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## ‘Roads & Recyclables – Supporting the Circular Economy’

Council is excited to announce that it is partnering with the private sector via its road resealing contractor Downer to increase recyclable content in our roads and in doing so support the waste Circular Economy.

Through this initiative soft plastics from plastic bags and packaging and waste toner from used printer cartridges which enter the waste stream are being turned into durable, high strength road surfaces in Gawler this year.

Mayor Redman said “This initiative supports both Council and private industry transition to more sustainable practices and provides a real demonstration of our commitment to tackling climate change through our own actions”.

Council is supporting the use of Downer’s sustainable asphalt product “Reconophalt” this year in our annual Road Resealing Program. This product replaces virgin materials with repurposed materials such as recycled soft plastic and waste toner from used printer cartridges. Council has also sought to include up to 30% reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP).

Extensive testing has been undertaken on the Reconophalt product in accredited laboratories, as well as field trials across various local government areas, which has now provided an acceptable risk profile to support the Council’s use of this product on its roads.

In this year’s program, a trial will be taken to seal six (6) local roads with Reconophalt representing 1.35km of roadway and 780 tonnes of material. Using Reconophalt results in significant landfill waste diversion by using the following recycled content in these six roads:

- Approximately 240,000 plastic bag and packaging equivalents;
- Toner from approximately 14 000 used printer cartridges; and
- 230 tonnes of reclaimed asphalt pavement from end-of-life roads.

The soft plastics required for this product are sourced by Downer from supplier REDcycle and combined with waste toner at resource recovery and recycling company, Close the Loop.

Council understands that currently REDcycle collect 440,000 soft plastic bags and packaging items each year from the Gawler and surrounding community which support this initiative.

Using Reconophalt will not only keep waste out of landfill but will also prevent approximately 11 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions for the six roads compared with sourcing new asphalt.

Mayor Redman says “By the community supporting recycling, whether through the Council’s yellow bin, or other means, it provides private industry with the ability to invest in new technology which seeks to use this waste as a commodity. It is as strong a reason as any for everyone in the community to be diligent in our waste disposal, as it has a direct consequence on our natural environment and our ability to reuse our waste.”

The use of glass as a recycled product. Council is also working with the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority (NAWMA), and Downer on ways in which waste glass particles that cannot be recycled into glass products, can be further refined and used to replace virgin sand in our road reseal program.

Mayor Redman says “There is still work to do on including additional glass waste stream within our roads, however Council has committed to doing what it can to assist facilitate this happening. The benefits are not only environmental, there are economic benefits from reducing our waste that is being sent to landfill. This is where all the community can assist in doing the right thing with their recycling.”

The plastics, toner cartridges and glass products reuse initiatives, with other projects under consideration, will also all assist to inform a Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) which is currently being developed by the Council’s CEAP Working Group which is made up of Community Members, Council Members and Council staff. The Action Plan once drafted will be provided to the community and industry groups for feedback in anticipation of a final Plan being endorsed by the end of the year.



*Pictured L-R is: Marty DeDuonni – Town of Gawler Contracts And Projects Officer, Sam Dilena – Town of Gawler Manager Infrastructure and Engineering Services, Mayor Karen Redman and Steve Ainscow – State Manager, Pavements for Downer.*

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**ENDS**

The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359