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Environmental initiative for Shepparton Painters

“Industry and government join forces for safe waste disposal trial... PaintCare”

On April 12, Member for Shepparton and Minister for Local Government Jeanette Powell officially launched a new trade paint disposal trial in Shepparton. Mrs Powell was representing the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith. For this project initiative, the Government joined forces with the Australian Paint Manufacturing Federation, Master Painters Australia, and City of Greater Shepparton, to launch “PaintCare” at the Shepparton Transfer Station.

“**PaintCare**” is a free drop-off service for trade paint and an Australia-first that will trial the collection and recycling of waste paint from trade painters. During a 3-month period, data will be collected to assess the level of trade waste paint that is disposed of. This will assist in the future planning and development of a national recycling program for the industry.

At the launch Mrs Powell said.... “An estimated 18,000 tonnes of waste paint require disposal in Australia each year and Shepparton is one of six Victorian locations to host the Australian-first trial. The trial aims to promote partnerships between the Victorian government, Local government, industry and the community to develop a scheme which helped ensure the safe disposal of a potentially hazardous product”.

Mrs Powell also said... “Improper disposal into the environment damages waterways by depriving aquatic life of oxygen and paint can contain harmful heavy metals like lead, zinc and chromium leading to long-term problems in the food chain”.

Many may be familiar with the Victorian Government’s safe disposal of household paint products through the ‘**Detox Your Home**’ program, but there are approximately 2400 Victorian trade painters who prior to this project being launched, did not have a cost effective solution for disposal of their waste paint.

As Chairman of Master Painters Australia, I am delighted about this shared initiative by industry and government of this potentially hazardous waste. It is one more step towards achieving a cleaner, more sustainable Victoria.

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Information correct at the time of writing