

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

November 2003



Enquires To:

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NEWF Review Update

Representatives from Ballina, Byron, Copmanhurst, Grafton, Lismore, Maclean, Pristine Waters and Richmond Valley councils attended the NEWF Review workshop at Evans Head on November 20. Peter Cuming and Elizabeth Bragg from Sustainable Futures Australia (SFA) facilitated the workshop.

Peter and Elizabeth guided the participants through a series of issues – Strategic, Structural, Operational and Service Delivery. These issues had previously been highlighted in the survey sent to all councils during September.

They were able to draw from the Position Paper they had prepared – a summary of submissions from

councils, identifying common positions and drawing together areas of agreement.

Using the planning web as a basis for discussion, a vision for the North East Waste Forum, a set of goals and a series of guiding principles were developed to assist the NEWF in defining its current and future roles. The current operations (specifically meeting procedures), communication and reporting between councils and the existing financial arrangements (contributions and commitments by councils) were also explored and a series of options developed for the NEWF councils to consider.

The final stage in the review – a report based on the workshop – will be available for councils in December.

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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Avoidance Education

Research has now begun on this exciting education project to develop an interactive Mobile Education Unit for the NEWF councils, to help spread the waste avoidance message across the north coast. The unit will be a valuable resource for helping the community to change waste behaviour. Councils will be able to use the unit at community festivals, events and schools etc.

Hazardous Waste Training

Waste operational and education staff from across the region came to Grafton for a two day Hazardous Waste Training Session conducted by Haztech Industries during November.

The program covered Dangerous Goods, Hazardous Substances, Risk Assessment, Waste Tracking, Labelling and Storage, and included a site visit to Grafton Works Depot to conduct an audit

on a Dangerous Goods Store.

The training provoked much discussion amongst the participants about procedures, presentation of dangerous goods and how to avoid and reduce occupational health and safety and environmental risks.

Each participant will receive a Certificate of Attendance.

Recycling Information Displays

The Recycling Information Display developed by the NEWF is now available for councils to use. It provides information about how to recycle correctly (steel cans, paper and cardboard and glass), contamination, and congratulates the community for their recycling efforts. The display was used as part of Lismore City Council's display at their recycling drop off centres during National Recycling Week and will soon be seen around the Clarence Valley council areas. A second stage of the display will be developed over the coming months, covering correct recycling of plastics, aluminium cans and milk and juice cartons as well as a handy guide to recycling right. Contact Bernadette if your council would like to use the display.

National Recycling Week

To help support National Recycling Week, the NEWF ran a series of newspaper advertisements across the region aiming to promote correct recycling habits. The ads were a reminder to residents to first check with their council about what they can recycle and then to follow some simple rules - sort it, check it, clean it - to make sure they keep recycling contamination free. The ads were supported by editorial asking residents to take the three R's challenge and reduce their waste.

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