



Thanks Past Members



Cooktown meeting 07/02/08

The 7th February 2008 was the last LAWMAC meeting prior to council amalgamations and many members have moved on either through the election process or new career paths. Special mention should be made to all past members who have dedicated their time and effort to build LAWMAC to the organisation that it is today.

COUNCILLORS

Cr Chris Adams (ATHERTON)
Cr Kevin Perrett (BOWEN)
Cr Lyndy McCathie (BURDEKIN)
Cr Treena List (BURDEKIN)
Cr Jeff Pezzutti (CAIRNS)
Cr Barry Barnes (CARDWELL)
Cr Brenda Schneekloth (CARPENTARIA)
Cr Owen Smith (CHARTERS TOWERS)
Cr Keith Eales (COOK)
Cr George Kidner (EACHAM)
Cr Brian Ball HERBERTON:
Cr Sam Torrisi (HINCHINBROOK)
Cr Shaun Sheahan (HINCHINBROOK)
Cr Bob Neate (MAREEBA)
Cr David Clarke (MIRANI)
Cr Mark Van Ryt, (MOUNT ISA)
Cr John Airoidi (SARINA)
Cr Leeanne Hanna-McGuffie (THURINGOWA)
Cr Jenny Hill (TOWNSVILLE)
Cr Jack Lumby (WHITSUNDAY)
Cr Jennifer Whitney (WHITSUNDAY)

OFFICERS

Mr Paul Hoye (DOUGLAS)
Mr Matthew Hyde (EACHAM)
Ms Zoe Williams (EACHAM)
Mr John Dearlove (JOHNSTONE)
Ms Debbie Adams (MIRANI)
Ms Frances McDonald (WHITSUNDAY)
Ms Nicole Yates (MANDALAY)
Mr Gavin Hammond (TOWNSVILLE)

LAWMAC would also like to highlight the outstanding contribution, stewardship, vision and innovation of our former **Chair, Cr Dave Egan** (DOUGLAS) and **Deputy Chair Cr Wendy Western** (NEBO). It would also be remiss not to mention Bruce Crunkhorn (MAREEBA) who worked alongside the late Ross Overton in the beginnings and has been long term supporter of LAWMAC.

Is That You Emitting Gas?

On 16 July the government released its green paper on what it now calls a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, which it says represents a whole of economy approach and Australia's international response to climate change.

The Waste Sector accounts for just over 3% percent of Australia's carbon emissions with more than 85% of the waste sector emissions derived from solid waste to landfill.

The governments preferred position is that emissions from the waste sector will be covered from scheme commencement (2010), with the precise scope of coverage, thresholds and other detailed design issues to be determined. It is recognised that decisions would need to be made about the appropriate emissions threshold for inclusion in the scheme. A further complexity is the treatment of legacy emissions from closed sites as landfills continue to generate emissions for decades post closure.

Thresholds currently being considered are between 10 – 25 kt CO₂ –e/year. Alternatively, a regulatory approach is being considered mandating methane capture and other specific engineering techniques designed to maximise methane capture.

Obtaining an accurate estimate of the emissions profile of a landfill is complex. Indirect sampling technologies such as volume of waste deposited is currently being proposed as the indicator for obligations under the scheme.

Inclusion of the Waste Sector in the scheme will provide economic incentives for industry and local government to adopt better waste management practices including reducing greenhouse gas emissions beyond regulatory requirements. Placing a limit and a price on pollution will change the way we manage waste from now on. **Shannon Gorman**

'Don't Rubbish Our Region'

It is an exciting period for Mackay Regional Council as it delivers key infrastructure for a rapidly growing community. Major projects currently underway include the Bluewater Lagoon, Bluewater Quay, Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre and Mackay Water Recycling Project. The Blue Water Lagoon is approximately 3000 square meters of water space, the same size as three Olympic size swimming pools. The three-tiered lagoon, including a special children's water play lagoon, a water slide in the middle lagoon and an upper lagoon overlooking the city's premier natural asset - the blue Pioneer River. Construction commenced August 2007 with the projects official opening on 10th August 2008.

This signature attraction gave Council the opportunity to raise the profile of away from home recycling and best practice litter management. 'We want to continue to facilitate socially responsible behaviour in the community by creating facilities and a culture that enables recycling away from home in Mackay's public places and spaces' (Cr Greg Thomson). The precinct bin design interconnects with the existing City Centre and Sarina precinct public place bin infrastructure enhancing visual consistency and identity. Council is promoting the initiative with an awareness campaign based on away from home recycling and the new litter laws delivered through; signage, billboards, print and radio media and branded 'Don't Rubbish Our Region'. The project has been gratefully supported by The Packaging Stewardship Forum, many thanks Oliver.

Shannon Gorman

Australian – Alternative Capping Assessment Project – A-ACAP Townsville

Townsville City Council's Vantassel Street Landfill is one of five project sites in Australia designed to test the use of alternate technology when environmentally capping landfills.

Currently the only EPA approved method of capping is six hundred (600) millimetres of compacted clay and a geosynthetic liner topped with two to three hundred millimetres of loam and grassed. The alternative capping being assessed is phytocapping.

Phytocapping in this context is the use of vegetation (specific trees and shrubs) to act as biological pumps to maintain a liquid balance to ensure rain does not enter the waste layer. Depth of soil and concentration of planting is determined by predicted rainfall. The depth of soil in the Townsville test site is fifteen hundred (1,500) millimetres of planting media (loam). This negates the requirement for the most expensive part of landfill capping - compacted clay and geosynthetic liner.

The project is auspiced by the Waste Management of Australia with some Federal Funding. The University of Melbourne with assistance from Griffith and Central Queensland Universities is the technical supervisor of the project. Townsville City Council as the site sponsor is required to pay a subscription and an in kind support. The Queensland Government has provided a subsidy through the Environmental Infrastructure Research program.

The project involves the construction on top of the landfill of two lysimeter cells (one for the phyto cap one for compacted clay cap), two control cells (one for the phyto cap and one for the clay) and a planting cell which is dissected during phases of the project to determine plant growth. Each cell is ten metres by five metres with a depth of 1.7 metres for the phyto cap and 0.8 metres for the clay lined cell.

A lysimeter is in effect a large box in which is constructed the cell and sensors are placed throughout the cell at specific levels to measure moisture levels and gas. Sensors are also located at the drainage outlets to measure surface and sub surface migration of water. The sensors and a weather station are linked to a telemetry system where all data is sent automatically via mobile phone to the University of Melbourne with access available to computers at Townsville City Council.

The project is planned to take data for five years and then a report produced by three PHD students working on the project as part of their academic pursuits. The outcome expected as already proven in the United States is that phyto capping is more environmentally effective than conventional capping and the cost of constructing phyto capping is less than one fifth of the cost of conventional capping. **Ian Kuhl**

WMAA Support Letter

As the Waste Management industry attempts to address the challenges of the 21st century we will increasingly rely on regional bodies to help face those challenges. The Queensland branch of the WMAA therefore believes we cannot overstate the importance of organizations like LAWMAC that represent the voice of the North Queensland region.

LAWMAC has provided value to its members by focusing regional waste discussion to allow input from all members in this region unique in its economic, geographic and demographic diversity. The ability to address the change management required for items such as climate change and EPA policy will require regional dialogue and implementation and can only be realised through input from organisations like LAWMAC.

A commitment to best practice in waste management must be promoted at all levels and as such the Queensland branch of the WMAA supports the continued existence and progress of the LAWMAC organization and will assist in the development of these goals where possible.

Troy Uren
President, Queensland branch of WMAA

Next Issue

Mackay Flood Response
Litter Law Enforcement Mackay
My Old Nana's Compost Recipe

LAWMAC Meetings Update

The next AGM and General Meeting of LAWMAC is scheduled to be held in Townsville (Riverway Meeting Rooms, Thuringowa) at 8.30am Friday 8th August 2008 with a Strategic Plan Review Workshop to be convened at 1.00pm on Thursday 7th August.