



## LAWMAC Meeting in Cairns

As everyone would be aware, the next LAWMAC meeting is to be held in Cairns on 30/31 March 2006, with a full day technical tour scheduled for the Thursday. The technical tour will take in an excellent cross section of the waste facilities within Cairns and also the new landfill on the tablelands.

The Springmount landfill, which is situated on the tablelands just past the Mareeba township; is a fully engineered and highly environmentally friendly landfill with guaranteed air space of about 50-years and potentially up to 100 years. The facility is a joint venture between FGF Developments (a local Cairns company) and Thiess Services.

Also on the agenda for the technical tour is a visit to the Bedminster Plant (waste composting facility), Cairns City Councils new MRF facility, Portsmith waste transfer station and Cairns Council's very successful buy back shop.

Please remember if you intend on coming to the Thursday technical tour and haven't RSVP'd yet, please do so by Friday 17 March to Stephanie Pedersen on email at [s.pedersen@cairns.qld.gov.au](mailto:s.pedersen@cairns.qld.gov.au) or on 07 4044 8210.

## Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) membership

I was recently looking through the list of local government members of the WMAA and noted that there were not a lot of LAWMAC Councils as members. There really are some great benefits to being a member of the WMAA such as quarterly newsletters (hard copy), monthly e-newsletters, notification of technical and practical seminars, workshops and tours, voting rights, case studies and special members rates for [Avis Car Rentals](#) and [Accor Hotels](#) to name a few. Information contained within the monthly and quarterly newsletters can be a great benefit. Local Government memberships start for as little as \$253 per year, which I believe is a good investment. Website address for WMAA is - [www.wmaa.asn.au](http://www.wmaa.asn.au)

## Cairns City Council to launch new TV recycling education campaign

Cairns City Council has just finished developing and filming a series of television recycling adverts which are targeted at school aged children to increase household and away from home recycling (public place recycling). CCC worked closely with WIN television to develop the series of adverts and was able to negotiate a very competitive price for production and airtime.

WIN television provided the technical expertise to the project and CCC's waste education & promotions officer, Lia McDonald, developed the script contents and general theme for the ads. Screening commenced in the last week of February and will run for 6 weeks. The ads have been designed so that they run in 6 week blocks and can be re-run over again without any further need for editing. All CCC's waste characters are involved in the ads as seen below.



Rosco, Gazza & Bindy

## Paper facts!

### Did you know?

- Recycling 1 tonne of paper & cardboard saves about 13 trees
- Australians use more than 3.5 million tonnes of paper every year and less than half is collected for recycling
- There are 40,000 pieces of A4 paper in 1 tonne

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## Enviro 06 Conference & Exhibition

The Enviro Conference & Exhibition is a platform for showcasing the Australian environment industry.

To be held in Melbourne from Tuesday 9 May to Thursday 11 May 2006, Enviroaust will present the Enviro 06 Conference & Exhibition in collaboration with partner associations, the Australian Water Association and the Waste Management Association of Australia, and also in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Since it began in Sydney in 2000, Enviro has grown from strength to strength, drawing 6,000 people to Melbourne in 2002 and more than 5,000 to Sydney in 2004. The organisers are expecting another 6,000 to attend the Melbourne event in 2006, which will comprise 24 streams and an exhibition arranged around the theme of *Building Sustainable Cities*.

## BIEC audit training & public place recycling funding

BIEC have been very active in Far North Queensland in the last 6 months, through funding provided to Cairns City Council and Douglas Shire Council a number of stainless steel public place recycling stations have been installed.

In conjunction with the installation of the recycling stations, BIEC also coordinated and funded with the assistance of DSC, waste auditors training. Staff attended the training from several LAWMAC Councils including Cairns, Douglas, Johnstone and Sarina. The training will enable Council staff to carry out waste audits across a variety of waste and recycling areas without the costly incurrence of paying consultants or professional waste auditors.

A big thank you to BIEC's QLD Manager Manny Manatakis for organising and funding the training course. I am sure that Manny would be more than happy to organise waste auditors training in other regions of the LAWMAC area, if requested to do so.

## New Joint Partnership for Regional Greenwaste Processing Contract

Cairns, Douglas, Johnstone and Mareeba Councils have formed a joint partnership to develop a regional contract for the processing of greenwaste. Each Council has a representative on the working committee and the committee has been meeting regularly to draft the contract conditions and tender specifications.

The process has proved to be a great success with all decisions in respect to the partnership charter and contract/tender conditions being made by way of consensus. This ensures that all partners have equal input into the process. The cost of developing the contract and subsequent contract administration is being shared equally amongst the partnership, on a per capita cost split basis. The contract will involve the processing (mulching) of about 130,000 m<sup>3</sup> of greenwaste per annum.

Following the greenwaste contract there has been discussion of developing other waste related regional contracts, such as e-waste disposal, in the same partnership arrangement. Obvious benefits from this process are savings for all Councils in contract establishment, management, administration, QA and processing costs.

## Hawke nominates Australia as world's nuclear waste dump

Former Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, says Australia has the "environmental responsibility" to become the world's nuclear waste dump.

The former Prime Minister told a gathering of Oxford University alumni in Sydney on 26 September 2005, that Labor should abandon its three mines policy on uranium, promote Australia as a safe place for the world's nuclear waste and use the money gained for local environmental issues.

He also said Australia is geologically the safest place in the world for the storage of waste. "What Australia should do in my judgement as an act of economic sanity and environmental responsibility, is take all the world's nuclear waste".

**Scary thought.....**

## Stick to retirement Bob!!!