



# GreenLight

## Zero Waste Industry Program



### Waste program earns Loddon Prison a green rating.

As the main supplier of packaged food for all Victorian prisons the Loddon Prison in Castlemaine has decided to help lead the industry by tackling sustainable projects head-on.

Vocational Service Manager, Steven Comte knows that wastage in prison systems costs the community money and it is for this reason sustainability is important at the Prison.

The Loddon Prisons approach to waste collection and management has been enhanced after recently participating and graduating from the GreenLight program.

Mr Comte joined the Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group program in 2017 to identify ways to reduce their environmental footprint.

Mr Comte said “I have worked in the industry for 27 years and sustainability is always considered, but the GreenLight program has helped me see other opportunities.”

“Through better managing our input materials and by reusing and recycling items we have been able to shrink our environmental footprint, which in turn saves us money.”

“Head Office has been impressed with a number of improvements that we have undertaken since introduced Keep Cups to remove 250,000 foam cups/annum from Victorian prison system that previously went to landfill.”

“We are always looking for better ways to do things. Nothing gets wasted here, Mr Comte said.”

### Recycling Review

A waste management assessment provided under the Green Light program found that the Loddon Prison in Castlemaine produces about 250 tonnes of waste per annum. An impressive 72% (181 tonnes) of this is recycled.

#### **Annual Recycling of 181 tonnes include:**

- Organics, Bottles, Cans, Cardboard, Soft Plastics and Foam Cups (estimated 1,000m3).

It is estimated that the removal of foam cups from the Victorian prison system will saving \$140,000 per annum.

The initiatives being undertaken by the Loddon Prison are contributing to the LMWRRG Strategic Plan to achieve a 25% waste reduction to landfill by 2021, from a 2015 baseline.





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### Loddon Prison

The Loddon Prison began its journey in 1990 and it is a combination of medium and minimum (Middleton) security rated prisons.

Loddon is a campus style Prison within secure perimeters with landscape grounds and modern buildings. It offers a wide range of programs and activities with the emphasis on prisoner rehabilitation and transitional needs.

Loddon Prison is dedicated to providing an environment and facilities which, as closely as possible, resembles those in the general community.

### Identified initiatives.

At Loddon Prison we are making incremental improvements to reduce our environmental footprint. For example Mr Comte said, "we have gifted approximately 40,000 seedlings to 96 different organisa-

tions. All potted into old milk cartons."

This initiative has allowed the inmates to contribute to the local environment while finding a reuse for the many milk cartons we use inside the prison.

### GreenLight Program

"Taking it to the next level' is what the Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group's sponsored GreenLight industry program has done with nineteen businesses from the Victorian region.

The Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery 16 week program has helped regional organisations boost their bottom line through minimising waste and reducing operating costs for businesses.

### Key Contacts

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