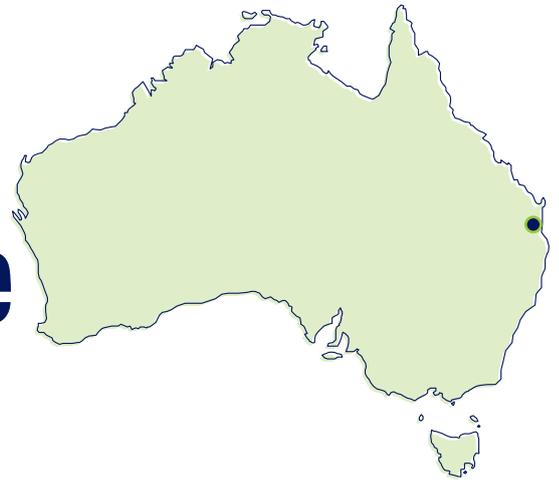


From plate to paddock: rehabilitating native plants with food waste



Nutrient-rich compost created from food waste at Mirvac's Toombul Shopping Centre as part of SUEZ's organics initiative is providing a much-needed boost to the parched local environment.

Challenge

The thriving Toombul Shopping Centre, just 7 kilometres north of Brisbane CBD, is among Mirvac's key assets in Queensland. More than 6.2 million patrons frequent the centre annually for its major and boutique retailers, supermarkets, cinemas and an eclectic mix of restaurants, casual eateries, bars and cafés.

Food waste comprises a large volume of its overall waste and significantly impacts contamination rates. With organics – everything from table scraps and spoiled food stock to coffee grounds – accounting for as much as 60 per cent of general waste, **managing this valuable resource was crucial to Mirvac achieving its ambitious sustainability goals.**

Mirvac has partnered with SUEZ since 2015 for its waste management, drawing on the resource management company's global expertise and innovation to meet this daily challenge.



Solution

In October 2018, **SUEZ implemented source-separation and collection for organics** at two of its retail properties, aiming to reduce waste to landfill, combat high contamination rates and improve recovery outcomes.

SUEZ transports organic waste to composting partner NuGrow, where it is turned into the highest quality compost and becomes a valued tool in the circular economy.

As part of a shared commitment to supporting the local environment and community, **SUEZ facilitated the donation of ten cubic metres of this valuable resource to social enterprise Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (BCCCC)** to aid their important environmental rehabilitation works.



Result

- In 2019, **SUEZ has helped Mirvac to divert more than 23 tonnes of food waste from landfill**, equalling over 154 cubic metres.
- NuGrow can create around 23 tonnes of compost from this volume of food waste, combining it with an equivalent volume of green waste to give the compost product structure.
- BCCCC is using the donated compost on a wide range of projects, from crucial native plantings and maintenance to supporting community gardens and other sustainability initiatives.
- **The compost has helped BCCCC achieve an astonishing 98 per cent plant survival rate on a challenging site** at Bill Hewitt Park in Camp Hill, compared to just 25 per cent on a prior attempt without compost.
- Across Australia, SUEZ diverts more than 476,500 tonnes of organic waste from landfill each year, with every kilogram producing 300-400 grams of valuable new organic compost resources.

“Under tough environmental conditions, high-quality compost is a powerful element in boosting soil health and hydration to rehabilitate our native plants.”

Wayne Cameron
Catchment Manager, Bulimba Creek
Catchment Coordinating Committee

“Organic waste is a significant challenge for us. Our partnership with SUEZ is critical to reducing our waste and achieving our 2030 goal of zero waste to landfill.”

Kim Host
Resource Recovery Manager
Mircac

23+ TONNES
of food waste diverted
from landfill in 2019