



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

PTES IMPROVE PLASTIC RECYCLING AT FMGL CLOUDBREAK AND CHRISTMAS CREEK SITES

The issue

Plastic is an inexpensive, light weight and durable material which can be easily molded into a variety of short lived products that are used in everyday life. Most plastics are made from non-renewable natural resources such as coal, gas and crude oil and are also non-biodegradable making conventional methods of disposal harmful to the environment. The recycling of plastic has become an important available action that provides opportunities to reduce oil usage and carbon dioxide emissions.

In 2014, both Cloudbreak and Christmas Creek mine sites produced over 330T of plastic waste with a large percentage diverted from landfill and sent to plastic recycling companies in Perth. Material such as HDPE were shredded using an industrial chipper and then bagged, other materials were baled or packaged and back-freighted to designated recyclers.

The solution

PT Environmental Services (PTES), in partnership with Green Planet Recycling (GPR) have identified an opportunity to consolidate plastic recycling products (one recycling company) and provide a rebate to FMGL for all products removed from site. GPR provides a reliable plastic waste collection service to local businesses and organisations, with its sole purpose to recycle the plastic in order to help ensure the planets environmental sustainability. Each plastic product is refined into an end product where it is on-sold to plastic manufacturers.

The outcome

By consolidating plastic recycling to one supplier, and continuing to use PTES labour to manage plastic recyclables under the contract, there will be various benefits for FMGL. Some of these include:

- Increase return on plastic recyclables;
- Known product destination, treatment process and end use;
- Opportunity for community donations of plastic products i.e. In due course, GPR will be able to manufacture products such as tanks or playgrounds. The material from site can be used for this, opposed to a rebate, whereby tangible donations are made.
- Manual handling and shredding risks eliminated altogether. PTES propose to use excavator sheers to cut larger plastics (i.e. HDPE) and back freight full lengths of pipe.