HOW WILL I RECEIVE FEEDBACK?

After an assessment of the general waste and recycling bins have been completed, a tag will be placed through the handle of the yellow-lid recycling bin.



## WHAT TYPE OF FEEDBACK WILL I RECEIVE?

The tags will show you what items you should and should not put in each bin and why. The tags are designed with a happy or shocked face to indicate whether they are being used correctly or incorrectly.



## WHAT CAN I DO TO RECEIVE A HAPPY-FACE TAG?

Remember to **follow these simple tips before** placing recyclable items in your yellow-lid recycling bin:

- ✓ Keep recyclables loose (don't bag them)
- ✓ Flatten cardboard
- ✓ Remove caps and lids off bottles and jars (lids can go in the red-lid general waste bin)
- ✓ Always **rinse dirty containers** first
- ✓ **If in doubt, leave it out** (pop it in your red-lid general waste bin).

