

## 2018/2019 Cradle Coast Kerbside Recycling Bin Assessment Program - summary

The sixth program of residential recycling bin assessments and contamination education was completed in Burnie City, Circular Head, Central Coast, Devonport City, Kentish, Latrobe and Waratah Wynyard municipal areas over two periods from 17 September – 12 November 2018 and 29 April – 25 May 2019. The assessments were coordinated by Dulverton Waste Management and undertaken by contracted Recycling Audit and Data Officers.

Bin assessments identify and quantify by volume the types of recyclables and contamination found in kerbside recycling bins. Assessments also provide an opportunity for personalised education to residents on their recycling habits.

The major aim of the multi-year bin assessment program is to understand the quantity of kerbside recycling contamination and the materials causing the contamination, so as to prioritise regional education and awareness activities and ultimately reduce the volume of recyclable materials going to landfill.

A total of 13,734 properties were visited by the Officers and a total of 11,887 bins were assessed in this assessment program. On average, recycling bins across the region were estimated to be filled to 74% of their capacity (down by 2% from last assessment period).

The assessment involved viewing of the contents of each recycling bin placed at the kerbside and determining a performance result:

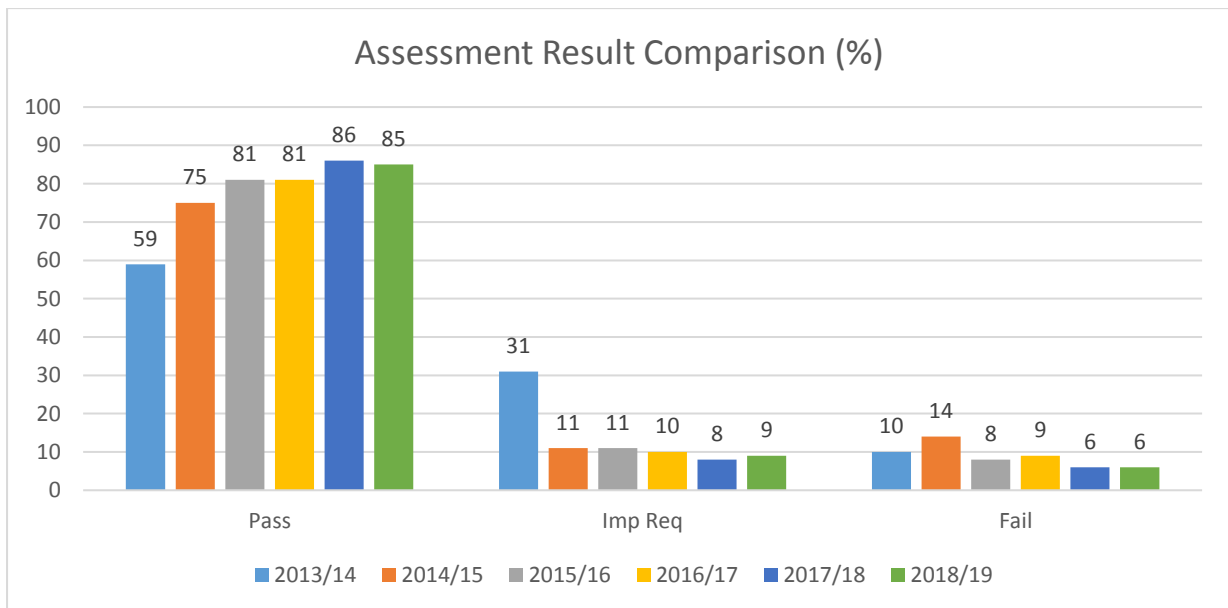
- **Fail:** When contaminants comprise more than 10% of the bin's total content.
- **Improvement Required:** When contaminants comprise between 5% and 10% of the bin's total content.
- **Pass:** Where there is only minor contamination less than 5% of the bin's total content.

Upon completion of the assessment the Officers placed a corresponding tag on each bin to notify residents of the outcome and an information brochure and individualised written feedback was left in the resident's letterbox.

Across all councils, the average pass rate was 85%.

The proportion of Pass results dropped by 0.5% compared to the last assessment, but remained higher than historic assessments. A corresponding increase was recorded in the Improvement Required (Imp Req) result (9.5%) with the Fail result remaining steady at 6% of all bins assessed and lower than historically recorded.

The following chart provides a comparison of performance results awarded in the past six kerbside assessments programs:

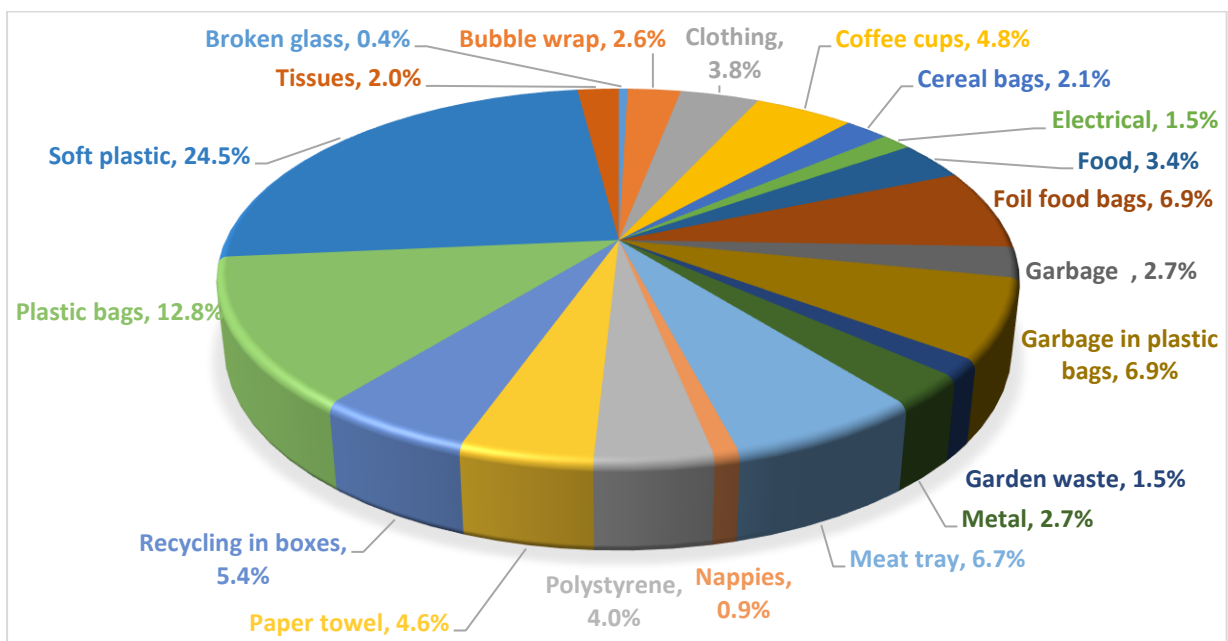


Of the kerbside bins assessed, 36% contained some form of contamination; equal to the last assessment period.

Soft plastic was again the most common contaminant found with 129 occurrences recorded per 1000 bins.

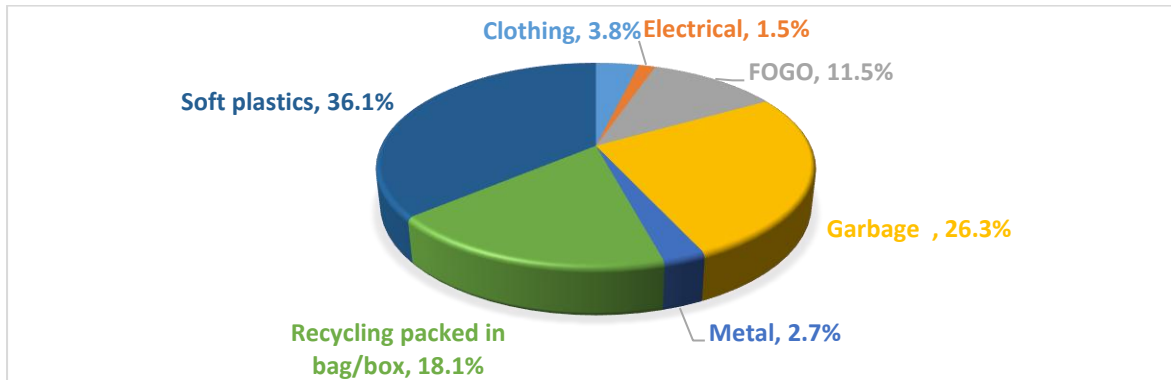
Recycling packed in plastic bags was the second most commonly occurring contaminant, followed by garbage and/or garbage in bags, foil food bags (a form of soft plastic) and foam meat trays.

**Proportion of contaminants**



### Proportion of contaminants, grouped by contaminant type

The following graph combines 'like' contaminants. For example, items that belong in the garbage bin including nappies, coffee cups, broken glass, polystyrene/foam and garbage in plastic bags are grouped. Similarly all soft plastics are grouped, as are packed recycling, and food/garden/soft paper FOGO materials. Items which could be recycled via other systems are shown separately (clothing, e-waste, metal).



The incidence of recycling packed in boxes continued to decrease with a 25% reduction compared to last year and the lowest recording since the program began in 2013/14.

Coffee cups were recorded for the first time in 2017/18 and did experience an increase of 8% this year to a rate of 25 occurrences per 1000 bins, despite this waste type being the focus of some media attention including in the ABC's War on Waste television program.

Clothing in kerbside recycling has been on an increasing trend over the past 4 years, rising by 22% in the latest assessment period.

The seventh regional kerbside recycling assessment is scheduled to commence in late September 2019.