

# GARBAGE & LANDFILL

Garbage is the term given to waste which can't be recovered through kerbside recycling or specialised recycling services. If you can't find another use for these items, they must be disposed of via the red lid garbage bin.

## WHAT ITEMS GO IN MY GARBAGE BIN?

The following items should be placed in your garbage bin:



Plastic bags/packets



Bagged garbage



Non-recyclable metal



Polystyrene (foam)



Food



Garden waste



Ceramics



Drinking glasses & window glass



Non-recyclable hard plastic



Tissues, paper towel & sanitary items

The following items should **NOT** be placed in your garbage bin:



Recyclables



Chemicals & chemical drums



Building materials



Rocks & soil



Oil, paint & batteries



Electrical items, fluoro globes & tubes



Gas bottles & fire extinguishers



Syringes & medical waste

## WHERE CAN I DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD PROBLEM (HAZARDOUS) WASTE?

Household problem waste such as fluoro globes and tubes, household and car batteries, motor and other oils, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and paint can be taken to Community Recycling Centres (CRC) to be recycled for free. Your local Community Recycling Centre is located at the Gunnedah Waste Management Depot, on 418 Quia Road, Gunnedah. The CRC is a fantastic resource for reducing waste and protecting waste facility workers from hazardous, potentially explosive items that may have otherwise ended up in kerbside bins.

# GARBAGE & LANDFILL



Another pollutant known as 'leachate', is a highly toxic liquid that accumulates at the bottom of landfills. Modern day landfills have a number of technologies in place to capture and treat leachate to prevent it from escaping and damaging the local environment.

The process of landfilling waste is not optimal, however it is the only viable method of disposing of waste materials that cannot currently be recycled or reprocessed.

## WHAT DOES MY GENERAL WASTE GO?

Your general waste is sent to the Gunnedah Waste Management Depot, where it is compacted and buried in landfill. The landfill opened in 1985 and is projected to last 50 years. However, by reducing our rate of waste production, we can extend the lifespan of the landfill.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF LANDFILL?

Sending potentially recoverable waste to a landfill not only results in the loss of valuable resources, it also generates a number of environmental impacts.

Firstly, in order to create a new landfill, an area must be cleared in preparation. Land clearing can result in habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation - the damaging effects of which, lead to a loss of biodiversity (the variety of plant and animal life).

Excessive waste generation then reduces the life of a landfill, necessitating the creation of new sites, and so minimising the land space available for economic, environmental or social purposes that benefit our local community.

It should be noted that landfills are not designed to break down waste, they only store it. Although many of the waste materials will eventually decompose (hard plastics, as we know, likely won't), it is extremely slow. Some materials can take hundreds or even thousands of years to breakdown. When organic material such as food waste is buried in landfill, it breaks down anaerobically (without the presence of oxygen) and in doing so, releases harmful greenhouse gases, including large quantities of the greenhouse gas methane, which is 24 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

