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MEDIA RELEASE

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Toowoomba residents help social enterprise RRA divert 1,200 tonnes of waste

Residents of Toowoomba helped social enterprise Resource Recovery Australia (RRA) divert 1,200 tonnes of waste from landfill in 2020-21 – equivalent to more than 133 garbage trucks full of waste.

Announcing the result during National Recycling Week 2021 (8-14 November), RRA General Manager Matt Curtis said the community had shown a real commitment to reducing waste through reuse, repair and recycling.

“The Toowoomba community has helped us to divert 1,200 tonnes of waste from landfill in the 2020/21 financial year – a big part of our national total of 7,653 tonnes.”

“Diverting waste from landfill has positive impacts on our environment. With our #Waste2Wages model, waste diversion means local jobs and moving towards a circular economy with less reliance on virgin materials,” Mr Curtis said.

RRA is a national social enterprise that works in waste management to keep waste out of landfill, create jobs for people experiencing barriers to work and to engage and connect people in our communities. RRA operates in NSW, QLD and the ACT across eight regions, opening new sites in Taree NSW and Toowoomba and Rockhampton in Queensland in 2020-21.

RRA has been working with Toowoomba Regional Council since 2018 and provided 18 employment opportunities across two sites at Wellcamp and Kleinton in 2020-21. The organisation provided 143 opportunities nationally.

RRA operates the Reviva reuse shops at Wellcamp and Kleinton and provides additional waste diversion services, including expanded polystyrene processing and operation of the resource recovery areas, on behalf of Toowoomba Regional Council.

Toowoomba Regional Council Water and Waste portfolio leader Cr Nancy Sommerfield said Council was pleased to partner Resource Recovery Australia to help spread the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling precious resources, in line with strategic goals.

#WASTE2WAGES

“RRA’s work highlights the best use of resources and shows how the ‘circular economy’ places value on materials that are recycled for a new purpose,” Cr Sommerfield said.

RRA Toowoomba Manager Rita Duffy said they appreciate the support provided by Toowoomba Regional Council.

“The Toowoomba community’s support of Reviva reuse shops and recycling has been amazing. The whole team is proud to be a part of our community’s move towards a circular economy.”

To celebrate National Recycling Week 2021, RRA is also running its annual Reuse, Repair and Repurpose competition. Toowoomba residents are encouraged to enter by submitting a photo of their reuse, repair or repurpose project. The national winner will receive a \$250 Visa gift card, and a local winner will score a \$150 Visa gift card.

Entries close at midday on Friday 12 November 2021, with winners announced on Friday 19th November 2021. To enter visit the RRA website, [Reuse, Repair and Repurpose competition](#).

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#WASTE2WAGES