



A **YFS** Social Enterprise Initiative

SUBSTATION33

Recycling | Skills | Innovation



Impact Summary 2018-19

Tackling e-waste and creating pathways to jobs

Substation33 is an innovative electronic waste social enterprise in Logan, established by YFS in 2013 to create employment pathways for disadvantaged jobseekers.



We solve businesses' disposal problems and prevent e-waste going to landfill by accepting e-waste and disassembling it to create saleable products including:

- commodities such as plastics, aluminium, precious metals and steel
- components such as batteries and motherboards from recycling processes
- reconditioned electronics and computers
- electric bikes for job program participants
- innovative products from recycled materials
- 3D printers, including production of 3D printer kits from recycled materials
- extruded plastic for 3D printing.

Our guiding principles



Our vision

Vulnerable people achieving independence and participation through work or meaningful activity



Our purpose

Create employment pathways through the collection, processing and recycling of electronic waste

Our 2018-19 impact

We offered 623 people opportunities to learn skills in a supportive work environment in 2018-19.

Through 76,527 hours of work, our participants learned to disassemble waste and create value-added products like road flooding warning signs and water quality meters.



	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
e-waste processed (kg)	196,000	130,000	152,911	126,286
Work experience hours	57,202	50,200	43,353	34,639

623 people gained work experience

- 343 Work for the Dole participants
- 126 volunteers
- 33 school students
- 60 special school students
- 6 university students
- 55 people from the youth justice system



- 75 people moved into paid jobs
- 13 people transitioned to further training
- 11 people gained driver licences
- 4 people gained NDIS packages with our support

Economic impact on Logan

Logan City Council used an economic modelling tool to analyse the economic impact of Substation33 on the local and Australian economies.



Here's what they found



- The ten full-time equivalent jobs at Substation33 add \$4.25 million to Australia's Output, considering flow-on effects of economic activity



- The effect of economic multipliers in Logan City and the wider Australian economy means that the ten paid jobs at Substation33 add 19 jobs to the workforce overall



- Substation33 increases Logan City's Gross Regional Product by \$1.2 million each year, and Australia's Gross Domestic Product by \$1.92 million.



- The Rail Trail traineeship project has similar, smaller impacts on the local and national economies.

These figures don't include the value of employment outcomes achieved for Substation33 participants in external jobs. Many of the people we've helped move into paid work are at risk of long term unemployment. Long-term unemployment creates major costs to the Australian economy in welfare payments and other costs.

Employment outcomes

Substation33 takes an active role in securing employment for disadvantaged jobseekers. A dedicated Transition to Employment Officer supports our volunteers and Work for the Dole participants with resumes, job applications, interview preparation, employment coaching and job brokerage services. Our work achieved the following employment outcomes in 2018-19.

75 participants moved into paid jobs

- 27 Factory and warehouse jobs
- 11 Railtrail traineeships
- 8 Community services jobs
- 8 Labouring jobs
- 5 Government jobs
- 5 Fast food jobs
- 3 Childcare jobs
- 3 Cleaning jobs
- 2 Technology jobs
- 2 Office jobs
- 1 Media jobs



Traineeship outcomes

We once again offered opportunities for 16 disadvantaged job seekers to learn on the job through our Skilling Queenslanders for Work Rail Trail project. As well as gaining a qualification in land management, trainees gained skills that equipped them to take up jobs in other organisations when they finished the traineeship. We also connected 8 people to business traineeships, where they learned administration and marketing skills on-the-job in local community organisations.

Meet Whitney

Mum of two Whitney was struggling to get back into the workforce after taking a four-year break to raise her kids.

Before motherhood called, she was working her way up the corporate ladder in a mining company, specialising in business acquisitions.

In 2018, Centrelink referred Whitney to our ParentsNext team, who quickly recognised her skills and abilities and recommended her for a Substation33 Community Connections traineeship.



"I had been struggling to get back into the workforce," she said. "I thought it would be easy for me to return because I had all the credentials. But that wasn't the case.

"I had a pretty good resume and I had a lot of experience, but people were not giving me a second look. I just couldn't work it out. That was very depressing, especially when I knew I had done things in my work life that could help me get a job.

"I needed support to help me transition back and that's what YFS' ParentsNext worker provided me with."

Substation33 quickly recognised Whitney's talents, offering her a job as soon as she completed the traineeship.

"It really helped me get back into working life," Whitney said. "I'm so happy. I knew I never wanted to leave because I was offered a lot of help and nurturing by the Substation team. I'm so grateful to have a life again outside my house."

Our highlights

100+ flooded road warning signs

Logan City Council and Substation33's Flooded Road Smart Warning System took out the Queensland Community Award in the Resilient Australia Awards this year. A contract to deliver 50 signs for Logan in 2018-19 ensured ongoing opportunities for skill building. There are now 119 solar-powered signs installed at 61 sites throughout Logan.



Tony Sharp: Australia's social entrepreneur of the year

Substation33 manager Tony Sharp was named this year as Australia's Social Enterprise Champion of the Year at the Social Traders Australia National Conference. As well as running Substation33, Tony is a tireless advocate for social enterprises and a mentor to many.



Our highlights

Substation33 start-up PowerWells won Pitch@Palace vote

An enterprise born out of a Substation33 start-up weekend won the Pitch@Palace national vote in 2018. PowerWells converts empty paint tins, dumped laptop batteries and solar panels into power generation kits for remote communities. In late 2018, the team pitched their idea in London, United Kingdom, to some of the world's leading entrepreneurs and has since secured invaluable support from the likes of Tesla. Thirty of their kits are now operating in remote Indonesian communities.



Substation33 mentored 12 other social enterprises

Substation33 is also well known as a Hackerspace: a creative hub where people can learn together and share their passion for technology while working on unique projects. Using a small Queensland Government grant, we supported another 12 social enterprises in 2018-19, providing working and learning spaces plus individual and group mentoring. In addition to mentoring PowerWells, we began assisting two contestants in this year's Pitch@Palace (Therapy Trike and LINC) and a Griffith University project to develop a neck sensory system for physiotherapists.



We actively promoted healthy lifestyle choices

We provided our participants with opportunities to have open conversations throughout the year about alcohol consumption and drug use, breaking down the stigma of socialising sober, thanks to a small grant from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation. It's part of our mission to promote healthy lifestyle choices, social equity and sustainability.



E-waste now monitors water quality

Innovative water quality monitoring at Griffith University's Logan campus is due in part to the talents of the Substation33 team. After securing a grant from Transurban, we made the equipment from batteries, solar panels and other components recovered from local e-waste. Our innovation tests the quality of water in the campus' lake and creeks every 15 minutes and uploads it online. University researchers are alerted to conditions that may lead to water quality problems before they occur.



Meet Aaron

Aaron was a fourth-year electrical engineering student at Griffith University on the Gold Coast when he first connected with Substation33. In his final semester, Aaron was quick to accept on our offer of a community internship, despite having to commute to Logan by car and train every day.



By the end of his internship, he had developed the type of practical skills that employers are demanding. It wasn't long before he secured a job with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

"Substation33 helped me so much," he said. "Nearly every day I learned something new. The majority of it involved proper practical skills that the university didn't offer."



I physically built things and learned the next steps on how to get from A to B, without just going, 'Here's the theory, predict that you can do it, which is usually the way it happens at uni.'

Aaron's traineeship saw him design and build road signs, work with 3D printers, and create a solar-powered PA system using recycled materials, which the Logan Eco Action Festival relied on this year.

His internship ensured Aaron was job ready from day one.

At Main Roads, Aaron designs the sensors, traffic lights and signs in use on the Pacific Motorway from Robina to Helensvale. He also designs the lights that control traffic along Bermuda Street on the Gold Coast.

Get involved

We aim to develop meaningful relationships with a variety of businesses. Developing a professional relationship with us can manifest in a wide array of scenarios from electronic waste audits and disposal to collaborating on technical projects.



E-waste collection

We collect a variety of electronic waste from Brisbane and surrounding areas at no cost to you.



Volunteer

Whether you are unemployed, studying or working, consider volunteering with us if are looking to enhance your practical skills. We have opportunities in e-waste recycling, 3D printing/computer animated design, IT services, software development, hardware development and design/prototyping.



Collaboration

We can develop and implement systems that help progress your business to a sustainable future.



Research

We welcome the opportunity for research into the Substation33 experience and the benefits of a hands-on learning environment.

To find out more, don't hesitate to
call 07 3826 1533,
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YFS and Substation33 respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's first peoples and the traditional owners/custodians of the land on which we meet and work. We recognise the important role they have within community and country, and we pay our respects to the Elders of this land past and present.

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Substation33 receives financial support from the Queensland Government and Logan City Council.

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