

MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL LANDFILL DETERMINATION

The North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group has received its financial allocation from the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy for 2018/2019. Understanding its funding allocation for the financial year enables the Group to confirm and deliver its Business Plan. The Group has had modest success in receiving an additional allocation from the landfill levy for 2018/2019 and will continue to advocate for sufficient resources to deliver its Implementation Plan for the region.

BUFFER SUPPORT PROGRAM

North East WRRG commissioned RM Consulting Group Pty Ltd to undertake an assessment of buffers around regional waste and resource recovery facilities and the need for the facilities and buffers to be defined and protected by planning policy. The assessment included 13 nominated waste facilities across the region to determine the required separation distance from sensitive uses, a qualitative risk assessment of buffers around waste and resource recovery sites and the identification of opportunities to strengthen support for waste and resource recovery facilities in planning policy.

During the next month, North East WRRG will be arranging meetings with the relevant Councils to discuss the outcomes of the report and how to progress with the recommendations to ensure the security of buffers and security of operations at key waste and resource recovery facilities is maintained to maximise the investment these sites represent to our community.

INSIDE WASTE AWARDS: WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

North East WRRG continues to find opportunities to promote the waste and resource recovery efforts of Local Government and Alpine Resorts where possible. The recent publication of Inside Waste magazine highlights the North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group as a finalist in the Outstanding Local Government Award category of the Inside Waste: Waste and Resource Recovery Excellence Awards. The introduction of food and organics collection services in the North East in mid 2015 has brought many positive outcomes including reduced waste to landfill, high diversion rates and low contamination issues. As the summary states 'arguably, the best performing FOGO collection services in Australia'. The North East WRRG Board congratulates Wodonga City Council, Indigo Shire, City of Wangaratta and Benalla Rural City Council for their commitment to implementing a highly regarded service.

NORTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROGRAM

The North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group (North East WRRG) Board is looking forward to attending the local government forums project planning workshop scheduled for 8 November in Wangaratta. Focussed on planning priority waste and resource recovery projects for 2019/2010, the board directors are keen to gain insight to what are the priority waste and resource recovery needs of local government and alpine resorts in the north east region and what innovative ideas will be brought to the table for discussion.

The North East WRRG has worked with local government and alpine resorts to deliver their program for the last four years and has included projects around public place recycling, kerbside audits, school engagement, illegal dumping and training and development for staff and councillors.

Our region has a long history of being innovative and this is our time to look at what else we may do to extend our progress to maximise resource use.

E-WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Over \$1m funding has been allocated to supporting infrastructure development to manage E-waste across the North East region. The North East WRRG Board were pleased to be informed that 14 sites will be upgraded in preparation for managing E-waste when the ban to landfill comes into effect 1 July 2019.



TIDY TOWN AWARDS

The North East Board congratulates Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Resort Management on winning the Litter Prevention Category at the recent Tidy Towns Awards for their Don't Waste Mount Stirling project. It also extends its congratulations to the North Wangaratta Community Group who won the Cultural Heritage Category for their North Wangaratta Historic Storyboard Trail.

LITTER PREVENTION HIGHLIGHT: Before the project, 79 per cent of users surveyed would carry out their waste but only 36 per cent would source separate waste and recyclables. The provision of colour-coded bags was a wonderful way to link with home behaviours. The project created much needed educational materials for school and outdoor education groups using the mountain.



NATIONAL WASTE POLICY

The Commonwealth recently released a discussion paper on updating the 2009 national waste policy. While the opportunity to provide feedback on the paper has closed the document provides interesting points of discussion in shifting the direction of waste and resource recovery policy.

The feedback will inform updates to the 2009 national waste policy for consideration by environment ministers later this year.

The discussion paper reflects circular economy principles and proposes a number of targets for comment, including:

1. Reduce total waste generated in Australia per capita by 10 per cent by 2030
2. 80 per cent average recovery rate from all resource-recovery streams, following the waste hierarchy, by 2030
3. 30 per cent average recycled content across all goods and infrastructure procurement by 2030
4. Phase out problematic and unnecessary plastics by 2030
5. Halve the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 2030
6. Fit-for-purpose and timely data to be available for individuals, businesses, and governments to make informed decisions.

A copy of the discussion paper can be found at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-waste-policy>

FURTHER INFORMATION

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