



Coldstream Recovery and Waste Transfer Station

Green organics processing and compost sales area upgrade

Infrastructure upgrade boost green recycling

Why?

Yarra Ranges Recycling Services (YRRS) operates the Coldstream Recovery and Waste Transfer Station. The station receives and transports Yarra Ranges Council's kerbside green organics, and receives and processes bundled tree and shrub branches from public and commercial sources.

YRRS had developed a closed loop that allowed the Coldstream community in the Yarra Ranges Council region to buy mulch and compost products derived from its organic waste.

In order to improve sales, YRRS gained support from the Victorian Government's Metropolitan Organics Strategy Fund to build five product bays to house commercial mulch and compost products, and to increase the size of its green organics reception, processing and transfer area.

How?

In order to minimise disruption to the trucks using the Coldstream Recovery and Waste Transfer Station, concreting works in the reception area was conducted in two stages. Stage one was completed in November 2014, while the second stage was completed the following month. The five new concrete product bays were completed by September 2015.

The larger concrete floor provides a stable and much safer base from which to unload green organics, while the product bays offer a more professional and appealing display of the compost and mulch

products. Customer feedback suggested that the more professional appearance provided more confidence in the products' quality.

In addition to these infrastructure upgrades, YRRS developed a communication campaign to promote the revitalised transfer station to the public. The campaign included a website that introduced customers to everything they needed to know about the products and Coldstream Recovery and Waste Transfer Station, while offering a clear reminder of what waste materials YRRS accepted at Coldstream and other stations.





What was the outcome?

The upgrade to the facility and accompanying communications strategy led to increases in the amount of organic material recovered and distributed back to the community.

In 2015, 15,200 tonnes of organics was received at Coldstream Recovery and Waste Transfer Station's newly concreted reception area – a 12 per cent increase on 2014 figures.

In the 11 months after the product bays were constructed (September 2015 to July 2016), public mulch sales reached 5,680m³ – a 66 per cent increase on sales recorded in the same period in 2014/15.

The new product bays make it easier for staff to control stock as it is now all contained within the bays. Dust emissions have also been reduced because of the bays' walls, which limit the stock's vulnerability to windy conditions. The products are also no longer contaminated by hardstand materials or other products because they are on a concrete pad that physically separates them.

As well as the noted increase in drop offs and environmental benefits, the concreted reception area has boosted safety and productivity at the Coldstream site.

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