



MINUTES

Climate Change Working Group Meeting

22 November 2021

**MINUTES OF THE KYOGLE COUNCIL
CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP MEETING
HELD AT KMI HALL SUPPER ROOM, ROXY LANE, KYOGLE
ON MONDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 9.45AM**

Meeting commenced: 9.45am

Acknowledgement of Country

Cr John Burley (Chair) acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Bundjalung people and acknowledged Elders past, present and emerging.

Present: Cr John Burley (Chair), Dr Arthur Webb, Robert Drury, Dr Kym Watling, Kieran Somerville, Dr Genevieve Larsen, Dr Terry De Lacy, Graham Kennett, Matt Sorenson, Scott Antcliff, Judy Faulks.

Online: Cr Maggie May, Suzie Coulston.

Invited guests: Jeanie McKillop (North East Waste) - online; Eden Campbell (Kyogle Council).

1. Apologies

Cr Kylie Thomas, Shane Noon (left Kyogle Council), Christopher Hoare, Maree Brennan.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The Working Group agreed to confirm the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group meeting held on 13 September 2021. **MOVED:** Kym Watling **SECONDED:** Arthur Webb

3. Welcome to New Members

EOIs closed on 24/9/21 and the nominations were considered at the October Council meeting. Three (rather than two) representatives were chosen to fill the community member vacancies on the CCWG. The Terms Of Reference has been updated, stating that there can be up to seven community representatives on the CCWG. Introduction and welcome to the three new community representatives – Dr Terry De Lacy, Chris Hoare and Kieran Somerville.

Kieran Somerville – Experience and skills: environmental consultant, natural resource management, photographer and co-managing family farm. Degree in Environmental Management (Sustainable Development) and currently studying at SCU – Graduate Certificate in Regenerative Agriculture. Joined CCWG because feels it is important that Kyogle LGA builds resilience, adapts and mitigates climate change, while preventing further damage. Wants to look at solutions.

Dr Terry De Lacy – Half time research professor with University of Melbourne. Is aware that Kyogle Council setting targets for emission reduction and undertaking work to build resilience. Owns a cattle property at Eden Creek. Overwhelming risk to cattle is through climate change – drought, fire, flood. Rapidly increasing consumer/policy resistance to meat due to methane emissions. The broader agricultural and meat industry need to address emissions otherwise feels there is a poor future ahead. Kyogle Council can play a role in this - influential by its' actions, strategies, can work with government to get projects going, work with LLS, etc. Joined CCWG to see if we can do things as a Working Group.

Chris Hoare – apology for the meeting. Can provide an introduction at next meeting.

4. Presentation by Jeanie McKillop, NE Waste – Regional Waste Management, Programs and Initiatives

Jeanie McKillop, Coordinator with NE Waste, provided an overview of the role of NE Waste, their waste programs and initiatives. A summary of the presentation is provided at the back of the minutes and the full presentation will be distributed with the minutes.

Major discussion points:

- Recent studies have been focussed on calculating greenhouse gas (methane) emission within Council LGAs that have a FOGO (food and garden organics) service. Three Councils are undertaking flare and gas capture. The easiest way to get the methane product down is through introducing a FOGO service. Food waste avoidance is also important along with ways to focus on recycling organics.
- Where to take specific items for recycling – every Council is different, no central place to drop off too hard to recycle things. For more information go online to 'recycling near me' (Planet Ark site) at <https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/> NE Waste could provide a list on their website (<http://www.newaste.org.au/recycleright/>)

5. Presentation by Eden Campbell, Kyogle Council – Overview of Waste Management in Kyogle LGA

Eden Campbell, Project Officer with Kyogle Council, provided an overview of waste management in Kyogle LGA. A summary of the presentation is provided at the back of the minutes and the full presentation will be distributed with the minutes.

Major discussion points:

- Contamination rate of Kyogle kerbside collection in recent audit is of concern.
- Concern expressed regarding needles found in recent audit of domestic waste. Source?
- IGA as the largest supermarket in Kyogle LGA – it was queried where their food waste goes (i.e. food products not quite out of date, etc) and whether Kyogle IGA are part of a business program. **Response provided:** NE Waste advised that Metcash IGA have been involved with the Food Donation Feasibility Study program in 2018/19 and donate directly to the Foodbank program in metropolitan areas. Metcash IGA have developed the 'Food for Change' app which is for use by food relief organisations and those IGA stores that choose to sign up (so that the process of regular food rescue and donation can be managed). They advised that none of the 16+ IGA stores in the Northern Rivers region are currently signed up to this program, but were looking to drive the process forward. Kyogle IGA currently do not donate food items. IGA stores are independently run though and do not have to sign up to the 'Food for Change' app in order to donate food (e.g. an IGA store in Tweed took part in NE Wastes' advertising campaign and are generous donors of food to their local community).
- In order to move to net zero emissions, Council is undertaking greenhouse gas emission reduction (as per Action Plan). In order to look at greenhouse gas emissions from waste, Council could quantify greenhouse gas (methane) emissions from the organics/FOGO component (currently 49% of residual waste) going into landfill to assist with devising methane reduction strategies and actions.
- With regards to waste management services, Graham Kennett reported that Kyogle Council is looking at all options, particularly with the waste service contract due to expire in June 2023. Council will investigate options to recycle the high component of organics currently disposed of through the residual bin to landfill (e.g. FOGO service), what services could be provided, what we can do inhouse or with neighbouring Councils, finding cost effective end uses. Plan to consult with community before June next year regarding Council's targets, additional costs if waste

service changed and canvassing willingness to pay for a change in service. Council has made significant progress in waste management over time.

- Council to consider and investigate as part of a waste management review an annual collection within the community, CRS at Transfer Stations, a soft plastic initiative looking at a soft plastic collection point at Kyogle Waste Facility for larger volumes of soft plastic not suitable for Kyogle Post Office REDcycle collection point (possibly transferring this material directly to Replas).
- Education and awareness recognised as being important including using the Community Newsletter.

Actions:

- (1) Quantify greenhouse gas (methane) emissions from the organics/FOGO component going into landfill (currently 49% of residual waste) to assist with devising methane reduction strategies and actions.
- (2) Consider and investigate as part of a waste management review an annual collection within the community, CRS at Transfer Stations, a soft plastic initiative looking at a soft plastic collection point at Kyogle Waste Facility for larger volumes of soft plastic not suitable for Kyogle Post Office REDcycle collection point (possibly transferring this material directly to Replas).
- (3) Build on community engagement, awareness and understanding of waste management, waste separation and recycling.

6. Establishing focus areas within the CCWG – Matt Sorenson

Discussion of proposal that each member select 2-4 focus areas to concentrate on with the aim to be across progress, issues, solutions; reporting relevant information back to the group that require a decision/promotion. Will involve groups having their own discussions in between meetings and bringing items back to the CCWG. Look at collective solutions. CCWG has a broader scope outside of Council to look at community-wide issues.

Focus areas and nominations include:

- Waste (including recycling, waste to energy, *etc*) – Judy
- Energy (including solar, battery storage, EVs, *etc*) – Matt, Rob
- Agriculture (including regenerative agriculture, carbon storage/projects, biochar, *etc*) – Kieran, Terry, John B.
- Adverse events - fire (including cultural burning), extreme heat, drought, water supply to the wider community, flooding, mental health – Arthur, Terry, Scott
- Water supply and sewer – Matt, Graham
- Ecological health (including pollution, Landcare, *etc*) – Rob, Kieran, Judy
- Communication and advocacy (including different ways to communicate with the community. Linked to the Community Engagement Plan developed by the CCWG) – John B., Maggie, Suzie.

Some available information on carbon storage noted: 'The Farmer' has articles on soil carbon. Casino Co-operative undertaking a soil carbon project. Background information on a baseline data capture project submitted as part of a funding application for Kyogle High School, noting contacts (e.g. DPI).

Actions:

- (1) CCWG members absent from the meeting to nominate their preferred focus areas.

7. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Rob Drury and Matt Sorenson

Refer attachments - 'Investigations into the Purchase and Installation of Electric Vehicle and Scooter Chargers' report to Council in November' and 'Northern Rivers Electric Vehicle Strategy'

Rob Drury noted that there was funding available for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. The 'Northern Rivers Electric Vehicle Strategy' did not mention Kyogle (as was a Tweed/Byron Strategy). Matt Sorenson noted that Council are investigating EV charging stations (refer report to Council). There are a range of EV charging types available, although the 'Level 8' fast charging stations along with battery exchange points are recommended in 'Northern Rivers EV Strategy'. Installing a network of these fast chargers in the region would address the main barrier of 'range anxiety' for prospective travellers. The NSW Government have released their 'EV Strategy' which includes: rebates for new EV purchases, fleet incentives to help local councils and businesses buy EVs, funding for EV charging stations. Local Government Procurement have drafted and are soon to release a tender 'For Supply of Electric, Petrol & Diesel Light Vehicles and Charging Station Consulting and Infrastructure Services'. Council has signed up to participate in this LGP tender and will have a better idea of cost of the charging stations once that is completed (expected April 2022). Once costings received through this process, Council will need to build a Business Case. Council investigating own fleet.

8. Action Plan – Status (attached)

Graham Kennett provided an update on the process of developing the Community Strategic Plan. A new 20 year vision will form part of Community Strategic Plan. Due to the delay in the local government elections, there will only realistically be four months for the new Council to come up with a new Plan (required by June 2022). It is envisaged that existing Council plans (e.g. Local Strategic Planning Statement, Sustainable Communities Action Plan, Adaptation Report, flood studies, etc) will be brought together to form the basis of initial discussions with the new Council in order to formulate the framework for the Community Strategic Plan. There will also be facilitated workshops within Council. Community consultation will follow this process with a much tighter timeframe allowed for this. Advocacy to be incorporated. The CCWG needs to further discuss what needs to be included in the Community Strategic Plan (refer Action 8.1 Meeting 21/6/21).

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Kyogle Council Community Strategic Plan – input from CCWG

10. Close of Meeting – 12.40pm**11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 7 March 2022 at 9.30am (for morning tea) with the meeting to commence at 9.45am-12.30pm in the KMI Hall Supper Room, Roxy Lane, Kyogle. The meeting was subsequently rescheduled to Monday, 30 May 2022 (at the same time and venue).

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Climate Change Working Group Meeting held on 30 May 2022.



JOHN BURLEY, CHAIRPERSON

Item 4 Summary of the presentation by Jeanie McKillop, NE Waste – Regional Waste Management, Programs and Initiatives (also refer to the presentation)

Slide 1 - There are 8 voluntary regional waste groups across NSW. Council can be a member by choice. The NE Waste regional waste group has been operating for 24 years and covers 7 Councils within the northern rivers, including Kyogle Council.

Slide 2 – NE Waste employs 6 Coordinators and a number of casual staff (10-12 people). The role of NE Waste is to act as a conduit between state and local government, helping Councils to interpret legislation and ensuring the regions are included in decision making. They secure additional regional funding for projects through grants; deliver a number of programs on behalf of member Councils ensuring consistent messaging across the region; engage with various stakeholders (community, schools, businesses, Councils) to improve waste management practices; look for regional solutions and innovations for waste management problems and issues; lobby industry and government; provide input into regulatory/legislative change; collect and analyse data and report on how Councils are performing.

Slide 3 – NE Waste receive annual operational funding through EPA, Better Waste and Recycling Fund (BWRF) and through contributions by Councils. The operational funds are used for regional engagement/governance, education projects, business projects, food donation, illegal dumping and asbestos, training, Aboriginal projects and to undertake an audit program. NE Waste currently has received grant funding linked to Bin Trim, Love Food Communities, Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) and Illegal Dumping. In addition to these grants, NE Waste are seeking grants for marine litter, food donation, organics education, illegal dumping and projects on Aboriginal lands.

Slide 4 – Regional messaging is important and to do this NE Waste maintain a strong social media and media presence. Resources are made available to member Councils. Most Councils employ Waste Educators. Some current campaigns relate to illegal dumping, asbestos disposal, recycling items and organics, reducing food waste.

Slide 5 – NE Waste run school and community-based programs. They have a van that is equipped with resources for these school and community events.

Slide 6 – Community engagement in Kyogle has involved: online workshops, a compost and beeswax wrap workshop, Love Food Hate Waste workshops, working directly with preschools, PR and media training.

Slide 7 – Food donation program – there are two food donation agencies in Kyogle that have engaged in this educational program.

Slide 8 – Business programs – NE Waste has worked with around 30 Kyogle businesses in programs like 'Circular Cafes' (promoting the circular economy).

Slide 9 – Community Recycling Centres (CRC) – have one located at Kyogle Landfill and have 3 Community Recycling Stations (CRS) throughout the community. These accept problem waste.

Slide 10 – Litter and Illegal Dumping – undertake projects using grant funding, provide training and education/communication resources for Councils to bring about behaviour change.

Slide 11 – NE Waste undertake data gathering – audits, Lift the Lid, WARR Returns, Surveys of residents. Recently undertook a domestic kerbside waste audit at Kyogle.

Slide 12 – Have developed important partnerships across the region, including local Councils.

Slide 13 – Biggest project conducted in Kyogle LGA was at Muli Muli community. A waste site was rehabilitated by the community. Cost \$360,000. Project won the Premiers award.

Slide 14 – Where waste management is heading: Emission savings due to introduction of FOGO (food and garden organics) services. Total NE regional greenhouse gas savings due to FOGO services by Local Governments is 75,269 tonnes CO₂e. Are documenting the amount of FOGO diverted and emissions abated.

Item 5 Summary of the presentation by Eden Campbell, Kyogle Council – Overview of Waste Management in Kyogle LGA (also refer to the presentation)

Key policies influencing waste management include (slide 1):

- *China's Swords Policy 2018* – was a major turning point that disrupted the supply and demand of waste globally. Australia had been sending 1.25 million tonnes of recycled material to China in 2016/17 before an export ban came into effect. This policy meant that China began to stringently enforce restrictions on the importation of recycled materials. As a result, Australia has had to establish processes in Australia to accommodate the major waste industry shift. In 2020 the Council of Australian Governments agreed to the export ban of unprocessed plastic, paper, glass and tyres; and to take greater responsibility for managing and processing any waste generated.
- *NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041* (Stage 1: 2021-2027) – This 20 year strategy has specific measures to manage waste in NSW and places expectation on Kyogle Council to help transition the LGA towards key targets. The targets are to reduce total waste generated by 10% per person by 2030; have an 80% average recovery rate from all waste streams by 2030; significantly increase the use of recycled content by governments and industry; phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2025; and halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030 (by mandating the separation of food and garden organics or FOGO). Is reflective of the *National Waste Policy Action Plan* (2019). (Slides 4, 5, 7, 8)
- *National Plastic Plan 2021* – Plastic is one of the key waste streams identified and being targeted by state and federal government actions and funding. Key reforms in NSW – Phasing out problematic single-use plastic items; providing incentives for manufacturers and producers to design out problematic plastics; having government agencies preference recycled content and invest in research and pilots for recycling innovation; tighter environmental controls for energy from waste; mandating the source separation of FOGO for households by 2030 and selected businesses by 2025; incentivising biogas generation from waste materials (slide 9).

The new guiding principal for waste is the 'circular economy' (slide 3) – where waste is seen as a resource and something that can be repurposed, reused, recycled and remade into something new (thus designing out waste and pollution). The circular economy aims to keep products, materials, equipment and infrastructure in use for longer. Waste materials and energy should become input for other processes. NSW is working on building the infrastructure, services and industry needed to sort, process and recycle our own waste.

Projected residual waste (slide 6) – Over the next 20 years, NSW waste volumes are forecast to grow from 21 million tonnes (2021) to nearly 37 million tonnes (2041). In 2014, NSW set a target of diverting from landfill 75% of all waste by 2021. However, in 2019 NSW were falling short of the target, reaching only 65%. To ensure the goals are met, NSW Government will require Councils to preference products that contain recycled content.

Global plastic production has increased from 0 tonnes in 1950 to over 370 million tonnes in 2015 (slide 10). By 2023 at least 80% of supermarket products are to display the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) and/or REDcycle labels on soft plastic items accepted through the REDcycle program. This will help customers to correctly recycle their packaging and identify what items are accepted through this recovery stream. By 2025 the national packaging target will see: 100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable; 70% of plastic packaging goes on to be recycled or

composted; 50% average recycled content within packaging (20% of plastic packaging); and problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging phased out.

Kyogle Parameters (slide 12) provides an overview of waste collection, diversion and recovery since 2015/16. Overall domestic recovery rate is 37% of the last reporting period. This recovery rate has decreased in this time and the waste levy has increased substantially. In 2020/21: total recycling material 367 tonnes, drop off organics 253 tonnes, total residual waste to landfill 2,734 tonnes. The annual domestic waste per capita was 516kg in 2020/21 within Kyogle LGA.

Waste material recovery streams in Kyogle LGA (slides 13, 14, 22) – Recyclable materials collected through kerbside bins has a 26.45% recovery rate and is separated into two streams: (1) Recycling (which goes to Solo Resource Recovery Centre at Chinderah), and (2) Residual waste (which goes into landfill at Kyogle Waste Facility). All other items collected via drop off has a 40.81% recovery rate due to Council's capacity to sort and separate materials at the waste facility and transfer stations. Materials and waste streams where recovery occurs include: Garden organics (excluding FOGO), paper and cardboard, plastics, glass, steel and aluminium, scrap metal and whitegoods, container deposit scheme (CDS), e-waste, oils, tyres, mattresses and batteries. All other waste streams are landfilled (including residual waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, asbestos and FOGO).

Kyogle Council operates the Kyogle Waste Facility and three Transfer Stations at Bonalbo, Mallanganee and Woodenbong (slide 15). Kyogle Waste Facility has a number of service and collection drop off options available to recycle as well as a landfill cell; accepts general solid waste, construction and demolition waste, asbestos and a wide range of recyclable items; and has recycling options (i.e. Community Resource Centre (CRC), Tip Shop, Return and Earn, DrumMUSTER, green waste collection and processing). The Transfer Stations accept green waste, e-waste, automotive waste, paper and cardboard, batteries, lights, oil, extra landfill waste and large household items. Transfer Stations do not accept hazardous waste, paint or dead animals. These facilities are distributed across Kyogle LGA to give all residents equal and fair access to these waste service options. The convenience of facilities plays a big role in residents using the service and safely disposing of waste (refer slide 16). Fees and charges for materials dropped off cover the cost of disposal (refer slide 17). Kerbside fees and charges cover the cost of waste collection, management and disposal and a comparison is provided between Councils within the Northern Rivers region (slide 23).

Kyogle does not have a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) within the LGA. Instead the mixed recyclables are transported to the Solo Resource Recovery Centre (MRF) in Chinderah. This MRF sorts the mixed streams of recyclables that have been somewhat segregated at source (e.g. commingled kerbside recycling). The majority of regional Councils also use this facility. The use of this MRF is critical to Kyogle's recovery rate as recyclable are sorted by material type through mechanical and manual processes, then consolidated (compacted and baled) and sent to reprocessing facilities (e.g. Visy). Link to Solo Resource Recovery Centre video (Council's Facebook page): <https://www.facebook.com/KyogleCouncil/videos/kyogle-council-knows-that-the-recycling-process-can-be-confusing-but-kerbside-co/380770930467852/>

Kyogle's waste management site is currently operating a landfill supercell with a capacity of 204,000 m³. Kyogle LGA is the only region still using a split bin system (all neighbouring Councils offer a 3-bin service). Kyogle is the only LGA in the Northern Rivers region that does not have an organics waste collection service and separation. Our waste management contract for domestic kerbside collection is currently with Solo Resource Recovery, with the contract expiring in 2022/23. Currently 2,460 split bins are collected as part of this service (slides 18, 20, 21).

In October 2021 a domestic kerbside waste audit was conducted by NE Waste for Kyogle Council (slides 26 – 35). The audit was of a representative sample of 100 x 240 litre split bins, keeping the recycling and residual waste separate. The total weight of the sample was 1700kg. The residual waste bin was sorted into 5 categories (i.e. organics, commingled recycling, soft plastics, Container Deposit Scheme or CDS containers, residual waste for landfill). The recycling bin was sorted into 7 categories (i.e. plastic, cardboard and paper, soft plastics, CDS containers, glass, metal, residual waste as contamination). Both volume and weight were recorded on a calibrated scale. Results for the residual waste composition by weight (kg) – only 32% of the bin was suitable for landfill as the remainder of the material was recoverable including 3% soft plastic, 4% CDS, 12% Recycling and 49% organics. Residual waste composition by volume – only 28% of the bin was suitable for landfill; 5% CDS, 16% soft plastic; 21% recycling and 30% organics. Results from the recycling side of the split bin show that cardboard and paper are the main component at 38% by weight (kg). The other recyclable items by weight included metal (3%), plastic (7%), CDS (10%) and glass (11%). Contamination of the recycling stream was high at 31% by weight. Most neighbouring Councils have a contamination rate of under 8% by weight. By volume the contamination of the recycling stream is reduced to 20%.

The key observations from the waste audit, that could benefit from education, included:

- Take away coffee cups were common in both waste streams (highlighting the confusion re how these should be disposed i.e. residual bin as all non-recyclable)
- The most common problem household waste included fluoro bulbs, oil filters, automotive parts, e-waste and large metal items were found in both waste streams (suitable for CRC)
- A significant number of used syringes and medical waste were found in household waste
- A significant quantity of soft plastic was present in the recycling stream
- Several pieces of suspected asbestos was identified in the recycling stream
- There was a lack of markings on the split bins to indicate the correct side for residual waste and for recycling material

The key findings from the waste audit included:

- In 2020/21 Kyogle Council collected 1021 tonnes of residual waste and 367 tonnes of recycling from kerbside collection. The recycling rate for the Council area for kerbside is 26.45% (which is well below the state recycling rate of 43.7% and that of other regional Councils at 57.33%). This is primarily due to all other councils in the region having a 3-bin system with kerbside FOGO collection.
- The average Kyogle household generates 13.16kg of general waste per week (which is 3kg more than the state average) and 2.83kg of recycling (which is well below the state average of 3.8kg)
- The residual bin contains 12% by weight of materials that could be recovered via the current recycling system and 4% that could be redeemed at the Return and Earn depot (CDS)
- If a FOGO service was in place an additional 49% (by weight) of waste could be recovered
- The contamination level in the recycling stream is very high at 31% by weight and 20% by volume and are well beyond what would be considered acceptable for processing

- CDS comprised 10% of the recycling bin, averaging 0.42kg per household per week. This is well below the CDS levels in this stream in other Council areas, which would indicate that the Return and Earn system was working very effectively
- CRC items were relatively low at less than 0.045 litres per household per week
- Loose asbestos in the recycling stream is of particular concern
- The high presence of soft plastic may indicate a lack of knowledge in the community of alternative solutions (e.g. REDcycle soft plastic deposit scheme).

The key recommendations from the waste audit:

- In order to improve resource recovery and reduce material to landfill – upgrade the split bin to a 3-bin system, including the introduction of a FOGO service
- Targeted education program focussed on improving household behaviour (key areas identified)
- Community consultation and engagement to increase awareness and encourage participation in any future initiatives.

Disposal options include (slides 37-51) – the landfill cell, Community Recycling Centre (CRC), three Community Recycling Stations (CRS), Container Deposit Scheme (the Return and Earn), Tip Shop, DrumMUSTER and REDcycle:

- Landfill cell – located at Kyogle Waste Facility. Used for residual waste. Is the last option if waste cannot be recycled through other streams. Has space of 204,000 m³; 38,247 m³ of space used; estimated life expectancy – 33 years.
- Community Recycling Centre (CRC) – located at Kyogle Waste Facility. Recycles household problem waste including gas bottles, fire extinguishers, paint, batteries, oils, fluoro lights, smoke detectors, e-waste.
- Community Recycling Stations (CRSs) – located at Kyogle Council Admin Building, Kyogle Library and Bonalbo and District Memorial Hall. Recycle selective problem waste items including mobile phones, ink cartridges, eye glasses, household batteries, fluoro light bulbs.
- Container Deposit Scheme – the Return and Earn TOMRA reverse vending machine is located at Kyogle Waste Facility and opened in 2018. It collects small aluminium, plastic and glass containers in which residents receive a 10c refund.
- Tip Shop – run by Kyogle Resource Innovation Collective (KRIC) on a volunteer basis. Accepts and sells donated items.
- DrumMUSTER – is a stewardship program of Agsafe funded by an ACCC levy; allows farmers and chemical users to return empty containers for recycling – avoiding the harmful disposal of unwanted chemical containers in the environment.
- REDcycle soft plastic deposit scheme – has been established in leading supermarkets nationwide since 2010. The first bin in Kyogle LGA is located at Kyogle Post Office, established in 2021 under a trial basis but after great uptake the bin is now permanent. The soft plastics are recycled through three Australian owned and based recycling and manufacturing partners: Replas, Close the Loop, Plastic Forests.

Asbestos (slide 52) – NE Waste is working in collaboration with all Councils to improve the safe identification and management of household asbestos by home owners across the region. Kyogle Council currently has Asbestos Testing and Disposal Kits for free. Kyogle Waste Facility accepts asbestos for a fee).

Illegal dumping (slides 53-55) – there is a wide variety of items being illegally dumped (e.g. household waste and items such as furniture, whitegoods and mattresses, garden waste, building waste, and hazardous material such as asbestos. Illegal dumping has negative environmental, social and financial impacts, with extensive cost to Council and the community. There are many driving forces behind illegal dumping (e.g. transport costs, values, access to a service, cost of disposal, convenience, the need for quick disposal, unaware of drop off locations and perceptions). Kyogle Council is now part of the RIDonline program (EPA funded), which is enabling Council to consolidate and look at a more holistic view of illegal dumping within the LGA (i.e. type and amount of waste, location and hotspots, cost). Historic data from 2009 is being input into RIDonline. Illegal dumping incidents average 50-60/year. Reporting, education and awareness important in changing behaviours and normalising reporting.