

navigating the waterways of waste



As the nation's largest manufacturer of aluminium boats, Telwater helps thousands of Australians each day to experience and enjoy the great outdoors. Reducing its own impact on the natural environment is a cornerstone of the company's ethos.

Telwater prides itself on making products that actively encourage the use of Australia's waterways and open spaces. The company also works hard to ensure its own actions contribute to a healthier environment through striving for effective waste management.

"We have made recycling and waste recovery in the workplace a priority so that future generations can enjoy the boating lifestyle for themselves," said Telwater Queensland Site Manager, Kevin Champney.

Based on Queensland's iconic Gold Coast, Telwater's team of around 200 dedicated staff produce up to 30 boats per day, and more than 12,000 boats and 6,000 trailers annually. The company enlisted SUEZ's expert help in 2011 to help improve the waste and recycling practices of its growing operation.

Champney said that Telwater has been deeply impressed by how much waste can be diverted from landfill with just a little extra awareness, and the right solutions and processes.

"SUEZ has helped us set up recycling solutions that work for our business," he said. "Now a few years into the partnership, the team has adapted; recycling the materials we use has become second nature."

SUEZ has now provided integrated waste management services to Telwater for more than five years. Through effective collaboration and the right solutions, during this period SUEZ has helped Telwater save the equivalent of more than 1,736 trees and 1,877 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Telwater recycles 95 per cent of its timber and plastic waste, and has substantially improved its diversion rates for batteries, fluorescent light tubes, metal, glass, paper and cardboard.

SUEZ's Queensland State General Manager, Peter Hudson, said it was clear from the outset that SUEZ needed a dedicated on-site employee to better understand Telwater's day-to-day requirements and help the company achieve its long-term environmental goals.

"There is not a one size fits all approach; each individual business needs to source the right environmental solution to divert, reuse and recycle the unwanted materials they produce," he said.



Telwater enlisted the help of SUEZ to help improve the company's waste and recycling practices.

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To fully understand Telwater's needs, SUEZ placed a dedicated employee on site with the aim of developing a deeper understanding of the business and ensuring ongoing education in current and future resource recovery practices.

"Being on site, we were able to educate the Telwater team on best-practice waste and

recovery systems," said Hudson. "We made simple but effective changes, such as the introduction of segregation bins to encourage employees to develop a habit of separating their waste."

With different product types entering the Telwater site daily, the partnership requires constant evaluation. The SUEZ team conducts regular site audits to maintain and further improve recycling rates.

This continuous assessment and improvement process has also seen Telwater's electricity and water consumption decrease as the business works smarter.

Through implementing simple waste management techniques, on-site support, and a shared commitment to impact minimisation, Telwater and SUEZ are helping preserve Australia's unique natural environment for future generations of boating and outdoor enthusiasts.

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