



**Blacktown**  
City Council

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Glass, plastic and toner cartridges recycled into roads in Western Sydney**

A road construction project in one of the new housing estates in Sydney's northwest is scaling new heights in recycling.

Many of the roads in Stockland's Elara development in Marsden Park have been surfaced with Reconophalt asphalt, which contains up to 40% recycled material.

Blacktown City Mayor Tony Bleasdale OAM said; "The road surfaces contain thousands of tonnes of recycled glass, plastics and even toner cartridges.

"This process helps reinforce our Council's commitment to environmentally-friendly policies, saving significant quantities of glass and plastics from being sent to landfill sites." Mayor Bleasdale said.

Stockland's Project Director Mike Milligan, said: "Stockland is committed to using sustainable materials in its masterplanned communities.

"Elara is one of a number of our communities using recycled asphalt, which fits with our approach to sustainability to deliver shared value for our residents and Councils alike, now and in the future. We hope residents who recycle their soft plastics and glass feel positive about their actions that help to make roads like this possible," said Mr Milligan.

Downer produces Reconophalt road surfacing material in Australia containing high recycled content derived from waste streams, such as soft plastics, glass and toner, which would otherwise go to landfill or be stockpiled.

Downer's Road Surfacing Manager, Darren Prosser, said; "Downer is heavily focused on supplying sustainable products and diversion of valuable waste materials".

"The road construction project in the Elara estate using Reconophalt contained the equivalent of almost 700,000 glass bottles, 5 million plastic bags and 1,600 tonnes of recycled asphalt milled locally from old roads and construction sites.

Todd Thornton, Area Manager for contractor BMD Urban, said; "From a contractor's point of view this was a good, easy project to manage.

"The process of applying Reconophalt asphalt with its superior performance qualities, was a no-brainer for us in terms of benefits to the stakeholders and the community."

Council's Director of City Assets Paul Belz said; "The developers, Stockland and the contractors came to us with an alternative way to construct the local roads.

"Council staff were excited to be one of the first councils in NSW to use Reconophalt on a subdivision construction works. With its contribution to the circular economy and by diverting tonnes of material away from landfill, we achieve real benefits for the local community and the environment."

Mayor Bleasdale said; “This is just one of many projects where Blacktown City Council is doing the right thing by our environment.

“In February 2020, Council acknowledged a climate emergency requiring immediate action by all levels of government, and committed to a target of 100% renewable electricity for Council operations by 2025.”

Blacktown City Council has the largest roof top solar installation of any council in Australia.

Council has set up a network of ‘heat refuges’ where vulnerable residents can shelter during extreme heatwaves and Council is involved in a number of projects to reduce ‘urban heat’ such as massive tree planting and utilising ‘cooler’ road surfacing materials.”

Council’s Project ‘Light Years Ahead’ has seen the upgrading of 12,000 street lights to low-emission, cost-effective LED lights in 20 established suburbs across Blacktown City, which has already seen an emissions saving of 2,750 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), or the equivalent of removing 650 cars from our roads.

In addition, LED street lighting is installed in all the recent developments in suburbs such as Marsden Park, Riverstone and Schofields.

“Blacktown City Council has been a leader in urban environmental planning for decades and these measures are a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to addressing the many impacts that climate change has on our community.” Mayor Bleasdale said.

To view the story of Recycled Roadways: <https://youtu.be/tSX3wh6N6Kc>







Pics show: Road surfacing in the Elara estate, Marsden Park with Reconophalt.

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