



Media Release

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Airport giving coffee waste a greener future

Hobart Airport have teamed up with neighbours Red Square Café and Westland Nurseries in a bid to tackle the effects of coffee waste in landfill.

According to a study by Planet Ark, Australians consume around 6 billion cups of coffee each year with 93 per cent of waste from coffee grounds ending up in landfill.

Hobart Airport Environment Manager Kirsten Leggett said the circular economy experiment aims to divert 50kg of coffee grounds from landfill each week.

“Every day we are collecting the spent coffee grounds from Red Square Café and taking them to Westland Nurseries where it is incorporated into a compostable product over a period of six to eight weeks. We then bring it back to Hobart Airport to be used on our gardens and landscaping projects.

“When added to landfill, coffee grounds produce methane which has a warming potential far greater than carbon dioxide.

“By working with our neighbours, we not only have the opportunity to reduce the volume of harmful gasses produced, we are also able to give the coffee grounds a second life.

“Circular economies aim to move away from the make, use, dispose model in favour of reusing or recycling a product to extract the maximum value.”

Ms Leggett said this is the first of what she hopes will be a number of circular economy projects at Hobart Airport.

“While it is an experiment to begin with, we are hoping this inspires others to move away from the linear waste model and look at ways in which they too can embed circular economy principles in their operations,” Ms Leggett said.

The project is an extension of Hobart Airport’s Waste Strategy which has seen purpose-built bins that segregate landfill, recycling and compostable waste introduced throughout the terminal, resulting in a 30% reduction in waste to landfill in the first year alone.

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