

Project Report - Transfer Station sorting space - waste recovery, repair, and reuse

May 2024



Council	Mount Alexander Shire Council
Project title	Transfer Station sorting space - waste recovery, repair, and reuse
Project description	The project objective was to make an unused and dirt floor section of a shed at the Castlemaine transfer station a useable, safe space, specifically for recovering items from the waste stream deemed valuable and able to be recycled or potentially put through the tip shop for reuse.
Project start date	Funding Agreement signed on 11 October 2023
Project end date	May 2024
Council project representative and contact details	Michael Scott (5471 1836)

Objectives of sorting and waste recovery space

Improved Safety, including;

- Safe working space for staff
- Reduced worker exposure to elements (i.e. extreme heat, wind, rain, cold)

Environmental:

- Increase resource recovery
- Reduced dust
- Ability to work under cover

Efficiency

- Dedicated purpose-built space for reclaiming waste for repair and reuse
- Reuse existing infrastructure
- Reduce double handling
- Improve overall visitor experience and promote 'tip' shop as a place to find valuable repaired and reusable items

Context

A shed with an area of around 270 square metres sits on the site of the Castlemaine transfer station and has been an important part of transfer station and landfill operations. Historically, the shed has been used to store plant, machinery and various equipment. Strangely, the southern end of the shed approximately 160 square metres was never concreted, the space had a dirt floor and as result had been underutilised. It was only suitable to use to store certain material and discarded equipment. The project objective was to make this area of the shed useable, specifically for recovering items from the waste stream deemed valuable, in need of some repair or servicing prior to be put through the tip shop for intended reuse or placed into various categories for recycling.



Photos of the southern end of the shed showing a dirt floor and random material.

Works in progress (April - May 2024)

As of 9 May 2024, the infrastructure work is complete. The space has started to be used to store items for hopeful reuse or to be recycled. The infrastructure work included a concrete floor, a repaired and now operable sliding shed door, a concrete apron upon the entry to the shed and a number of benches and tools trolleys.



Recent photos of new hardstand area being fitted out with benches, tool trolleys and stillages and bins ready to receive recoverable waste items.

Data

It has not been long since the space started to be used. The benches and tools arrive and were fitted in mid April. More data will be available and shared with SV once the space has been used for a longer period and reporting processes are improved. Formally, since the start of April the following items highlighted in yellow were items that staff found in various waste categories, took to the sorting shed and ultimately ended up in the tip shop for sale.



Completed Dockets TIPSHOP

Printed on 10/05/2024

Completed Dockets for 1/04/2024 to 10/05/2024

Docket	Date	Item Description	Qty	Fee	GST	Total
CASTLEMAINE						
24542	01-Apr-2024 9:08 AM					
		pick	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		plush lab	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		pump	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
24561	01-Apr-2024 11:23 AM					
		side table	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
24625	02-Apr-2024 11:15 AM					
		tea pot	1	\$0.91	\$0.09	\$1.00
24648	02-Apr-2024 1:04 PM					
		bike	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		timber	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
24650	02-Apr-2024 1:08 PM					
		sprinkler base	1	\$1.82	\$0.18	\$2.00
24734	03-Apr-2024 12:06 PM					
		ttable and speakers	1	\$9.09	\$0.91	\$10.00
24737	03-Apr-2024 12:10 PM					
		pushbike	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
24899	05-Apr-2024 10:21 AM					
		pushbike	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
24903	05-Apr-2024 10:45 AM					
		glass doors	2	\$9.09	\$0.91	\$10.00
		timber	4	\$9.09	\$0.91	\$10.00
24904	05-Apr-2024 10:53 AM					
		push bike	1	\$1.82	\$0.18	\$2.00
24911	05-Apr-2024 11:28 AM					
		bbq plate	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		hand pump	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		pot	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		sink	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
24919	05-Apr-2024 12:20 PM					
		bike rack	1	\$1.82	\$0.18	\$2.00
25017	06-Apr-2024 2:21 PM					
		chairs	2	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		cupboard	1	\$22.73	\$2.27	\$25.00
		painting	1	\$2.73	\$0.27	\$3.00
		plant pot	1	\$1.82	\$0.18	\$2.00
		stainless steel	1	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		tiles	2	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
25033	06-Apr-2024 3:36 PM					
		chairs	4	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
		old bottle	2	\$4.55	\$0.45	\$5.00
Total for this site				\$138.27	\$13.73	\$152.00
Total for this report				\$138.27	\$13.73	\$152.00

Roughly 5 – 10 additional items (a drill or two and three whipper snippers) were also recovered.

Note: There may have been some other items (not many) that would have by-passed the data retention process.

The estimate of material separated from the various waste streams for recycling is summarised below:

- 240kgs of E-waste which includes cables, motors
- 250kg of metal separated from the general waste stream and e-waste stream (i.e. metal parts pulled off vacuum cleaners)
- 100kg of mixed material which included items such as aluminium cans, rigid plastic containers, cardboard (from packaging) and batteries

Challenges/ Lessons/ Variations

One of the main challenges that arose was consulting with transfer station staff and managing their expectations, changes to work duties. In retrospect, the concept of the project would have been outlined in more detail and more formally to staff from the inception. The expectations of staff work duties would also have been explained more formally and in phases with scheduled 'tool box' meetings. This approach would have minimised uncertainty and questions to the site supervisor and myself. Part of this issue is due to the fact the use of the site is quite fluid and based on volume/ type of waste entering the facility and the time available to the rostered staff.

Project budget and costs

Please see attached document. Please note, not all available funds were spent. Based on projected and committed expenditure in the coming weeks, we estimate there being a surplus of \$4,825.67.

Reference documentation

- Project costings (actual and committed)
- Project photo journey
- SmartyGrants online system acquittal form