

Food recycling on cards

Donna Carton

Depot to save thousands of tonnes of organic waste from landfill

COUNCILS in the southeast could now introduce food recycling after the opening of a new plant in Dandenong South.

Waste contractors Cleanaway have established a recycling facility with the capacity to sort, decontaminate and shred more than 100,000 tonnes of food waste each year.

Glen Eira residents have been able to add food scraps

— including meat and bones, citrus peel and dairy — to their garden waste bin since May.

It is processed by Veolia in Dandenong South and converted into high quality compost for agricultural soil.

The City of Greater Dandenong is considering the introduction of food waste into the garden bin, as is Kingston Council.

“Around 20 per cent of

landfill costs could be saved by diverting food waste from landfill and instead turning it into high-quality compost that can be sold,” Kingston General Manager of City Assets and Environment Daniel Freer said.

Vik Bansal, CEO and Managing Director of Cleanaway said the new plant would play an important role in helping to lift Victoria’s landfill diversion rates with a more

sustainable way to manage food waste.

“We are committed to meeting the changing needs of our customers and the community. Through continued investment in facilities like this — with a focus on sustainable waste management and resource recovery — we will continue to work in partnership with them to make a sustainable future possible” said Mr Bansal.

After being processed by Cleanaway, the waste will be converted into a high-grade compost for re-use in agricultural production.

The South East Organics Facility is expected to start operating on December 17 when the first vehicles arrive on site and will be fully operational in January 2019.

The Sacyr waste group will open a new organics recycling plant in Dandenong South next year.



Cleanaway chief executive Vik Bansal, Cr Matthew Kirwan and Solid Waste Services Victoria general manager Clete Elms at the official opening of the facility.

Food scraps change game

By Cam Lucadou-Wells

A state-of-the-art Dandenong South facility that processes food scraps and green waste for high-grade compost has been labelled a "game changer".

Cleanaway recently opened South East Organics Facility, which has capacity to sort, decontaminate and shred over 100,000 tonnes of organic matter.

It will divert waste otherwise dumped in landfill, servicing eight council areas across the South East including Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia.

For the first time, residents could now put food scraps into their garden waste bin, Greater Dandenong's Cr Matthew Kirwan said.

"On average 40 per cent of rubbish currently sent to landfill is food waste so this would make a massive environmental and financial difference."

The facility joins a similar organic recycling facility run by Veolia in Dandenong South.

Sacyr is set to open another in 2019, Cr Kirwan said.

The processed material is transferred for off-site composting at Dutson Downs in East Gippsland.

The high-grade compost will be re-used in agricultural production.

Cleanaway chief executive Vik Bansal said the facility played an important role as part of the "changing face of waste management in Victoria".

"This facility will play a significant role in helping to lift our state's landfill diversion rates with a more sustainable way to manage FOGO (Food Organics and Green Organics) waste."

The facility is expected to start receiving waste on 17 December. It will be fully operational in January.