



Welcome to August 2011 LAWMAC newsletter, brought to you in this instance from Burdekin Shire Council. With the annual general meeting to be held in August the Chairman has provided his report produced for this newsletter. We would like to thank the contributors to this newsletter and councils who provided their regional reports as requested.

## Waste Bill

LGAQ have been actively representing council interests through the implementation of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Bill 2010. A big thanks to our representative, Christine Blanchard, for providing an up to date summary of current issues for this newsletter.

- The waste levy is confirmed as due to commence 1 December 2011 and councils should be well into preparation for the levy to commence. Please contact LGAQ if you require assistance.
- The Waste Reduction and Recycling Bill was released recently for stakeholder consultation. A copy of the LGAQ submission can be found on the Association website.
- The Bill is expected to begin the passage through Parliament in early August and the Regulations should be completed by October. Both the Act and the Regulations are set to commence in November 2011 in time for the waste levy to commence 1 December 2011.
- Those councils with small sites (unstaffed sites receiving less than 2000 tonnes of waste per annum) will be able to submit a plan to DERM on how these sites will be managed for the next two years (with a view to having all sites controlled within two years). These sites will also be on an annual data and levy return system for the first two years (rather than monthly as will be the case for all other levyable sites).
- The Association is continuing to negotiate with DERM on whether clean fill (fill that is used for daily operational cover of landfills) is subject to the waste levy as this will have substantial cost implications for local government).
- Discussions are also continuing on the Bedminster and MRF residuals debate and whether these residuals should be subject to the levy. DERM has not yet provided a decision on this issue.
- The Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme is getting closer with the legislation now being passed by Parliament. The Act is likely to come into effect in August. An exposure draft of the regulations will most likely be available in August with a national consultation process likely to be scheduled for September. The Federal Government advises that within 5 years there should be reasonable coverage for collection of TVs and computers across all of regional, rural and metropolitan Australia. Details on how Queensland will be serviced are not yet available.
- Analogue TV will be switched off in parts of regional Qld on 6 December so this will see many analogue TVs delivered to council waste management sites. LGAQ is working with DERM to provide a collection service - more information will be provided as it comes to hand.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

AGM AUGUST 2011

This year has been a particularly busy year for LAWMAC and in no small part this has been brought about by the advent of the Queensland State Government's proposed Landfill Levy. Significant amounts of time have been spent as an organisation working with DERM over issues with the introduction of the levy. A number of workshop sessions have been held in conjunction with our regular LAWMAC meetings to enable member councils affected by the levy to have a say and to ask pertinent questions of DERM officers and also Christine Blanchard from LGAQ who has eloquently represented local government in Queensland in these discussions. Attendances have been particularly good which is an indication of the importance local government and also the private sector are placing on this issue. The workshops were held in November 2010 and also in early March 2011. Additionally there will be a workshop in Townsville on 4 April 2011 to move forward with the complex issue of E Waste which is being impacted by a product stewardship scheme to cover Televisions and Computers and their associated accessories. This will be most important as analogue televisions are phased out with the introduction of digital television. Chairmans' AGM report continued on page 7

# Burdekin Moves Into New Era

The long anticipated new cell and leachate collection system is finally operational at the Kirknie Road landfill in Home Hill. Despite having to overcome some major hurdles, not withstanding the \$1.9M overall price tag, the works were finally completed in July on time and well within budget.

The construction commenced in April firstly stripping an old waste disposal area followed by high energy impact compaction in order to prepare the site for the following construction. The construction of bunds, laying of synthetic liners, laying of leachate collection drains, construction of leachate and sedimentation ponds, roads and external drainage works completed the works. Overall the project included:

- 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> of earthworks
- 16,500 m<sup>2</sup> of GCL
- 6,000 tonne drainage rock
- 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> of High Energy Compaction
- 800m of HDPE leachate pipework
- 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of HDPE liner

Fortunately, Council decided to delay the commencement of the construction until April to avoid the risk of delays and issues associated rainfall. This ensured no days were lost due to inclement weather. For the contractors Allciv Pty Ltd, a company based in the Whitsundays, it was their first landfill construction project.



Their work progressed well and Council were satisfied with the high standard of finishing achieved. The Allciv team worked with Council to ensure that the construction made best use of existing site materials and completed the specialist task of the geo composite clay liner and drainage ballast installation in house. It was also pleasing to see the contractors work with the landfill operator to ensure that there was minimal disruption to existing waste disposal operations.



Leachate pond with HDPE liner

The works are one of the largest construction projects Council has undertaken and demonstrate Council's commitment to compliance with DERMs specifications and to extending the life of the Kirknie landfill. Until recently, waste disposal operations consisted of disposing waste into pits finishing at ground level. This was an expensive loss of potential above ground waste disposal volume and didn't consider the costs and difficulties associated with opening new landfill sites. Whilst the Kirknie Road site was originally chosen due to the clay composition of the soil, the new design incorporates a GCL to ensure there is no doubt that permeability standards are achieved.

Although the cost of construction will be borne by the rate payers of the shire for quite some time, the 1.2 Ha cell itself has a limited life. It is currently estimated that the life of the constructed cell is at least four years whilst the leachate collection and drainage system will provide for disposal operations over 15 years at current disposal rates. Waste is now being deposited into the new cell with added care to ensure that the risk of damage to geotextiles and underlying drainage material is minimised. The introduction of the smaller 140 L general waste bins now two years ago has resulted in a reduced rate of waste to be disposed that will maximise the life of this cell



# Project Hetura expanded to include Waste Management

Since 2002, Townsville City Council has been engaged in a capacity building project with the National Capital District Commission (NCDC) in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The project, named Hetura, means mateship or friendship in Moto, the predominant language group in Port Moresby.

Project Hetura is coordinated through the Commonwealth Local Government Forum with funding from AusAID. Townsville City Council provides in-kind support through the contribution of staff time and participation while the NCDC provides a budget allocation for the project.

The overarching goal of Project Hetura is to strengthen the capacity of the NCDC to deliver efficient, responsive, accountable services to the community. Rather than engaging in a traditional consultancy, the approach by participants of Project Hetura has been that of a partnership built through a relationship of trust and good-will developed over time between two organisations. Within this partnership, the skills and contributions of all parties are valued, and team members work together to develop sustainable solutions to identified problems.

In January 2011 Gary Ewart was part of the delegation that attended a technical visit to the NCDC. The visit concluded that waste management should be included in the scope of Project Hetura and identified possible future areas of collaboration.



Gary Ewart explains the use of recycled public art to Mary Unagi & Joshua Sam



Matthew McCarthy & Joshua Sam inspect the compaction equipment at Hervey Range Landfill & Transfer Station

In July 2011, Joshua Sam and Mary Unagi from the NCDC participated in a technical visit to TCC which included: a briefing on Townsville Waste Services (TWS) operations; document reviews; introductions to various collection and transport technologies; side arm collection truck operations; MRF inspections; autoclave and quarantine waste technical tours; landfill, transfer station and gatehouse inspections and a tour of the phytocap test beds at Stuart Landfill.

Participants in Project Hetura report having gained valuable insights into the cultural, institutional and socio – economic differences between the two organisations and communities in which they operate. These insights provide an opportunity to consider and examine the work we do from different perspectives which in turn can lead to new ways of approaching problems and developing innovative solutions. TWS looks forward to continuing the relationship with the NCDC and offers its collaborative support through the project.

## From more distant places...Intrepid traveller Matthew McCarthy snapped these shots while recently in the USA



A Heil RCV on route in Los Angeles



Long Haul MSW on the New York Interstate

# The Great South Eastern Waste Tour

Operators Perspective of SEQ Waste Management Operations (Jeff Preston – Support Operator, Stuart Landfill)

*TWS Landfill operators recently undertook a 'study tour' (as an extracurricular activity) to further enhance the training they were receiving as part of a Cert 4 in Waste Management. The following is an overview of their 2011 - Bris-Vegas Tour with trainer Rex VonBibra.*

After meeting other people from different councils such as the Gold Coast, Scenic Rim and Toowoomba, we met up with Mike Gerlach over lunch who spoke at length about the new waste levy and issues associated with mixed loads. We all then toured Stapylton Landfill which is managed by the Gold Coast City Council, where Ian Aves showed off their free recycling centre. Connan was very jealous to see that the gatehouse attendants had their own covered car park!

The amount of machinery at Stapylton was astonishing; two dozers, two excavators, a roller, 2 Drotts on tracks (not rubber tyres), a 56 tonne Cat Compactor with GPS and a laser levelling system. They were also in the processes of building a new cell where we observed the laying of geotextile over a floor of smooth fine gravel. It was explained that they had also laid out methane gas collection pipes.



Ian Aves described their waste cell the "Wet face" where they worked off a 30 metre wide face with 3 metre high lifts using the toe of their face to bury their reg waste (Asbestos etc). Stapylton receive enough Municipal rubbish to move their face by 30 metres each day as their Garbos collect from an area extending from the New South Wales border to Logan City with a population of 280,000 people. They used a similar method with the C&D waste on their "dry" dump face with their public face at the bottom. We also saw how leachate was utilised to assist in decomposition of waste. Leachate was managed by pumping to storage wells and then releasing below the surface to re-circulate amongst the fresh waste. They advised they are not permitted to use above ground sprinklers at this site. It was most interesting to see a young man on top of a pile of fill on the "Wet face" waving his arms about and occasionally waving a flag. He was a bird scarer, employed to keep the Ibis off the face and to stop them eating the waste.

The following day we toured the MRF at Murarrie that Richard Pratt started with Visy Recycling. The operations manager, Ron Richards showed us through the facility and it was surprising to see a walking floor unloading recycling material. We saw how it was loaded on to the conveyor belts where 2 employees removed contamination by hand before the material travelled through to the trommel. This aerated and separated heavy products along the hoppers which separated light paper and plastics from the aluminium cans, steel cans, glass and plastic bottles. All materials that could be recycled stayed on the conveyor belts until they were separated. We were

able to see a forklift operator loading all the aluminium cans crushed into bails into a shipping container ready for overseas export.

The cardboard facility was separate where trucks unloaded their cardboard directly onto the cement floor. Cardboard was pushed by a normal loader with an ordinary bucket that had no special modifications for working on this surface. The floor had no scuff or scrape marks, and appeared just like a normal concrete floor. We weren't able to follow the cardboard throughout the entire process but saw how the recycled brown paper was rolled up into huge rolls that were then stored in a huge warehouse prior to exporting to China for manufacturing corrugated cardboard.



We then drove up to Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast to see the Pierce Avenue Resource Recycling Facility and Landfill. Here, recoverable materials are removed prior to customers weighing and paying. Materials including clean fill, mulch, and crushed concrete are available for sale from their shop that is only open on the weekends. We noticed that all these council Landfill recycling centres also had clothing bins.

The tour finished with a quick trip down to the Gold Coast to see the Molendinar Transfer station.



From left – Brian Everingham (plant operator), Connan Chee (Gatehouse Operator), Jeff Preston (Support Operator) outside the Landfill Gas Management Facility which prevents the emission of about 30,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas each year.

# Regional Reports

As agreed at the general meeting of the 20 May 2011, Regional reports are now provided in the newsletter.

## Cassowary Regional Shire Council

Apart from normal day to day operations some sections of Council are still dealing with the effects of Yasi and unfortunately will be doing so for some time yet, and the Waste Section of Environmental Services is no exception. As at the 20th of July the CRSC team have managed to deal with 660,000 cubic metres of greenwaste and 150,000 cubic metres of mixed waste generated as a result of Yasi.

The volume of waste equivalent to seventeen years worth will exhaust the current cells at Tully Landfill and Stoters Hill Landfill. To that end we are working closely with DERM to fast track a new cell at each location to accommodate this waste and also provide the air space which was available prior to the blow.

A large portion of this waste is still located at temporary storage sites at Cardwell and El Arish awaiting the cell construction.

Subloos' our landfill and transfer station contractors have worked very well with Council to ensure this waste has been managed as environmentally responsible as possible. The provision of plant, equipment and trained staff has been crucial for this exercise. A major effort has been made to recover as much metal and concrete as possible. However there is more waste to come as demolitions are starting to begin. There are currently approvals issued for 137 complete demolitions, 217 re-roofs and 78 major sheds/ warehouses. It is understood that this is not all of the buildings requiring work as a number are still awaiting insurance advice before application is made.



To date 31 demolitions and 29 re-roofs have been completed. There are also community issues such as the presence of Hazardous waste, with 31 of the complete demolitions being houses with asbestos containing material (ACM).

All seven of the transfer stations sustained some level of damage mostly to site offices with Hull Heads and South Mission Beach sustaining most infrastructure damage.



We expect to be fully operational by this time next year (Weather and Queensland Reconstruction Authority money permitting). We will be telling the full story at the EHA State Conference at Townsville in September so be there!

## Hinchinbrook Shire Council

We are in the process of chipping the roughly 100,000m3 of greenwaste generated by the cyclone. The priority is chipping greenwaste at the two mills as it will be used for cogeneration and the season is due to start. Our cooperation with Sucrogen is going well, just that the chipping is progressing rather slow due to few options for chipping to 20mm which is the grade required by the mills. NQ Tree Mulching's (ex Tropical Mulch) big horizontal grinder did burn down fully while operating at the Macknade Mill, luckily with no further consequences (except of writing off the machine).

Cyclone waste is still being received and accepted free of charge (there is an application and assessment process in place), but the volume is decreasing rapidly.

Council are in the process of reviewing waste management expenditure, and it is proposed that we start charging domestic greenwaste. Halifax Transfer Station opening hours will be reduced from 4 days to 3. Also, as a first, we will charge more at transfer stations than at Warrens Hill, in recognition of our excess transport costs. Consequently the recommendation is to charge \$6.50 per load of domestic rubbish at Warrens Hill, and \$8.50 at Halifax. Domestic greenwaste is likely to be charged \$2/load at Warrens Hill and \$4/load at Halifax and Forrest Beach.

Due to the influx of cyclone waste from Hinchinbrook and the region we will start building new cells very soon.

## Burdekin Shire Council

Again a very busy period for waste management operations that concentrated on waste levy preparedness, landfill construction, works on transfer stations and continuance of the big clean up following cyclone Yasi.

Construction works consisting of new cell, road, drainage works, leachate and sedimentation ponds were completed. Contractors Allciv Pty Ltd undertook the works which were completed within the 12 week construction period and the cell has now been put into use. Revegetation works remain to be completed on site. A report on the construction is included in the newsletter.

Further fencing has been completed at Council's transfer stations to provide added site security. The landfill has been a recent target for thieves stealing fuel and despite the placement of security cameras, the thieves are yet to be caught

Still trying to clean up following cyclone Yasi, mountains of mulch remain at temporary locations in the Burdekin. Council is waiting on hearing the success of funding to remove the material.

## Townsville City Council

- Hervey Range Landfill leachate collection and storage pond constructed
- Recovery and reuse facility under construction at Hervey Range Transfer Station
- Community consultation occurring for the Magnetic Island Transfer Station
- Certificate III and IV in Waste Management conducted for operators and leading hands
- Fatigue Management and Mass Legislation training conducted for heavy vehicle drivers

- Cardboard and Paper collection services continue to expand
- Certificate III in Transport and Logistics commenced for drivers
- Part time Recycling Education Officer appointed
- On-board computers capabilities enhanced for RCV drivers
- Technical Visit of Townsville Waste Services facilities and operations conducted by National Capital District Commission under Project Hetura
- Systems under development to ensure we are Levy ready

## Cairns Regional Council

Nil report Received

## Cook Shire Council

Nil report received

## Mackay Regional City Council

Nil report received

## Mount Isa

Nil report received

## Tablelands Regional Council

Nil report received

## Whitsunday Regional Shire Council

Nil report received

## Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council

### Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council embraces kerbside recycling

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council has funded a new waste and recycling collection truck, and is working towards the development of a resource recovery depot for storage of recyclable material and the provision of bulk recycling bins at the depot to the amount of approximately \$800,000.

It is estimated that more than 100 tonnes of aluminium cans, PET and glass bottles, along with considerable additional tonnages of paper and cardboard, will be recycled annually through the new recycling systems.



Yarrabah Aboriginal shire Council CEO, Leon Yeatman, and local school kids celebrate the new waste and recycling truck, bought solely by Council, and the new kerbside recycling bins

Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Hon Curtis Pitt MP, congratulated the PSF and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and said, "For the first time Yarrabah residents have the opportunity to recycle at home, just like other residents in cities and towns across Queensland. I congratulate the Shire Council and the PSF on their vision, hard work and support to help the Yarrabah community recycle."

## Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council cont.

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor, Percy Neal, was excited about the new systems, including Council's purchase of the new waste and recycling truck at a cost of approximately \$350,000 which had been financed solely from Council's limited funds

"Thanks to the support of the PSF we have the right recycling systems in place, supported by a shire wide education campaign on what to put in the new recycling bins.

It is a win-win situation for all concerned including Council, the community and the environment" said Mr Neal.

The Yarrabah Shire Council and local community should be congratulated for their efforts. They are a shining example for other Queensland communities to follow," Ms Pickles said. The PSF has also recently provided funding support to Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council to establish kerbside recycling services for their 1200 residents later this year.

The Australian Food and Grocery Councils' Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) has provided new waste and recycling signage and fridge magnets as part of Councils community education program to educate residents on the new kerbside recycling systems

### AGM Chairmans report continued from Page 1

It is with great regret that with the retirement of Ian Kuhl from Townsville City Council, LAWMAC, as an organisation has lost a valuable member who has an extremely long association with waste management not just in North Queensland but has had valuable input throughout the country. Ian will be sadly missed and will always be a welcome guest at LAWMAC functions. There is an excellent article about Ian in the LAWMAC newsletter which can be found on the website [www.lawmac.org.au](http://www.lawmac.org.au)

On a happier note LAWMAC welcomes Cairns Regional Council back as a member and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with them. Because Townsville City Council has a working relationship with the Port Moresby Council and assists them LAWMAC has extended an invitation to them to become a corresponding member. We will also be endeavouring to get all the North Queensland indigenous councils to become members even if it is only on a corresponding basis.

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that Shiels Barra from Cook Shire won the annual ROSSKO Award which is presented annually to a worthy recipient who has achieved outstanding results in Waste Management. Indeed Shiels is a well deserved winner of the award and is a great example of one who has done a great deal with very little resources and has turned waste management from an absolute debacle into a very much more professional operation of which the shire can be very proud. Matt McCarthy from Townsville City Council was highly commended for his work within his council's waste services area which saw great improvement in collection efficiency and also with the rosters and GPS tracking to help optimise the efficiency. These articles can also be found in the newsletters on the website.

Another excellent presentation was given by Mr. Richard Morgan of Waste Management Support Services and Mr. Rob McGahey from Caterpillar on Valuing and Assessing the Airspace in Landfills including:

- Understanding the True Value of your Landfill
- Preserving Airspace
- Landfill Compactors
- Compaction and Gas Production
- Management Strategies

This was a most informative presentation and highlighted the issues around the true value of landfill air space and also how to preserve airspace with efficient compaction techniques and also how to compare apples with apples when assessing different compactors and dozers.

Ms Jenny Pickles gave an interesting presentation on Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) raising awareness of Industry concerns, projected cost impacts and possible alternatives to the introduction of CDL in Queensland. Jenny also presented on AFGC funded projects delivered and in particular the "Away-From-Home" waste management projects at public venues such as airports, sports stadiums, shopping centres in Queensland. Members were also strongly encouraged to benefit from the funding opportunities available for relevant packaging projects through the Australian Packaging Covenant.

It is pleasing to see that Main Roads have now announced the standards for inclusion of recycled material in road construction. I must thank our associate members from industry and government departments for their valued input. In particular I would particularly like to thank Christine Blanchard from LGAQ and our DERM representatives who have always taken criticism and answered questions honestly.

## Meeting Dates – 2011

### LAWMAC meeting dates for 2011 are:

4 & 5 August 2011 – Workshop, AGM and General Meeting

3 & 4 November – Workshop and General Meeting