



'Rossko' Award – Call for submissions

Ross Kenneth ('Rossko') Overton was the architect and founding Chair of the Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee of the North Queensland Local Government Association. He was one of the real characters of local government in regional Queensland and was renowned for his intelligence, wit, and contribution to the community.

Sadly, Ross succumbed to ill-health in March 2006. In an effort to maintain Ross's legacy and to honour his memory across regional Queensland, LAWMAC established the annual "Rossko Award" for leadership, innovation and dedication in the field of waste management in the North Queensland Local Government Association area.

The 2008 'Rossko Award' is currently open for submissions with the closing date being the 29th May 2009. Presentation of the award will be at the LAWMAC Bi-Annual Conference in October 2009.

Those wishing to submit themselves, a fellow colleague, local government, company or agency for nomination should download a Nomination Form from the LAWMAC website: <http://www.lawmac.org.au/>

Hayley Page

Townsville City Council - Striving for Safety

In January 2009, Waste Services took out the inaugural Townsville City Council Safety Innovation Award. They were nominated for the award after installing a number of modifications on their waste and recycling collection fleet.



Receiving the gold star

The modifications on the trucks include:

- sonar reversing sensors which activate an audible alarm when an object comes within the 5 metre buffer zone at the rear of the truck
- the in cab monitor defaults to the reversing camera when the truck is put into reverse
- reverse speed limited to 1400 RPMs
- hazard lights flash when the lifter arm breaks the stowed position
- a dead man switch is fitted to the drivers seat to automatically apply the brake when the drivers door is opened and no weight is applied to the seat
- the radio mutes when the truck is put into reverse.

These innovations represent a significant step towards a safer workplace for our collection team and the public in general. Feedback from our drivers has been nothing but positive.

Matthew McCarthy



Reversing Sensor

National Packaging Covenant 2009 Project Funding

Since 2001, the National Packaging Covenant has provided joint industry/government funding support for projects that are capable of diverting significant tonnages of used packaging from landfill. The next round of Covenant funding has just been released.

Expressions of Interests for this round close Friday the 6th March. Guidelines and details of current projects can be found on the Covenant website: <http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/>

Christine Blanchard

ChemClear Program

ChemClear® is the national program for the collection and safe disposal of unwanted agvet chemicals and operates through Agsafe Ltd which is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation. The opportunity to dispose of unwanted chemicals via the ChemClear program in Queensland draws near and the deadline for bookings is 25th of March for May collections.

For more information please phone the registration number below, or contact the National Program Manager, Lisa Nixon on 02 6230 4799.

All chemicals must be pre-registered by phoning 1800 008 182 or logging on to the website: <http://www.chemclear.com.au/>

Bill Davis

Townsville releases electronic calendar in effort to reduce waste.

Waste Services at Townsville City Council has developed an online waste and recycling calendar. Residents can log on to the council website, type in their address and generate an electronic calendar showing their recycle bin collection day and week. They then have the **option** to print out the calendar if they desire. The introduction of this innovative system negates the need to produce and distribute approximately 60 000 fridge calendars to residents which has obvious environmental and economic savings.

Hayley Page



Townsville's Electronic Calendar:

<http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/apps/refuse>

Australia's Stadiums 'do the right thing'

The Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council is helping major venues and stadiums across Australia reduce litter and carbon emissions associated with waste by introducing new recycling systems.

The introduction of new infrastructure to recycle beverage containers as well as some well known 'Do the Right Thing' signage has led to each venue recycling 12,000kg plastic bottles and cups in the first six months.

The effectiveness of the PSF's work in Tasmania is also being replicated in Queensland, with the PSF partnering with the E.P.A on their 'Climate Smart Living' Campaign. The campaign has received funding from both the National Packaging Covenant and the PSF.

The PSF is currently working with the Dairy Farmers Stadium in Townsville to introduce new or improved collection infrastructure at this stadium.

The introduction of recycling at major venues and stadiums across Australia is a clear demonstration of PSF member companies' commitment to product stewardship. If your council has a large venue such as a convention centre or sporting stadium, please contact Oliver Furbur, PSF Program Manager for QLD to see if PSF could work with your Council to improve the recovery of recyclables from the venue. Call him direct on his mobile: 0407 932 943 or email oliver.furbur@afgc.org.au and he will be keen to see if PSF can work for you.

Oliver Furbur

Public Place Recycling Program

The EPA is pleased to announce support for the installation by Councils of Public Place Recycling (PPR) facilities. Under the PPR program funds have been allocated to subsidise the cost of dual bin enclosures for installation by Councils. Councils may also be interested in funding awareness raising materials for public place recycling and obtaining bin caps and signage.

The deadline for the first funding round for the provision of rebates will be **31 March 2008**. A second funding round will be announced at a later date for the first half of 09/10 financial year. Forms and further information can be obtained from the website: http://www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/waste/public_place_recycling/local_councils_public_place_recycling/

Tamara Miller