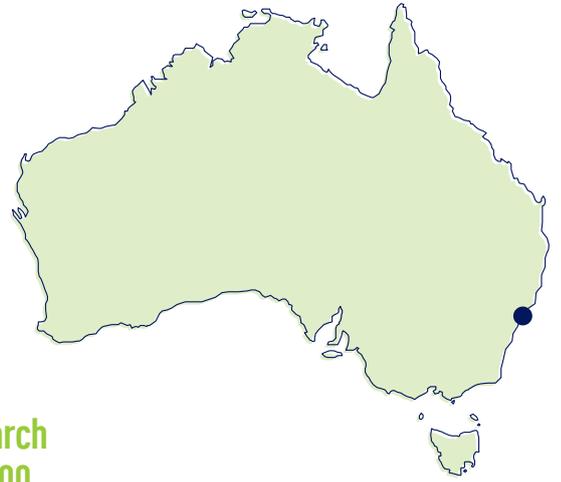


# Leading the way for waste management on campus



**Western Sydney University has eight campuses across the Greater Western Sydney region, providing education and research services to a community of more than 44,000 students and 3,000 staff in one of New South Wales' fastest growing areas.**

**With operations of this scale, the University is a significant producer of waste and is constantly reviewing new ways to improve its waste collection services and recycling efforts.**

When John Poulos, Western Sydney University's Cleaning, Recycling and Waste Manager approached SUEZ in 2009, there was a need for the University to not only to review its waste management operations from a budget perspective, but also address constant contamination issues with commingle recycling.

There was a concern that WSU were falling behind other universities and educational facilities from a recycling and recovery point of view. They wanted to become a leader in waste management amongst tertiary educators, especially with a cohort of students who expected better things from such a geographically diverse footprint.

For Nivin Serret, SUEZ Major Account Manager New South Wales the challenge for the team was to address the contamination issues that were ultimately increasing the costs for the University.

"As a waste management service provider we knew the importance of being able to develop a system that would not only satisfy WSU's financial requirements, but also cater to the various waste streams across all of its campuses," said Ms Serret.

Due to significant contamination issues, the University's waste could not be processed through traditional methods. Mixed and commingled waste is now taken to SUEZ's Advanced Resource Recovery Technology facility, which recovers valuable materials from both waste streams. This has helped the university achieve an 83% recycling rate and reduced the waste going to landfill by 69% and total waste by 57%.

Working together with WSU, SUEZ also implemented a number of changes on campus that saw a positive response from the entire University community.

"SUEZ has attended open days to educate students on recycling initiatives, we've also improved signage and recycling information



Western Sydney University's Campbelltown campus

**83% RECYCLING RATE**  
**AND REDUCED THE WASTE GOING TO LANDFILL BY 69%**

across all campuses and appropriately positioned clearly colour coded bins," added Ms Serret.

It is an exciting time for the University and all those involved with its waste management improvements. This is also evident by the TEFMA (Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association) Benchmark, which is currently 40% recycling.

Since this relationship with SUEZ began, the University has seen numerous benefits including efficiencies and overall improvements to changes in both their front and back of house operations, reduced traffic by reducing the amount of collections required, the introduction of the compactors has also eliminated the illegal dumping that used to take place regularly when open bins were being used.

Western Sydney University is also extending its relationship with the SUEZ from both an academic and services standpoint. Students and staff members have taken site tours of its waste management facilities and are now purchasing organic top soil to use on their gardens and sports fields.

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