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SA LEADER IN RECYCLING

Environment and Conservation Minister, Gail Gago says South Australia remains a top performer nationally in recycling following the release of new figures today to coincide with Clean Up Australia Day.

“South Australia prevented more than 1.15 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions through recycling last financial year,” Minister Gago said.

“This isn’t just a matter of keeping materials out of landfill, it’s a vital step in the fight to combat climate change and preserve our biodiversity.

“In the 2004/2005 financial year, more than 2.6 million tonnes of material was diverted from landfill – that’s equivalent to 267,000 cars being taken off our roads, planting more than 1.6 million trees or preventing more than 1.156 tonnes of carbon dioxide contributing to global warming.

“71 per cent of our total waste is now being recycled, and that’s a great return on the efforts of every conscientious South Australian business or householder who is making an effort to reduce waste and demands on our natural resources,” Minister Gago said.

“This is up by 6% on the 2003/2004 financial year figure which clearly demonstrates South Australians are keen to get on board recycling and make a difference for our environment.

“South Australians clearly want to recycle, and it’s important for everyone to know that each time they put out their recycling and rubbish, more than two thirds goes back into circulation and helps reduce greenhouse emissions and save trees.

“On a per capita basis, SA is the national recycling leader because of our strong performance in the construction and demolition recycling and resource recovery sector.

“Further gains are expected as kerbside recycling schemes begin in regional areas with seven councils keen to join the 12 who have already adopted kerbside recycling schemes promoted by the Rann Government.

“More than half of all households in the state had their kerbside recycling service upgraded in the past two years under Zero Waste’s \$4.5 million incentives program, and that spread has obviously helped lift our state-wide recycling rates,” Minister Gago said.