



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE GAP

Newsletter 9—Waste reduction



COMMUNITY SEMINAR SERIES

7.30 PM @ TAYLOR RANGE COUNTRY CLUB

28 Greenlanes Rd, Ashgrove QLD 4060

Our September event started with a report by [Climate Action 4061](#) on their [plastic free July](#) initiative followed by two funny international videos that reflected on the topic of recycling and concern for the planet in two very different ways.

Then Federal Assistant Minister Trevor Evans spoke about some massive achievements: the national [Waste Plan](#) and [National Plastic Plan](#) that together aim to significantly reduce the amount of waste Australia produces, and to increase the recycling and reuse of materials. For example, by 2025, all packaging in Australia should be reusable, recyclable, or compostable. The [Australian Recycling Label](#) (ARL) Program is also well underway. ARL labels can be found on more products, providing easy-to-understand instructions for consumers about how to correctly dispose of every part of a product's packaging. In addition to these already established plans he also spoke about ongoing work to [reduce the use of polystyrene](#) (the white material used in packaging) by the end of 2022. There is now also a Food Waste for [Healthy Soils Fund](#) and an electronic [waste reduction scheme](#). The questions from the audience were challenging, ranging from how to recycle complex everyday materials such as mixed plastics and food waste, to the question why the use and production of plastics should not be completely prohibited given the massive environmental impact of such products. While Minister Evans answered these questions well, it's likely a [combined effort of consumers, industry and politics](#) that will achieve the greatest and most rapid change. While recycling was at the forefront of the evening, MP Evans stated that the waste policy aligns with the premise of "refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle" and that recycling should be the last resort.



Our next seminar is planned for Wednesday **13th October, 7.30pm** with our topic: **Backburning: Friend or Foe?** Our speaker will be Mr David Kingdon, who has a Forestry background, and extensive experience working for State governments (Forestry and QPWS), local govt, private consultancy, and recently with First Nations people in SE Queensland. His career has been focussed on fire and pest management, and he will tell us about his views on fire and its role in keeping the bush healthy.

Our last event of the year will then be a barbeque get together on **Sunday 21st November, 9.30am – 12.30pm** where we hope you can join us for some fun activities and a relaxed conversation about the achievements of The Gap Sustainability Initiative in its first year and our plans for 2022.

Stay informed by liking us on [Facebook](#). We hope to see you at the seminar on the 8th September.

Yours sincerely,

The Gap Sustainability Initiative

What is next?

Next seminar on the
13th October 2021,
7.30pm

Taylor Range Club

Please spread the word

Purpose?

The dry season is upon us and we all can remember the terrible bushfires from 2019/20. What role does backburning play to keep The Gap safe? Or is it just an annoying source of air pollution?

Actions?

Please [email](#) us your questions about backburning so that we can have a great discussion about this topic on the night of the 13th October.

For interesting news and resources, please visit our website: thegapsustainability.org