



**Media Release**  
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## **Stop! Look! Think!**

56 thousand soiled nappies, 68 tonnes of rubbish in plastic bags, and 291 tonnes of old plastic toys and bulky items. This is just some of the contamination that workers at the Materials Recovery Facility have hand sorted out of our recycling bins this year.

From January 2010, Coffs Coast Waste Services will be cracking down on contamination in the recycling (yellow lid) and organics (green lid) bins. Bin squads will be targeting areas in the Coffs Coast region that have shown previously high levels of contamination in the bins.

Manager of the Materials Recovery Facility, Mr Stewart Ahrens, said that the type of contamination found in the recycling bins poses health and safety hazards to workers, and is easily avoided.

“It is clearly marked on the recycling bin that no plastic bags are to be placed in them. Any rubbish or recyclables placed in plastic bags is sent straight to landfill as OH&S regulations prevent our workers from opening them.

“Nappies are also a hygiene problem and there are a surprisingly large number of them placed into recycling bins.” he said.

Mr Ahrens said residents have a number of options to easily find out what can and cannot go in each of the three bins.

“We have a free call number, a website, and we can send out a waste wise guide for people needing to know more about the correct disposal of their waste. If people find that they require a larger recycling bin, these can be obtained from their Council.” he said.

The bin squad contamination program will run throughout 2010. If your bin is found to contain contamination it will not be emptied, and a sticker will be placed on the lid to notify you. If this occurs 3 times throughout the year, the offending bin will be removed, and a fee will be applied for the return of the bin.

So before you put that item in the bin please STOP for a moment, LOOK for a recycling symbol and THINK about which bin it belongs in.

For further information contact the Coffs Coast Waste Services hotline on 1800 265 495 or visit [www.handybinwaste.com.au](http://www.handybinwaste.com.au)

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Media Information – Leanne Leach, 0431 326 286  
elev8ed@westnet.com.au