

COMMUNITY COMMENDED FOR ORGANIC WASTE THAT FEEDS SOUTHWEST FARMS

The Banksia Road Organics Processing Facility in Bunbury gives local communities from the City of Bunbury, Collie, Donnybrook & Balingup and Capel the opportunity to play a role in diverting waste from landfill to produce a high quality organic compost product used on local farms.

“Organic waste is a valuable resource and should be treated as such and not lost forever in landfill or a waste to energy facility,” said Judy Jones, Chairperson of the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council and Councillor for the City of Bunbury.

“We’ve shown most residents want to do their bit to improve the environment and have done exceedingly well to adopt the 3 bin system.”

“We have succeeded in achieving a contamination rate well below the 5% that can be tolerated, so we want to congratulate the community for ensuring that only food and green waste goes into the green bin,” Cr Jones said.

This high quality waste stream has been certified with Australian Certified Organic, making it a high value resource being used by local farmers with excellent results.

“Attainment of organic certification puts the Banksia Road Organics Processing Facility amongst the leaders in composting in Australia,” said Tony Battersby CEO of the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council.

“We literally feed the earth your food scraps and organic waste to produce more nutritious local food and produce.”

Intuit Earth is a specialist company that consults on manufacture and supports farmers to utilize compost manufactured at the Banksia Road facility. It is processed into quality certified organic compost, primarily used by farmers. It is currently used in pastures, vegetable production and orchards in Manjimup, Capel and Binningup with great results.

“We assist farmers to build farming systems resilience and soil health through the use of compost,” said Louise Edmonds from Intuit Earth.

“Soil biology is the new frontier in agriculture, harnessing this free workforce in soils will drive the next wave of profitability for farmers, compost drives these process.”
Said Ms Edmonds.

“It also contributes to a sustainable local economy while reducing greenhouse gases and leachate associated with landfill. It is a fantastic win for the whole region,” Ms Edmonds concluded.

Wayne Edwards has a biodynamic vegetable farm in Manjimup. “Our business is high quality organic produce which relies on good soil health to succeed. I really appreciate being part of a circular economy that puts nutrients from waste back into the earth to produce high quality nutritious food,” Mr Edwards said.

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“We have been using one cubic meter of compost per hectare to grow some very good grass for our cattle,” said Blythe Calnan from Runnymede Farm in Binningup. “It has been both productive and profitable.”

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

11.30am Friday 24 March 2017 (time flexible)

Banksia Road Dardanup for tour of the Compost Facility with Cr Judy Jones, Tony Battersby and Louise Edmonds

MEDIA CONTACT: Rachel Pemberton 0408 988 977