

Tiny Tins? Karlie Zec Wins National Waste Industry Award

November 16, 2026

UNANDERRA, NSW - November 16, 2026 -
Tiny Tins co-owner Karlie Zec has been named Young Professional of the Year at the 2026 Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards. The national recognition comes as the Illawarra business continues its waste collection, resource recovery and local community education work.

Tiny Tins co-owner Karlie Zec was named Young Professional of the Year at the 2026 Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards. The company supplies skip bins to Wollongong households and builders for waste collection. Zec received the award in Melbourne on 29 October. She operates the family-owned business from Unanderra, NSW, alongside Adrian. The recognition comes as NSW reports rising waste volumes, with construction and demolition accounting for most of the latest annual increase.

Waste Management Review reported the result on 30 October following the gala dinner at Evoque Events,

held with principal partner Bucher Municipal. Zec was one of ten finalists in the Young Professional category, alongside people from Veolia Environmental Services, APR Recycling, HiQ and Bathurst Regional Council. Across 16 categories, the awards recognised individual careers and projects spanning resource recovery, operational performance and community engagement.

Zec was also shortlisted for the 2026 Innovation Award, while the organiser?s 2025 records list her as a finalist for Woman of Waste. REMONDIS Australia sponsors the Young Professional of the Year category, which recognises a waste-sector professional aged 35 or younger when nominations close.

?Being part of these national awards is a chance to recognise the people doing the daily work. Collecting waste is only one part of the job. The next question is what can be recovered from it and how those materials can be put to use.?

The October award follows two other national results for Zec and the business this year. In June, the Women in Industry Awards named Zec the inaugural winner of its Women in Leadership category. Tiny Tins also won Waste & Recycling Business of the Year at the 2026 Australian Freight Industry Awards, according to the organiser?s published results. The June event covered fields including transport, construction and manufacturing, with Women in Leadership one of four newly introduced categories. Tiny Tins? daily collection work serves households, builders, businesses and event organisers across the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama council areas.

For more information, visit https://www.tinytinswastemanagement.com.au/

NSW generated 22.4 million tonnes of waste in 2024?25, up 5% from the previous financial year, according to NSW Environment Protection Authority data updated on 4 November 2026. The state recycled 67% of its waste, while the construction and demolition stream recorded a recycling rate of 80%. Waste generated by construction and demolition increased by 7%; municipal and commercial waste volumes remained stable.

Tonnes recycled rose by 6%, but the amount disposed of also increased by 2%, according to the EPA. The figures show why recovering usable material from building waste remains a practical issue for the industry, even though the construction and demolition stream?s recycling rate exceeds the statewide average.

Resource recovery means separating and processing discarded materials for further use, rather than treating every load as rubbish for disposal. Tiny Tins says it sorts collected concrete, brick and masonry and processes recovered material into aggregate and concrete products at its Unanderra yard. Its Wollongong skip bin hire service covers renovation and construction waste, household clear-outs and garden projects.

The company lists eight sizes from 2m³ to 12m³, with a core delivery area extending from Coledale to Gerringong.

Beyond building materials, Tiny Tins describes a separate programme for small rigid plastics such as bottle caps and lids, which are sorted, cleaned, shredded and reshaped using equipment in the Illawarra. The resulting products include pens, plant pots and golf tees. Its free preschool sessions use a waste-sorting game and the company?s book Recycle It to explain how collected plastics become new objects. Tiny Tins also says it supports the Illawarra Community Foundation and Talk2MeBro, placing community fundraising alongside its collection, recycling and education work.

About Tiny Tins

Tiny Tins Waste Management is a family-owned skip bin hire business based in Unanderra, NSW. It supplies households, businesses, builders and event organisers across Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama, with skip bins, skip bags and wheelie bins.

###

For more information about Tiny Tins, contact the company here:Tiny TinsKarlie Zec0426 241 951skipbin@tinytinswastemanagement.com.au9-11 Sylvester Ave, Unanderra, NSW 2526

Tiny Tins

Website: https://www.tinytinswastemanagement.com.au/

Email: skipbin@tinytinswastemanagement.com.au

Phone: 0426 241 951