

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

March 2003



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Resource NSW Sponsorship

Resource NSW this month indicated that the Minister for the Environment has approved of funding for the NEWF for a period of one year (ending June 2003). Further funding will be subject to a review of progress of projects during the first year. After negotiations are settled the NEWF will receive \$50,000 (April '03), up to \$80,000 (May '03) and \$20,000 (June '03). Funding is provided for a specified set of milestones, with projects taken from the NEWF Regional Waste Plan. Projects to be completed by June '03 include:

- ChemCollect collection
- Hazardous Waste collection
- Greenwaste contract reviewed and commenced
- Regional collection contracts for the southern councils

- Study of regional disposal options for the northern councils
- DrumMUSTER collection
- Litter: tourist holiday project
- Landfill Operator training
- Environmental Education Resource List and Network
- Avoidance Education Project
- Reuse Directory and promotion
- Waste as Art Workshops
- Recycling Contamination Displays
- Landfill and Transfer Station Open Days

Many of these projects have been completed throughout the year or are in progress and are on track to be finalised on or before June 2003. For more information about individual projects please contact Heather or Bernadette directly.

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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Recycling Contamination Display

When finished, this generic display will be put to good use by all councils to promote correct recycling habits to the community. The displays will be interactive and will concentrate on correctly recycling each product rather than on the type of recycling system used.

Other Funding News

The NEWF has been granted \$50,000 to set up the regional hazardous waste stores - infrastructure only. A draft funding agreement contract has been drawn up between the NEWF and RNSW. The NEWF may be able to apply for further 'special' funding for other hazardous waste projects such as annual regional collections for household hazardous waste in the future.

Two grants of \$30,000 each have been applied for from RNSW for Organics projects in the region. The grants will allow the NEWF to undertake inventories of the total organics across the northern council and the southern council areas. The inventory will take into account all organics including household, commercial and agricultural.

Waste Costs and Charges Project

The report aims to address concerns that the costing and charging systems of the NEWF member Councils for solid waste management may not be adequate for dealing with long term waste management and its impacts. It is also possible they are not appropriate in terms of relevant legislation concerning waste management charges. A wide range of data and other material has been collected and reviewed in the report, including the views of representatives of eight NEWF member Councils concerning waste accounting and finances, as well as interpretation of legislation governing the provision of waste management services.

A draft report has been completed and distributed to council staff. For more information on this project or for a copy of the report, please contact Heather on 6685 5866.

WasteQ Conference

Bernadette attended the recent WasteQ Conference in Coolangatta as a guest speaker, with her presentation titled 'the Benefits of Co-operation - the NEWF Hazardous Waste Project'.

The presentation was well received and participants were surprised at the volume and depth of projects that the NEWF councils were able to accomplish on a collaborative basis.

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