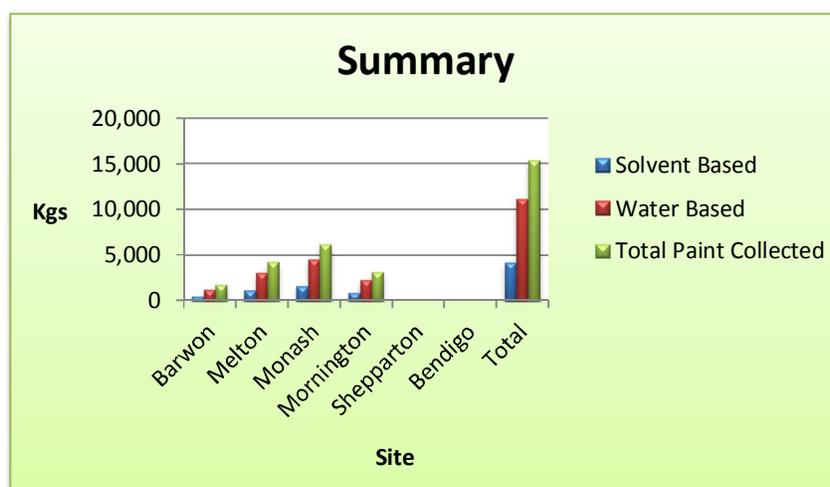


Australia's First Trade Waste Paint Trial Underway

PRESS RELEASE

PaintCare, Australia's first trade waste paint trial commenced on 1 March 2013 and had already collected over 15 tonnes of waste paint. An initiative of the Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation (APMF) PaintCare is collecting waste paint from trade painters to assess a waste stream which is currently undefined in Australia. The trial, based in Victoria, will run until 31 May 2013 and is funded by the APMF in partnership with Sustainability Victoria, DuluxGroup, Valspar, PPG and Haymes Paints. A key program objective is to gather data to evaluate volumes, economies and associated behaviours to inform the development of a national product stewardship program for the safe disposal of waste architectural and decorative (A&D) paint.



Six Victorian transfer stations are supporting the PaintCare trial located in Geelong, Bendigo, Melton, Monash, Shepparton and Mornington.

The trial highlights the need for the development of a national solution to manage the estimated 18,000 tonnes of waste A&D paint and associated packaging requiring disposal each year in Australia. Trade and domestic A&D paint is essentially the same product, however trade waste paint is excluded from domestic household waste programs and is often costly to dispose of correctly. Therefore, trade paints need an accessible, cost effective and safe option to dispose of their architectural and decorative paint.

The APMF also acknowledges the support of the Master Painters Association in Victoria and its service provider Toxfree. The APMF Executive Director, Mr Richard Phillips, believes that "it has been a real team effort and the data collected has already provided a much better understanding of the size and nature of the waste stream generated by the trade painters".

The trial has also received strong support from the Victorian Government, with four local members representing the Minister for the Environment, Hon Ryan Smith, at PaintCare launch events, including the Hon Donna Petrovich, the Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Environment, and Hon Jeanette Powell, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Local Governments.

The APMF also recognises that further work is needed to generate new research into alternative options for waste paint at end-of-life. Therefore, the APMF and Sustainability Victoria have commissioned a research project to be undertaken by Swinburne University of Technology to investigate this.

Further information on the trial can be obtained from www.paintcare.com.au.