



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future 



18 August 2009

Media Statement

Eagles tackle litter problem

West Coast Eagles Brent Staker and Quinten Lynch put their ball-gathering skills to good use during a clean-up at North Balga Primary School this week as part of a warm-up for Keep Australia Beautiful Week which runs from 24 to 30 August.

The clean-up was the first of many that are scheduled to take place across the State as West Australians do their bit to clean up the environment.

The theme this year, Waste Lives On, aims to draw attention to the volume of waste produced by Australians and encourages people to challenge themselves to reduce waste.

“Up to 80 per cent of what we throw away can be recycled – it can save money and it is definitely good for the environment,” Quinten Lynch said.

“It’s not hard to cut down the amount of stuff you throw out, and when you consider that some materials, like plastic bottles, can take 500 years to break down, recycling is the least we can do for the environment.”

Quinten said it was encouraging to see the North Balga students chipping in and making a difference.

“You can achieve great things with team work,” he said.

Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) Council WA chair Mel Hay said the recently released *2009 National Litter Index Report* showed that West Australians were the worst litter bugs in the country.

“We are going the wrong way, it really is time to reverse that trend and there is no better time than Keep Australia Beautiful Week.

“I urge all West Australians to join KAB and the West Coast Eagles and clean-up your neighbourhood and any special spots you may visit: parks, rivers, or beaches.

“The week is also a good time to make a commitment by becoming a litter reporter or joining the Adopt-a-Spot program.”

KAB volunteers will be handing out car litter bags at Subiaco Oval on 28 August to remind football fans at the Eagles v Richmond game of the importance of disposing of waste properly.

For information about WA’s litter reporter and Adopt-a-Spot programs visit www.kabc.wa.gov.au.

For information on how to run a community clean-up during KAB Week and about the national campaign visit www.kab.org.au.

Media contact: DEC media 6467 5555

Captions (high res version of pictures available on request):

West Coast Eagles Brent Staker and Quinten Lynch show their support for KAB Week.

West Coast Eagles Quinten Lynch shows his support for KAB Week.

Students from North Balga Primary School collected 70 bags of litter from Princess Wallington Reserve. West Coast Eagles Brent Staker and Quinten Lynch joined the students to help promote KAB Week which runs from 24 to 30 August.

Brent Staker and Quinten Lynch with North Balga Primary School Year 7 student councillors Elisa Disalvio, Alison Ganter and Jemima Salim.