

Case Study



Darebin Materials Recycling Facility, VIC

Green File

Commercial quantities of cardboard are also collected from businesses and shopping centres.

The sorted recyclables are then on-sold as raw materials to customers both in Australia and overseas.



Location

Coburg, VIC

Client

Facility privately owned by Thiess Services Pty Ltd

Value

AUD \$13.6 Million

Duration

Award – 2002
Completion – 2011

Contract Type

Council Contract –
Schedule of rates

Referee

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The Darebin Material Recycling Facility opened in 2002. Thiess Services owns, designed, built, operates and maintains the MRF which processes recycled material from across two municipalities.

Servicing approximately 53,000 households, the facility processes recyclables from the City of Darebin and Seymour under contracts undertaken by Thiess Services.

Both council recycling collection services utilise a co-mingled 240L litre mobile bin and are collected fortnightly on the same day as the residential garbage collection.

Quantities

The MRF processes approximately 1800 tonnes of recyclables per month, which equates to approximately 27,000 tonnes per year.

Approximately 700 tonnes of cardboard are baled using an Ambaco Channel Baler at the facility per month on behalf of Amcor Recycling.

Challenges/Unusual Features

Thiess Services undertook a major upgrade in 2005 with an additional \$1 million injected into the sorting facility to improve product handling. The upgrade included the introduction of a V-screen and this increased the capacity to 27,000 tonnes annually.



OHSE

Thiess Services conducts individual research and SAI Global audits continually looking for better ways to refine collection rounds and reduce impact on the drivers and equipment with the view to improving best practices. The MRF Sorters and Operators are required to complete a two year course in Asset Waste Management through sustainable learning.

Innovations

The Thiess Services Darebin MRF was a major step in the sorting of co-mingled recyclables, at the time the facility was equipped with the latest technology from Australia and overseas. This included trommels, conveyors and screens to sort out the recyclables.

The facility sorts paper, cardboard, liquid paper board, glass, plastics, steel and aluminium. The product is baled and held in undercover storage until transportation for reprocessing. Glass (clear, green, amber) is stored outdoors undercover.



Community Engagement

The local residents and community are invited to tour the MRF to help them understand the process of recycling and why it's so important.

The goal of the programme is to change behaviours throughout the community via learning to adopt more environmentally aware practices themselves, and sharing key messages with their families and other community members.

Thiess Services also runs free education programmes for school groups by holding school competitions where children design art work utilising recycled materials.