



Waste Authority

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Media Release

Major New Glass Reprocessing Plant Opened

Thursday 26th August

During Keep Australia Beautiful Week, where the focus is beverage containers in the waste stream, nothing could be more relevant than the opening of a new Colmax glass re-processing plant.

Launched today by Environment Minister, Donna Faragher MLC, the complex, constructed in Kewdale, has been jointly funded by the Waste Authority and Australian Packaging Covenant Industry Association. The Australian Packaging Covenant sets goals for design, recycling and product stewardship.

Colmax's state-of-the-art facility transforms glass into high-value products suitable for a variety of uses. The plant will initially divert 20,000 tonnes of glass per annum, increasing to about 40,000 when the plant is fully operational. This is equivalent to 100-250 million glass jars taken out of landfill each year. The plant will produce a range of glass products.

Glass Facts:

- Glass is a most persistent material with an estimated life of 1 million years
- It is perfectly suited to recycling and can be recycled many times without loss of quality
- Recycling a single glass jar saves enough energy to light a bulb for four hours.

"Prior to this plant coming on stream, glass had to be transported to South Australia for processing and the transport costs meant much was simply placed in landfill instead. As part of this government's commitment to reducing the waste stream, we are pleased to be able to now process glass in our own state", Mrs Faragher said.

The Waste Authority has a long term aim of ensuring that there is sufficient reprocessing infrastructure in Western Australia to be less vulnerable to world markets in recyclables. It views the glass plant as a step in this direction.

The Colmax plant is located at 13 Glassford Rd, KEWDALE

Media Contact:- Ian Hill – 0457-536223 – Email:- ian.hill@dec.wa.gov.au