

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JANUARY 30, 2020

Discussion forum explores the sinister environmental impact of waste and the things we throw away

In light of Australia's unprecedented and devastating bushfire season, Jesuit Social Services' Ecological Justice Hub and Moreland City Council will present a series of thought-provoking discussion forums drawing connections between consumer consumption and its relation to climate change.

"The bushfire crisis has left many Australians feeling helpless and wondering what they can do to respond to the climate emergency. This series of events will focus on the sinister environmental impact of the things we buy and throw away, and how we can make our lifestyles more sustainable," says Sally Parnell, Acting CEO at Jesuit Social Services.

Our Waste is a series of three discussion events that will explore how community members can reduce their home, kitchen and plastic waste and provide practical solutions to help people contribute to a safer climate.

The first event STUFF will be held on Thursday, February 27 as part of the [Sustainable Living Festival](#).

Panelists including Tamara DiMatteo (Founder of The New Joneses and Buy Nothing New Month), Sarah Hayes (Senior Research Fellow at Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation) and Sean Trewick (President of Circular Economy Victoria) will join comedian, writer and MC Justine Sless to discuss how people can support a second-hand economy and share resources rather than take individual ownership. Attendees will also be encouraged to pledge to Buy Nothing New for a month.

"We will explore the answer to questions such as who decides what waste is to begin with, how we determine when something's value ends and whose responsibility it is to clean up our waste," says Ms Parnell.

The second event in the series will be *FOOD*, which will showcase zero-waste cooking and introduce people to an understanding of waste in the food system. The third and final event will be *PEOPLE*, exploring how the most marginalised members of our communities get left behind, discarded and how we can all recognise ways in which we can create a fairer society.

Future events will be held on April 25 and June 11, respectively. For more information, visit www.jss.org.au

Our Waste: STUFF

When: Thursday 27th February, 6pm – 8.30pm

Where: Brunswick Mechanics Institute, 270 Sydney Road, Brunswick

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/our-waste-stuff-tickets-85946190369>

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