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GREEN GUIDE FOR RETAILERS TARGETS WASTE REDUCTION

Environment and Conservation Minister, Gail Gago, today released a practical guide advising retailers about how they can cut the amount of waste going to landfill.

“The guide, produced by Zero Waste SA, is being sent to shopping centre managers, commercial property owners and individual retailers,” Minister Gago said.

“It’s been developed with the assistance of the SA Retail Property Group (Property Council of Australia) and the State Retailers Association of South Australia.

“The retail industry is one of the largest commercial users of waste facilities in South Australia.

“Shopping centres and supermarkets are becoming more proactive in their environmental management with efforts to cut waste, reduce plastic bags, reduce water consumption and conserve energy,” Minister Gago said.

“Shopping centres often include a large number of different businesses and, as a result, centre-wide waste reduction programs provide significant results.

“For example, shopping centres can reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill by two-thirds simply by recycling materials, such as paper and cardboard, plastics, timber pallets and green waste.

“The new guide is comprehensive and user-friendly, with real-life case studies to help shopping centre managers and retail tenants to introduce effective waste reduction and recycling programs.

“Topics range from setting up green action groups to tips covering waste reduction in the office, the shopping centre, in retail shops and construction and garden operations,” Minister Gago said.

“Subjects also covered include actions to reduce unnecessary packaging, how to develop an environmental purchasing policy and partnering with local councils and schools to promote and support environmental initiatives in the community.

The guide is being released at retail industry workshops being held today.

The guide is also available on the Zero Waste SA website at www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au.