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MEDIA RELEASE

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Illawarra residents help social enterprise RRA divert 1,957 tonnes of waste

Residents of the Illawarra helped social enterprise Resource Recovery Australia (RRA) divert 1,957 tonnes of waste from landfill in 2020-21 – equivalent to more than 215 garbage trucks full of waste.

The Tinkerage reuse and repair space welcomed 523 community members to 60 events, despite a decrease in capacity due to COVID-19

Announcing the result during National Recycling Week 2021 (8-14 November), RRA General Manager Matt Curtis said the community had shown a real commitment to reducing waste through reuse, repair and recycling.

“The Illawarra community has helped us to divert 1,957 tonnes of waste from landfill in the 2020/21 financial year – a big part of our national total of 7,653 tonnes.”

“Diverting waste from landfill has positive impacts on our environment. With our #Waste2Wages model waste diversion means local jobs, and moving towards a circular economy with less reliance on virgin materials,” Mr Curtis said.

RRA is a national social enterprise that works in waste management to keep waste out of landfill, create jobs for people experiencing barriers to work and to engage and connect people in our communities. RRA operates in NSW, QLD and the ACT across eight regions, expanding to sites in Taree NSW and Toowoomba and Rockhampton in Queensland in 2020-21.

RRA has been working with Shellharbour Council since 2015 and provided nine employment opportunities in Dunmore in 2020-21. The organisation provided 143 opportunities nationally.

Shellharbour City Council CEO Carey McIntyre said that reducing waste to landfill was a core component of Council’s commitment to environmental sustainability.

#WASTE2WAGES

“Council continues to take action on waste reduction and reducing our environmental footprint in partnership with the community and a variety of stakeholders. Diverting waste to landfill is a key component of that strategy,” Mr McIntyre said.

“Additionally, last year Council committed to set net zero emissions targets for operational and community emissions within Shellharbour City by 2050. The first step of this is currently underway with the development of a corporate emissions reduction plan,” he said.

Reviva Dunmore Manager Jarrod Roskell said they appreciate the support provided by Shellharbour Council.

“We cannot thank the Illawarra community enough for their support of Revolve Dunmore (now Reviva Dunmore).”

“I’m proud to lead this team of hardworking people. This year they have gone above and beyond in customer service, waste diversion and sales.”

To celebrate National Recycling Week 2021 RRA is also hosting its annual Reuse, Repair and Repurpose competition. Illawarra residents are encouraged to enter by submitting a photo of a reuse, repair or repurpose project. The national winner will receive a \$250 Visa gift card and a local winner will score a \$150 Visa gift card.

Entries close at midday on Friday 12 November 2021, with winners announced on Friday 19th November 2021. To enter visit the RRA website, [Reuse, Repair and Repurpose competition](#).

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