

Hinchinbrook Shire Council's Bin Tagging Education Program

The objective of the Bin Tagging Education Program is to assist in reducing contamination rates of household recycling bins throughout the Hinchinbrook Shire.



What is bin tagging?

The Bin Tagging Education Program (BTEP) is a direct bin-by-bin education program aimed at improving the recycling habits of Hinchinbrook Shire households.

The program involves a simple visual assessment of the contents of the household recycling bin, followed by individual feedback about how the household can ensure their recycling bin is as healthy as can be.

Why is Council bin tagging?

The Hinchinbrook Shire currently faces major issues associated with the contamination rates of household recycling bins. This issue is causing loads of recycling being rejected at the Material Recovery Facility in Townsville and returned to be disposed of at the Warrens Hill Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre.

Bin Tagging is a successful strategy proven to reduce contamination in recycling within other local government areas by providing on-the-spot feedback about the contents of the recycling bin. Delivery of the program in South Australia and Western Australia has reported a decrease in contamination of up to a 48%.

Who is being tagged?

No household will be specifically targeted. Council is only assessing the contents of the recycling bins presented for collection. The number of bins assessed will depend on how many bins the assessors will manage to evaluate within the timeframe provided.

Households showcasing heavy contamination may be revisited to ensure improved recycling practices by the residents.



What is Council looking for?

Council will be visually assessing the contents of the household recycling bins put out for collection (note that all bins may not be assessed). However, assessors will also be looking for the following in regards to both household bins (general waste and recycling):

- Overflows (waste overflowing the bin);
- Partially open lids;
- Incorrect placements; and,
- Damage.

If a bin shows no or little contamination the household will be provided a green bin tag. A bin with medium contamination will be given an orange tag with feedback on what to exclude moving forward. Finally, if a bin is heavily contaminated it will be provided a red tag and the waste truck driver will be instructed to empty it into the landfill compartment of the truck.



Council will be revisiting red taggers. Next time, if the recycling bin is still heavily contaminated, the bin will not be serviced until the contaminants have been removed.

What will happen with the information collected?

Council will be analysing what the main contaminants are in the household recycling bins to determine how waste education can be improved.

What if I don't want my bin to be assessed?

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.

What are the repercussions if I continue to contaminate my recycling bin?

Local Law No. 8 (Waste Management) 2018 stipulates that an occupier of a premise must –

- Store waste in appropriate waste containers;
- Store only recyclable waste in the recycling bin;
- Keep the bins clean and in good repair; and
- Ensure that the bins are securely covered, except when waste is being placed in, or removed from, the container or the container is being cleaned.

A resident found in breach of these conditions can be fined up to \$2,669.

For a copy of Local Law No. 8 (Waste Management), please visit Council's website, local law page.

For further information about waste and recycling, please visit Council's website or Facebook page. You can also contact Council by calling (07) 4776 4600.

