



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

27 April 2018

Waste Management

Waste generation in Australia is growing at 6 times the population growth and 2.5 times the economic growth. In addition, Australians are battling against a tide of millions of pieces of discarded plastic debris at beach clean-up events all across the continent. An assortment of plastic items are filling the bags and buckets of collectors, from plastic bags and film to food containers, bottles, caps and drinking straws. Many items have already broken apart into an almost uncountable number of smaller micro-plastic pieces.



A beach at Byfield national park in Yeppoon, Queensland, is polluted with garbage.
Photo: Tangaroa Blue Foundation

Managing this burgeoning waste problem is the topic of Friday Environment Forum on April 27.

Reducing waste by using less packaging and by recycling is a good starting point. Queensland will soon join South Australia and Northern Territory in offering cash back for plastic containers. This initiative follows the State's plan to also ban single-use plastic shopping bags from 2018. But much more is needed.

"We need to shift our focus from cleaning up to stopping it at source and the responsibility is holistic – we need legislation and compliance, but we also need manufacturers and retailers to do their bit," Heidi Taylor, founder and managing director of charity Tangaroa Blue said.

We all have a role in reducing waste. On April 27 **Emma Menzies** from **Noosa Council** will discuss the council's approach to waste management and how each of us can make a difference. **Friday Environment Forum at the Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive Noosaville** starts at 10.30am, with coffee available at 10am. The forum concludes at 12.15pm. Everyone is welcome.



To learn more about the birds of Wallace Park, join Valda and the **Interpretive Birding Group** in the car park at **8.30am**.