



Townsville Update

Rub Out Rubbish

Townsville launched their Rub Out Rubbish campaign in September 2013 at the Great Northern Clean Up, which ran for three months. The campaign targeted key messages around littering, recycling, illegal dumping and reducing waste.



Burdekin and Hinchinbrook council's joined the campaign for the closing activity, National Recycling Week in October.

We plan to build on the campaign this year, having already incorporated the stickman artwork into the engagement work for the NQ Regional Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan (NQRWRP).

NQRWRP

The NQRWRP is being jointly developed with Charters Towers Regional, Hinchinbrook Shire and Burdekin Shire Councils, with the strategic advice from SKM's international waste management team.

The Draft NQRWRP will be open for public comment from July with the final plan to be submitted to state government later in the year.

Truck of the Week

Townsville City Council has taken delivery of their latest Waste and Recycling Collection Truck, a DAF LF55 4x2 for collections on Magnetic Island. A photo of this impressive vehicle, the truck of the week, has made it onto the DAF global website circulating to most countries of the world.

Townsville City Council is proud to be associated with DAF Trucks Australia in conjunction with Brown and Hurley. The new truck and compactor body was specifically selected in order to provide an efficient and effective waste collection service in the unique environment of Magnetic Island.

The truck is fitted with a pendulum type packing system and a uniquely designed lifting arm. The entire arm rail system extends horizontally to a reach of about 2.6m and then retracts to allow for the lift to be completed, fully inverting the bin which also allows clear discharge of all waste into the hopper, regardless of bin position to the truck (facing street or premises).



The design of the lifting arm allows the truck to access narrow streets and service lanes more easily to conduct services, lessening the risk of strike to surrounding buildings, fences and other obstructions.

The trucks have been used successfully in recent months on Magnetic Island and have had few problems since their introduction.

Burdekin Shire Update

Trash is Trendy

Burdekin Shire Council celebrated National Recycling Week 11 – 17 November 2013 through a number of activities, including competitions and a recycling information booth at a popular local event.



We also joined the joint advertising promotion 'Rub Out Rubbish' campaign with Townsville City Council and Hinchinbrook Shire Council.

One of the recycling week activities was a wearable art competition called the Trash is Trendy, run by EHO Cadet, Emily Jones. This competition required entrants to design and make a wearable item that incorporated recyclable materials in the design. The entries were very creative and excellent examples of how to make good use of recyclable materials that could otherwise end up in the landfill.

National Recycling Week coincided with the Home Hill Harvest Festival, an annual celebration of the conclusion of the sugar cane harvest. This provided an opportunity to expose the community to recycling

messages by hosting an information booth displaying some of the Trash is Trendy creations which were judged by the Harvest Festival Queen. Council provided recycling educational resources and information on a vast selection of topics about the process of recycling different materials and existing recycling programs such as Drum Muster and Mobile Muster. Council also took the opportunity to provide information about Burdekin's new waste policies and facilities. In addition, we held another popular competition encouraging participants to distinguish recyclable and non-recyclable items.

In promoting the event, Council emphasised the importance of community input regarding recycling and waste disposal in the local area. There was a great deal of interest in the entries that were displayed during the Home Hill Harvest Festival. The success of the Trash is Trendy competition has encouraged Council to make this an annual event. Preparations have already begun organising this year's events with the aim of giving potential participants more time to prepare entries.



Cairns Update

The amalgamation with Douglas Shire is now complete with the handover of waste services, landfill and transfer station sites as at 1 January 2014.

Buyback Shop Capital Works Project

Council have approved an upgrade to the Buyback shop. Facilities are to include staff only operating areas, goods loading bays, expanded display and

customer shade areas. The project is to be supported by a range of operational system improvements and will be completed by June 30

Staff Training

A number of Waste Service Staff have completed Cert III Waste Management and Covey Leadership training this year.

MRF Pre Sort

Business analysis has determined the need to install a pre-sort system at the MRF plant in order to remove oversize and contaminant products. Significant process efficiencies are forecast which include a reduction in the number of blockages and plant stoppages caused by contaminant materials entering the system.

Recovered Crushed Glass (RCG)

After recommissioning of the glass crushing equipment in August 2013, RCG is now being produced at a rate of 250 tonne per month. The product meets specifications and is being supplied to Water Operations for use as pipe embedment material.

Ipad Reporting

A new reporting tool has been introduced at the MRF and transfer stations. The reporting tool is based around iAuditor and captures detailed information and photos daily to report on WH&S, environmental management, plant and site maintenance, operational and process data. The reports also support business planning and improvements.

Recycle Right

A market analysis and waste characterisation audit have been completed for Councils kerbside waste and recycling services as part of the 'Recycle Right' 3 year awareness and education program. The outcomes of the studies will assist to measure the success of the campaign and inform the roll out of the campaign for the coming year. Since the campaign began in November 2012, recycled product recovered for processing at the

MRF has risen by 1,500tonne and the occurrence of contamination has decreased by 4%.

Pink Shirt Friday

A splash of pink is visible every Friday at the Portsmith Waste Transfer Station, as employees show their support for the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Pink shirts bearing the Cairns Regional Council logo have been produced for Waste Branch staff that dug into their own pockets to purchase the attire via a donation to charity.

Waste Operations Coordinator Dan Dixon said staff had embraced the concept of 'Pink Shirt Friday' since it was introduced last November.

"It was initiated by one of our staff members who has been personally affected by breast cancer as a respectful remembrance of those impacted and to raise awareness," Mr Dixon said.

"The rest of the staff were quick to get on board and the pink shirts continue to spread throughout the waste branch."



Mayor Bob Manning knows all too well the impacts of breast cancer, as he is currently supporting his wife Claire through her second battle with the disease.

"When you are experiencing something like this first-hand and you see all the support that is out there, it really does make a difference," Cr Manning said.

“The guys at the transfer station have been doing this every week simply because they want to show their support for people like Claire and her family.”

The transfer station staff holds regular fundraising barbecues and have so far raised about \$500 for the Breast Cancer Foundation.

“Initiatives like this demonstrate the compassion and generosity that exists within our organisation and the broader community,” Cr Manning said.

“I hope these pink shirts find their way to other Council departments – I think they look pretty nifty!”

Mackay Update

Waste Management Strategy

Mackay Regional Council is currently reviewing its Waste Management Strategy.

Community engagement for the draft waste management strategy began in October 2013. Engagement was carried out by:

- Factsheet
- Letter
- Website
- Media
- Community Stakeholder Workshops

The web page went live with an electronic submission link with several submissions received already.

Three stakeholder workshops were held on 30 and 31 October 2013. The three sessions were for: Commercial and industrial waste, green waste and construction and demolition waste sectors.

All three sessions had a high participation rate with 29, 21 and 17 attendees respectively. As part of the engagement process follow up calls were made with all attendees to seek feedback on the workshop format and to gauge their satisfaction to the process. To enable participants to provide further feedback or if they

felt they were not able to air a point publicly, they were encouraged to use the electronic submission link on the waste strategy web page.

During January 2014 the community engagement report for the consultation phase of the project was completed and was presented to Council in February 2014. It is expected a report for the final adoption of the waste management strategy will be put to Council for consideration in March 2014.

Waste Services Contract Development

Council is about to release \$150 million waste service contracts for various services including:

- Waste, recycling and green waste collection services
- Material recovery facility (MRF)
- Paget transfer station and Hogan’s Pocket landfill
 - Load, haul and landfill
- Paget transfer station – Operations
- Resource recovery facility (RRF)
- Minor transfer stations – Operations
- Minor transfer stations – RORO haulage to Hogan’s Pocket landfill
- Construction & demolition waste recycling
- Green waste management

These are planned for release February 2015 except for the C&D recycling tender which will be an EOI and released in April 2014.

Sarina Transfer Station

The Sarina Transfer Station construction project has been completed. The \$2.4 million facility was opened to the public in October 2013. Public reception to the new facility has been favourable.



Hogan's Pocket Cell 1 Capping

The progressive rehabilitation of Hogan's Pocket Landfill commenced with possession of site being granted on 2 October 2013 for the partial capping of cell 1. The project has practical completion anticipated at the end of March 2014.

The works have been progressing well during 2013 with the subgrade and clay rich fill material being imported and placed. The project phase is now focussed on the drainage layer.

Waste Education Trailer

The winning artwork entry for the waste education trailer has been applied to the vehicle side. The trailer artwork was revealed during 11-17 November 2013.



Mandalay

Predicting the Future of Waste

Mandalay Technologies presented at LAWMAC last month with the intention of giving some foresight into our new strategy tool, highlighting the benefits we intend to bring to the industry. We were particularly impressed with the reception our product received from the LAWMAC group and the depth of engagement we got from all councils. Clearly, it was an area that had some benefits to both the group, which is where our interest is primarily, as well as individual councils.

'Naus' has been created to take the waste industry to a new level of efficiency by empowering councils to identify opportunities, manage risk and make better decisions. Traditionally a council engages a Waste

Consultant who builds a "model" to assess the current performance using Excel or another tool. The waste consultant will then build several other models to identify different options, which present an organisation with options of how to achieve their goals. This process of building a model can be both time consuming and costly, resulting in higher costs to the organisation and reducing the ability of an organisation be more dynamic; regularly monitoring, adjusting and evaluating their strategic vision based on observed performance.

Mandalay has been working hard to solve this problem. The introduction of 'Naus' will empower councils to evaluate the relative cost of infrastructure investment balanced against material capture results and environmental outcomes, eliminating hours of manual work for consultants, while giving the same power to councils.

For more information please contact Paul Theodorou on 0412447950 or ptheodorou@mandalaytech.com

WRIQ

Challenging the Regulator as our Sector's Policy Maker

Reflecting on my 34 years' involvement with the industry and participation in numerous waste and recycling policy setting processes, provides an opportunity to make an observation on the challenges continuing to face the sector; and determine if State Government policy makers are delivering true system changes or simply redesigning old ways of thinking.

In the next month all Queenslanders will be given the chance to provide their feedback to the long awaited Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy for Queensland 2014 - 2024. Titled 'Waste – Everyone's Responsibility', the document provides consultation and sets the direction for managing waste and recycling issues over the next ten years. Under the direction of the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the strategy design has been overseen by the industry's environmental regulator

resulting in more than 15 self interest groups participating in its design. This ensured a more holistic and strategic ownership by all stakeholders was taken and certainly provided a range of new ideas and thinking to occur.

It is important to note that this will be a waste strategy for Queensland, not a waste industry strategy.

To the credit of all involved, the Minister and his department, broad consensus has now been agreed on the desired strategy principles and core objectives. Unsurprisingly, confusion still remains of who exactly is deemed the *'industry'* and secondly who owns the document – *government or industry*.

Queensland Government follows the model that policy ownership of the industry is an environmental protection issue. To date the strategy discussion has failed to deliver the business outcomes and innovation our industry seeks. Perhaps this is as a result of the policy confines of the department delivering this work whose own vision statement is:

"The department aims to be the most respected and responsive environment and heritage protection agency in Australia, and is responsible for managing the health of the environment to protect Queensland's unique ecosystems, including its landscapes and waterways, native plants, animals and biodiversity".

It is therefore unsurprising that after 18 months into the environmental policy design, the real owners of Government's policy agenda for business and economic development are still not engaged. It is my considered view that these are the central stakeholders and policy designers for our industry into the future. Their policy agenda is more appropriately aligned with our central core objectives.

By default, because of the ownership by Government (the environmental regulator) of the sector we still do not have a waste industry policy agenda that recognises the importance of the business and

economic imperatives, which drives innovation, manufacturing, productivity and employment. It is these core principles that are the support pillars of good environmental outcomes.

Innovation in the sector across Queensland is surging. Our industry is managing secondary material resource streams including green and liquid wastes, oils, used tyres, concrete, metals and e-waste closing production cycles.

Companies are utilising solid wastes, liquid as well green wastes to produce high end value added soils and composts that are being used in major farming, land rehabilitation and carbon reducing activities, for example 'Legacy Way' project. Queensland has arguably one of world's most modern metal processing operations capable of handling mixed metal waste streams to produce high end value added metal feedstock's exported and used in manufacturing processes globally.

Queensland will also be the largest generator of waste lubricating (lube) oil in Australia. The \$55 million investment in Gladstone by private sector operators, will be the State's first "lube to lube" waste oil re-refining plant, with capacity to recycle all of the State's waste oil. Whilst in Bundaberg the company that builds waste handling equipment used across Australia, and New Zealand is the region's largest employer.

It is therefore timely that State Government ownership of our sectors policy interests sit separately away from environmental regulation, and in a portfolio that acknowledges and has the expertise to deliver economic development, innovation, manufacturing, productivity and employment as in other jurisdictions both in Australia and internationally.

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