

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH EAST WASTE FORUM

February 2004



Newsletter Enquires To:

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Northern Councils Sub-regional Projects

Two projects with a focus on sub-regional co-operation for the northern councils (Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Richmond Valley – with Kyogle and Tweed Councils involved) in relation to waste management will begin during the first half of 2004.

Each of the projects will investigate ways for councils to co-operate on collection, separation, transport and disposal of waste and recyclable materials.

At the same time the group will also assess the progress made towards sub-regional disposal options – an issue that has previously been reported on for the northern councils.

Meeting of Voluntary Regional Waste Groups

The seven voluntary regional waste groups in NSW met in Tamworth recently for the quarterly meeting and forum. Regional Forums are supported and co-ordinated by the Department of Environment and Conservation. They provide the regional groups with a forum to discuss and collaborate on issues relevant to regional councils, and also to access information about current waste projects and support available to councils.

The regional waste groups include: the NEWF, Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils, Murray Regional Organisation of Councils, Riverina Regional Organisation of Councils, NetWaste (western region), MidWaste (mid-north coast) and Northern Inland Regional Waste. Hosts NIRW gave an overview of their current and future programs and conducted a tour of the Tamworth landfill. In addition the Beverage Industry Environment Council presented the results of its resource recovers strategy for the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

NEW WAYS WITH LESS WASTE

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NEWF Meetings

Future meetings of the NEWF:

Friday April 30 2004

9.30am - 12.30pm

Clarence Valley Council

Maclean Office

River Street, Maclean

Friday June 11 2004

9.30am - 12.30pm

Byron Shire Council

Station Street, Mullumbimby

Project Development Working Group

At the February meeting a Project Development Working Group was formed to look at future projects and finance/funding of the NEWF (including member council contributions). Working Group members include Gordon Fraser-Quick, Russell Chaplin, Craig Kelly, Ken Wilson and Bernadette Thomas.

The group will liaise with the Department of Environment and Conservation to ensure that future projects are consistent with the *NSW Waste Strategy*. A report will be tabled at the next NEWF meeting in April.

Regional Organics Management Planning

The NEWF has recently granted a contract to The Organic Force to conduct an inventory of all the organic waste produced across the NEWF region. The consultants will conduct surveys and visit sites of a range of organic waste producers with the aim of compiling a database of producers in each council area. This information will then be used to assist potential users of organic waste material to analyse the feasibility of waste industry development. The inventory is the first stage in regional organics planning and will continue until June 2004. The project was substantially funded by a grant from the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Draft Local Government Action Plan

The Department of Environment and Conservation released a draft action plan for waste reduction and resource recovery for comment in December 2003. The plan sets out a discussion framework for councils to agree on commitments, actions and sub-targets by Local Government as a sector in order to contribute to the outcomes and targets in the *NSW Waste Strategy*.

The NEWF has made a submission highlighting issues relating specifically to rural/regional councils.

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