

ANNUAL

REPORT

2016-17

newaste
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north east waste

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The North East Waste acknowledges the funding contribution it receives from the NSW Environmental Protection Agency.



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Foreword

This report outlines the activities and outcomes of North East Waste (NE Waste) for the 2016-17 financial year. NE Waste is a group of seven councils on the Far North Coast of New South Wales working together towards regional solutions to effective waste management. It's member Councils are Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Kyogle Shire, Lismore City, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire.

In the 2016 -17 year we delivered a suite of projects involving and engaging the community, schools, businesses and government. Our core projects involved school and community education, food waste reduction, business engagement in more effective waste management, dealing with problem wastes, Community Recycling Centres, litter, asbestos disposal and illegal dumping. Other priorities included training, research, regional collaboration and fostering relationships with State Government and the broader waste community. For the first time NE Waste ventured into waste management on Aboriginal lands, piloting a project, Clean Up Country, for the NSW EPA.

In developing and funding our programs and advising Councils on the changing waste regulatory landscape we have worked closely with the Environmental Trust and the NSW EPA. The Waste Less Recycle More (WLRM) initiative has funded many of our projects and has allowed for program expansion and the provision of additional infrastructure to our Councils. In 2016 it was announced that WLRM would be extended until 2021, securing NE Waste's funding and allowing for the planned implementation of our new Regional Waste Strategy (17-21).

Jeanie McKillop
NE Waste Coordinator



Vision and Principles

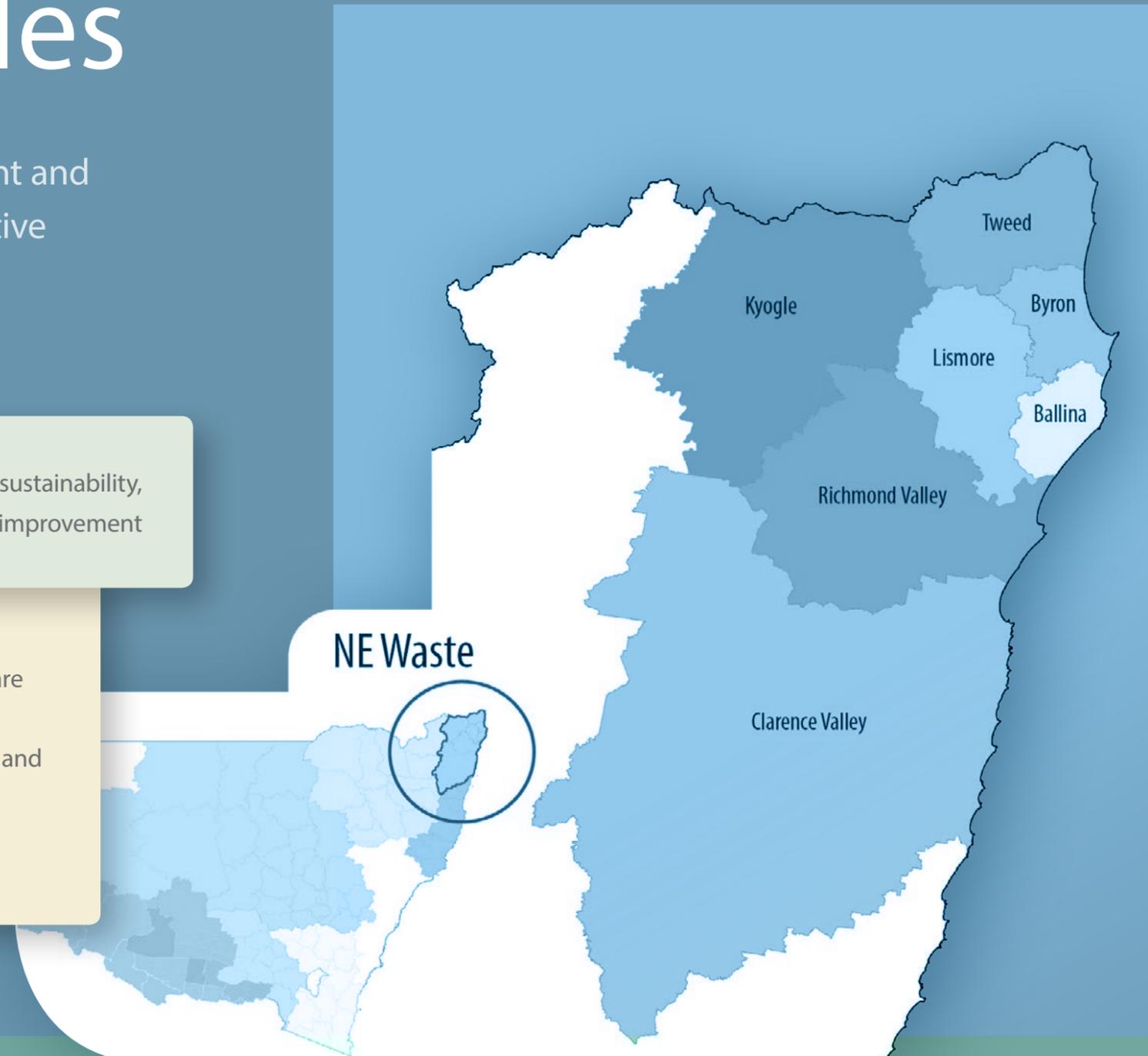
Our vision is to achieve more sustainable waste management and better resource recovery through a proactive and collaborative approach with our member Councils and community.

Deliver targeted and effective projects that engage and build capacity in our communities to achieve improved waste minimisation and management outcomes

Adhere to the principles of sustainability, equity and continuous improvement

Create strong partnerships that allow collaboration and optimise resource sharing opportunities

Communicate and share our knowledge while striving for leadership and innovation in waste



1

REGIONAL PROJECTS AND ENGAGEMENT

NE Waste delivers a suite of projects that are participatory and aim to build the social capital required to engage our community in effective waste management. Our projects and programs support our 7 member Councils in their efforts to provide information, services and resources to assist the region in waste avoidance and resource recovery, and implement change where needed.

1.1

NE Waste Communication

Aim: Increase the awareness of waste reduction activities across the region and engage the community.

In the past year the NE Waste communication platform continued to expand. Effective media and publicity tools promote our programs and provide consistent messages about waste management and resource recovery in the region. Media campaigns are a core component of many of our projects and print, radio, television and electronic media are well utilised to maximise our reach. This year we produced:



- ▶ One new TV Commercial, 4 social media clips and image library
- ▶ 2 existing TV Commercials aired 1306 times
- ▶ 139 print ads
- ▶ 64 editorials
- ▶ 2806 Facebook followers
- ▶ 993 radio ads
- ▶ 19 radio interviews and public presentations
- ▶ 3 conference presentations
- ▶ 5 videos and 1 digital infographic
- ▶ 1 Youtube music video
- ▶ Held one forum for Illegal dumping

EDITORIALS
64

19 RADIO
INTERVIEWS

1306
TV Commercials
AIRED

PRINT ADS
139

2806
FOLLOWERS

993
RADIO ADS

WEBSITES
76 978
VIEWS

It was exciting to work on new projects and develop more innovative ways of communicating them. In May a project was completed that promoted the uptake of food and organics recycling across 6 of our Councils. Filming the process from food to plate to composting at the Lismore facility involved Council staff and operations, a professional advertising team and NE Waste coordination to produce an innovative TVC to be aired in 2017-18 and a social media campaign and media library for our Councils.

The Clean Up Country project also took us to a new frontier and the resulting music video produced by Desert Pea Media with the aboriginal community of Muli Muli in Kyogle Shire has been played at conferences, on Youtube and on NITV.

The Waste Warriors project produced 5 case study videos and an infographic to showcase the efforts of businesses in the region and their journey to better waste management. The businesses were selected based on their waste and recycling efforts, from across the region and from a wide range of industry types. The businesses were provided the opportunity to be showcased after working with NE Waste on the Bin Trim program. All of the businesses are now using the videos as part of their promotional activities. The videos are also being disseminated to each Council area for use on social media.

Long standing projects such as Community Recycling Centres, Litter Prevention, Second Hand Saturday, Illegal Dumping, Love Food Hate Waste, Household Chemical CleanOut and the Household Asbestos Disposal/Testing Schemes continued to be well represented in electronic, visual, social and print media.

We also utilised local Council media avenues and expertise including Council newsletters, news columns, websites and Facebook pages.

The NEWaste website also hosts a range of stand-alone project web-domains for Illegal Dumping, Community Recycling Centres, Secondhand Saturday, Household Asbestos Disposal Scheme and Waste Warriors. All Councils linked their website to NE Waste projects. Similarly, our social media presence continues to expand with Second Hand Saturday, Waste Warriors and Love Food Hate Waste Challenge Facebook pages promoting project specific work and recently the launch of the NE Waste Facebook page for broader appeal.

The NEWs, NE Waste's quarterly newsletter, has a readership of more than 300 subscribers. It is proving to be a successful way of communicating to our Councils and stakeholders on program activities, outcomes and outputs, as well as

highlighting member Council activities. NE Waste also distribute an annual schools newsletter to communicate about the great work schools are doing to reduce waste, and a bi-annual Love Food Hate Waste Newsletter to participants of the Love Food Hate Waste program.

NE Waste has presented its projects to the 2017 Waste Conference, RENEW forums and EPA workshops. Cross regional communication on program successes and challenges is shared through RENEW NSW, and further regional collaboration on community engagement projects occurs through the Northern Rivers Group of Environmental Educators, established by NE Waste in 2004.



WEBSITES

HOUSEHOLD ASBESTOS DISPOSAL IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS

Are you renovating?

NE Waste is working in collaboration with six northern rivers Councils to offer Household Asbestos Disposal Kits to assist householders to safely and legally remove bonded asbestos in small home renovations (under 20m² of sheets of fibre).

The Household Asbestos Disposal Kits are primarily funded by your Local Councils to reduce the costs associated with handling asbestos.

GENERAL INFORMATION

NE Waste is working in collaboration with six northern rivers Councils to offer Household Asbestos Disposal Kits to assist householders to safely and legally remove bonded asbestos in small home renovations (under 20m² of sheets of fibre).

The Household Asbestos Disposal Kits are primarily funded by your Local Councils to reduce the costs associated with handling asbestos.

WASTE WARRIORS BUSINESS SMART

It can be difficult for a small business to find the reuse, recycling and waste services they need. Many don't have the time or the experience in finding these types of services. So the Waste Warriors project has been set up to make the job that much easier. Waste Warriors is a free service for businesses in the Northern Rivers region, and is made possible by the support of our local councils.

BECOME A WASTE WARRIOR | **WANT TO KNOW MORE?** | **REQUEST THE FREE WASTE SAVER SERVICE**

Why do I need to register?

By registering as a Waste Warrior we can provide your business with the specific solutions you need. Upon registration you will receive the Waste Warrior waste management enquiry pricing and services available to your local area. Each sheet is based on your business type, size, industry, and reach. You can receive a free business promotion and win prizes. There is no obligation and anyone in the business can do it. Whether you work in a cafe, a garage, a factory or an office block, there are reuse or recycling options for much of the waste generated by your business. It really is easy, and it takes a one person to want to make a difference.

REDUCE WASTE SAVE MONEY

ILLEGAL DUMPING It's a crime

UP TO \$2000 ON THE SPOT!

WHAT IS IT?

Broken TV and computer Not left at kerbside
Household rubbish bags not overflowing from public place bins
Plasterboard and old furniture are not in a nearby park

The above are all examples of illegal dumping.

Illegal dumping is the placement of waste onto private or public land where no service or approval exists to accept such waste. It ranges from small bags of rubbish in an urban environment to large scale dumping of materials in isolated areas, such as bushland. Illegal dumping of waste has a major social, financial and environmental impact on the local community. Councils spend on the order of \$100,000 per annum cleaning up and disposing of illegal waste.

Every reasonable attempt will be made by local authorities to locate the owner of the illegally dumped materials. Your help in reporting offenders relating to illegally dumped materials is important.

REPORT IT

Help stop illegal dumping in your area, by reporting any incidents here on-line or by calling your local Council. Illegal dumping is a crime and those caught could be fined.

Please select your preferred method below:

ONLINE OR **PHONE**

INFORMATION

- What's happening in the north coast region of NSW
- Environmental Costs of Illegal Dumping
- Where can I dispose of my waste legally?
- What are the fines for illegal dumping?

For further information on illegal dumping

HEY TOSSER! It's a dirty look

What you do with your rubbish says a lot about you. Don't be a tosser, put it in the bin.

Hey Tossler! Litter Prevention Campaign

By 2016, NSW aims to have the lowest litter count per capita in Australia. This is a reduction of approximately 40 per cent in the number of littered items based on 2011-12 data.

The NSW EPA's research about littering behaviour, shows that people know that littering is wrong. They know it is socially unacceptable. That is why, if people litter, they tend to do it when no one is looking.

The Hey Tossler! campaign tells litterers they are being watched and that no one likes what they do.

What is littering?

- Throwing food wrappers or cigarette butts from a car
- Leaving a food container on a park bench
- Leaving a cigarette in a rubbish bin
- Leaving a plastic bottle on a footpath

All of the above are examples of littering behaviour.

► Why is littering a problem?
► What can you do about it?

SECOND HAND Saturday

The Biggest Garage Sale Day on the north coast! **24 September 2016!** **8AM Start!**

Garage Sales | About | Blog | Contact

I CHOOSE TO REUSE because my style is one of a kind

1000 Garage Sales!

Over 1,000 Garage Sales were held over 2 weekends as part of Second Hand Saturday. A massive contribution from all those who either held or attended a garage sale. Thank you all for participating!

Second Hand Saturday – the biggest garage sale day on the north coast

LOVE FOOD CHALLENGE: Do one thing differently and save money.

So at least one thing differently to avoid food waste and you'll receive a difference to your weekly budget. This is a challenge to reduce food waste and ensure a healthier environment for your family through:

- PLAN IT** - Plan your meals and shopping list to avoid food waste.
- FREEZE IT** - Freeze food to avoid food waste.
- STORE IT PROPERLY** - Store food properly to avoid food waste.
- COOK and SERVE IT** - Cook and serve food to avoid food waste.
- LOVE IT** - Love your food to avoid food waste.

Name: _____
E-mail: _____

Submit

Become a Food Lover Right Now

Free Love Food Waste Cooking workshops for busy parents

Waste Warriors waste wise business smart

1000 TONNES

of our valuable resources going to landfill.

Welcome to Waste Warriors for Business!

It can be difficult for a small business to find the reuse, recycling and waste services they need. Many don't have the time or the experience in finding these types of services. So the Waste Warriors project has been set up to make the job that much easier. Waste Warriors is a free service for businesses in the Northern Rivers region, and is made possible by the support of our local councils and the NSW EPA.

"Recycling more really does make good business sense. Did you know that recycling is often cheaper than landfilling your waste?"

GETTING STARTED

We have made it really easy for you to get started. You can create your own toolkit, with everything you need for your business. Or request our FREE waste saver service where we do the work for you!

DIY Toolkit | **Let us help...**

Get fact sheets for your business type and find out what services are available in your area. You can even download great resources like bin signage and promotional tools!

Get FREE personalised support for your business or workplace. Just fill out the contact information and we will be in touch!

BUSINESS SHOWCASE

ZIGZAG HAIR

WANDA
Zig Zag Hair in Temora are leading the way in sustainable salons. From hair donations to oil bins, supporting other local sustainable minded businesses. Zig Zag Hair really made for an interesting business showcase.



Community Recycling Centres

Community Recycling Centres are **OPENING** across the region

Waste Matters Drop off your household problem waste for recycling FREE SERVICE

(NSW) Residents can drop off the following waste items for FREE at any of the Community Recycling Centres:

- Paint
- Gas bottles and fire extinguishers
- Fluoro plastics and tubes
- Refrigerators and air conditioners
- Stoves, heaters and ovens
- Washing machines and dryers
- Washing machines and dryers
- Washing machines and dryers

Depending on which Community Recycling Centre you visit, other waste materials can also be dropped off for reuse, recycling or safe disposal.

Only household quantities of the above materials will be accepted. All goods a maximum number of 20 items or 20 kilograms for each of the above items.

Lismore	Location: Byron Resource Recovery Centre, 115 Munro Road, Myocum	NOW OPEN	Tweed
Grafton			Byron
CASHO	Hours: Monday to Friday: 8am - 4pm, Saturday and Sunday: 8.30am - 11.30am (closed public holidays)		Ballina
Maclean	Contact: Phone 6684 1870	MORE INFO	Kyogle

Why use the Community Recycling Centres?

Most of the waste accepted at Community Recycling Centres can be reused or recycled. By sorting your waste and taking it to your local centre, you will:

- help improve resource recovery rates
- save water, energy and other valuable natural resources

For more information on what happens to the problem wastes dropped off at Community Recycling Centres click here.

Storing and transporting your wastes

Handle and transport your materials carefully and safely. Protect your vehicle by placing items on a protective sheet or tray in the boot to capture any leakage or breakages.

newaste north east waste

home | recycling and disposal | business | education | reports & strategy

LET'S ALL RECYCLE OUR FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE

Learn more about your food and garden waste green bin service here...

FEATURED PROGRAMS

LOVE FOOD CHALLENGE: YOU WILL SAVE MONEY, CUT FOOD WASTE AND ENSURE A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO ENJOY.

PLEDGE NOW!

LOVE FOOD CHALLENGE Do one thing differently and save money	REPORT LITTERING FROM VEHICLES Fines from \$250 apply	ASBESTOS Householders' Asbestos Disposal Scheme	RECYCLING CENTRES Free service for the drop off of household problem wastes
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Welcome to the website of the North East Waste (NE Waste), a group of councils on the North Coast of New South Wales, working together towards cost-effective waste management solutions. The group has a voluntary membership, and aims to achieve the development and implementation of local and regionally based solutions to waste management. The member councils include: Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Lismore City, Kyogle, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire. North East Waste is a member group of RENEW NSW and is supported by our local Councils and the NSW Environmental Protection Agency.

NE Waste News

Drop Off Free at your CRC

Community Recycling Centres

1.2



Regional Waste Strategy Implementation and Initiatives

Aim: To set the strategic direction of waste management in the region through a coordinated and collaborative approach that optimises resource-sharing opportunities and to support regional initiatives.

2016-17 was the last year under our current strategy and its review is currently underway. With funding secured until 2021 the new strategy will incorporate an update of regional data, new projections and new projects. In addition to 5 coordination and administration roles, 15 discrete projects were delivered in 2016-17:

- ▶ Strategy Implementation and Regional Initiatives
- ▶ Communications
- ▶ RENEW
- ▶ Training Delivery
- ▶ Love Food Hate Waste
- ▶ Waste Education
- ▶ Business Waste Reduction (BIN TRIM)
- ▶ Community Recycling Centres
- ▶ Household Asbestos Program
- ▶ Illegal Dumping: Clean Up and Prevention
- ▶ The Better Waste Recycling Fund
- ▶ Litter Reduction and Prevention Strategy
- ▶ Clean Up Country
- ▶ Waste Wise Events
- ▶ Early Childhood Waste Education Project including Get Grubby Program and delivery of the There's No Such thing as Waste Program





These address the key focus areas of the Strategy: Coordination, Increasing Recycling, Waste Avoidance, Managing Problem Wastes, Illegal Dumping and Litter. Working with Aboriginal Communities was added as a key focus area to the Strategy this year and Clean Up Country was the projects associated with this new focus.

Other initiatives undertaken regionally included:

- ▶ The funding of professional development for member Councils at the Waste 2017 conference in Coffs Harbour in May provided an opportunity for one person from each Council waste section to attend the 2 day conference.
- ▶ Support to attend EPA training was also provided for Council and NE Waste contractors.
- ▶ Assistance was given to Councils and community groups to complete individual Council grant applications under the WLRM program.

Each project was delivered through a series of actions and the final evaluation of the accompanying action plan indicated that all projects were completed within the prescribed timeframe and within budget. Program planning for 2017-18 was guided by this performance and the Strategy's key objectives.





1.3

Waste Education and Community Engagement

Aim: The aim of the NE Waste education and community engagement programs is to promote positive behaviour change and lead to improvements in resource recovery and waste avoidance practices in our regional community.

NE Waste education programs use a multifaceted approach, carefully tailored to target audiences, recognising local and regional uniqueness. We aim to engage with the values and motivations of the groups we target, and promote skills to adopt resource recovery and waste avoidance in everyday lives. We do this through providing access of our programs to the community through creative arts, media, community events, focus groups, workshops, demonstrations, social marketing and development of appropriate tools and resources.

In 2016-17 the Waste Education program continued to provide schools and community with The Green House mobile education program, Trip to Tip experiential learning to local waste management centres, Second Hand Saturday, support of Council FOGO services, promotion of resource recovery, up to date resources, and a greater variety of programs on offer.

“Art activities in environmental education can sharpen and refine our perception and make us sensitive for the mystery of the things around us. Through art, we can see and approach the outside world afresh. Art can hit us unexpectedly, catch us off-guard, and sometimes provoke us.”

Jan van Boeckel
from the University of Art and Design Helsinki, Finland



Happily Recycling at Ballina Public School: "We can happily report progress with waste management at Ballina Public School. We have paper/cardboard recycling bins in every classroom as well as in the office, library, canteen, breakfast club, band room and tech centre. The staff and students seem to be using these bins correctly and the SRC are doing a great job running the program. We will keep the recycling at this level for awhile until it is well established then the plan is to start recycling soft plastics and down the track perhaps compost."

Karen, Elise and Marion - teachers at Ballina Public School

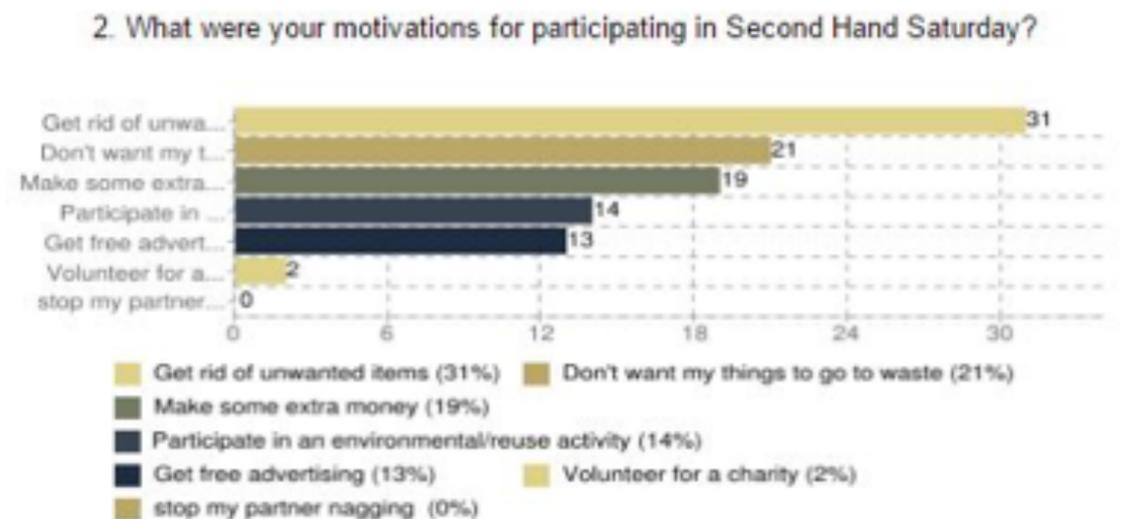
- ▶ **The Green House mobile education program** utilised its marquees, education resources, demonstrations and drama education performances to teach, engage and entertain across the region, engaging more than 7500 people.
- ▶ New resources were developed including new educational marquee walls and a new branding/logo (Wipe Out Waste to be launched in 17/18);
- ▶ 36 schools were reached engaging some 5,000 students through drama based education, recycle relay races, waste audit support and student planning workshops;
- ▶ 15 community event days were attended including Beef Week, PRIMEX and Kyogle Billy Cart Derby Day;
- ▶ 9 **“Trip to the Tip”** days offered students a first-hand experience of what happens to their waste and recycling once their wheelie bin leaves the kerbside. This is supplemented with The Green House Education Program also being on-site, as well as K - 6 Workbooks to reinforce learning back at school. 500 educational booklets were distributed;
- ▶ A more individualized approach has commenced with giving some schools additional support to develop and implement waste management plans;
- ▶ **Second Hand Saturday** was successful again with almost 1,000 garage sales held over 2 weekends in September 2016. Evaluation indicated that an average of 1 wheelie bin per person is diverted from landfill through the exchange of goods over the weekends. This event has been held for 8 years and each year its accessibility and coverage improves. The extensive mass media campaign about reuse and recycling, which has involved Facebook, TV, print media, radio, editorials and interviews across the north coast region reinforces the reuse and recycling message. The media reach exceeded 50,000 residents through print, television and digital media campaigns.



- ▶ **National Recycling Week** provided editorial and newsletter content support for all 7 Councils. Each year The Green House attends Clarence Valley Council as part of their National Recycling Week activities, and provides further support for other member Council activities.
- ▶ Ongoing participation in the Regional Environmental Education network and selection to be part of the Leaders in Sustainability Program, run through the Australian Association of Environmental Education.



▶ Leaders in Sustainability Program participants, run through AAEE NSW





1.4

Love Food Hate Waste

Aim: The Love Food Hate Waste Challenge provides locally relevant promotional and community engagement activities to reduce food waste, designed in conjunction with our local community. It aims to increase awareness about food waste avoidance issues, and increase skills and adoption of food waste avoidance behaviours in parents with young children.

In 2016-17 Love Food Hate Waste was successful in receiving its third grant funding year. Cooking demonstrations, workshops and an active social media campaign supported the LFHW Challenge Phase 2.

The campaign focused on building the capacity of families with children to undertake food waste avoidance behaviours. Project outcomes have included:

- ▶ Approximately 1,500 community members have had direct contact with the Love Food Hate Waste Challenge Program, and a further 1,500 through social media, our website, TVC media and advertising.
- ▶ 14 x 2.5 hour workshops held across the 7 Council LGA's with approx. 280 people participating in these.



- ▶ 29 x 45 minute cooking demonstrations at 11 different events (includes Council staff “Healthy Lunches” workshops held with Ballina and Tweed Shire Councils) with approximately 500 people attending these.
- ▶ 2 x Community events attended with the LFHW education marquee and team (7 of these were combined with above cooking demonstrations).
- ▶ 5 x 'other' events including film screenings, conferences and workshops.
- ▶ LFHW community resources including a storage fridge magnet and recipe book
- ▶ Promo flyers, social media images, 6 x editorials, 4 x radio interviews, 20 x ads in regional newspapers.
- ▶ Distribution of 500 recipe books, fridge magnets, storage containers to participants of workshops and cooking demonstrations.
- ▶ 3 x evaluation surveys - pre-event, post workshop and 3 - 6 month follow up.
- ▶ TVC airing of our previously prepared TVC for a 3 month period (180 airs approx.)

85% of people who attended the workshops and cooking demonstrations (1066) committed to adopting 3 or more food waste avoidance behaviours. A 6 month follow up indicated that this trend was continuing with the respondents. 100% of workshop attendees respondents (180) were satisfied or more than satisfied with the workshop content, facilitators, etc

The ultimate outcome predicted was to reach 5,000 families and reduce the amount of food going to waste. The program has achieved this in terms of awareness raising, and participants in the evaluation (3) reported to have reduced their food waste by at least 5-10L each week. We also aimed for at least 1,200 attendees to attend education events, workshops and cooking demonstrations - we achieved 1,500 attendees in this project.

NE Waste also participated in the trial EPA/LFHW Food Smart Program. The aim of this program was to sign up people through the NSW LFHW website to conduct self auditing. 97 kits were distributed to householders across the region.

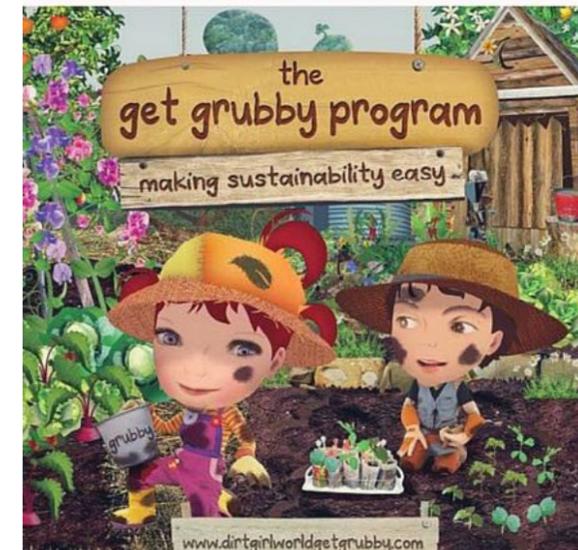


1.5

Early Childhood Program: Get Grubby and Nothing Goes To Waste

Aim: The Early Childhood (EC) Waste Education Program (in combination with Dirtgirlworld's Get Grubby Program and the Nothing Goes To Waste Program) is to train, engage and empower staff, parents and children in waste avoidance and resource recovery practices.

The Program was proposed with the understanding that Early Childhood Centres (ECC's) are closely linked to their communities and provide a large cohort and strong communication connection to families of young children. It was informed by the knowledge obtained from a past highly successful NE Waste Early Childhood Waste Education Program (2007 – 2010) and from Council interaction with ECC's. NE Waste signed up to Dirtgirlworld's Get Grubby web-based Program, which was delivered to EC centres across our region. To further enhance the outcomes of this program and satisfy increased demand for face to face early childhood visits from all Council areas throughout the NE Waste region, NE Waste contracted Barb Jensen to design and deliver the Nothing Goes to Waste program.



The Early Childhood Program included the following outcomes:

- ▶ Teacher training workshops - 112 Early Childhood staff participated in one of 7 local workshops facilitated by Cate McQuillen, creator of Dirtgirlworld;
- ▶ Appropriate resources developed for Early Childhood staff and children;
- ▶ All centres in the region were able to access the Dirtgirlworld's Get Grubby web program, after requesting log-in details. 94% of those Centres attending the teacher training workshops signed up for the get grubby program with a total of 206 memberships; 148 members visited at least once a month; 38 members visited at least every 2 months;
- ▶ The Nothing goes to Waste face to face activity was devised by the project contractor, alongside a booklet highlighting the services provided by Councils. A teachers kit and Waste Management Action Plan was also developed to support the delivery of the program;
- ▶ 30 ECC's received face to face visits by the project contractor which included an education session for the children, a waste audit and support in developing a waste reduction action plan. All Centres participating developed a plan which included at least 3 achievable actions. Evaluation conducted by the Project Contractor, found that 80% of Centres reported to be undertaking 3 or more waste reduction behaviours in their waste action plan.



1.6



Waste Warriors and Bin Trim

Aim: To increase recycling, waste avoidance and reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill from businesses across the NE Waste region.

Business Waste Reduction Project (BWRP) is one of the key deliverables to meet NE Waste’s strategy’s reduction and avoidance objectives. In 2016-17 the project continued to provide ongoing assistance to businesses, facilitate community partnerships with social enterprises and regional organisations, for the diversion and reuse of waste material from the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) sector.

A main focus for the 2016-17 BWRP delivery was the facilitation of the Waste Warriors Bin Trim Project. Overall BWRP objectives were greatly supported via delivery of this project.



The BWRP was promoted alongside the Bin Trim project at business and industry group events, and through electronic & traditional media. The project also supported larger organisations that did not fit within the Bin Trim criteria, these were provided intensive case management and action plans and support via the BWRP.

In 2016-17 the project:

- ▶ Assisted 145 businesses to reduce waste to landfill.
- ▶ Promoted all participating business and waste diversion outcomes via print media in their local government areas.
- ▶ Increased recycling by 552 tonnes P/A.
- ▶ Decreased waste to landfill by 621 tonnes P/A.
- ▶ Successfully assisted businesses to apply for 4 Bin trim infrastructure business grants, including a Bandsaw - South Grafton, Soft Plastic Baler- Alphadale, Hot Rot Composter- Byron and a Chicken Tractor - Alstonville.
- ▶ Developed new resources including staff engagement tools, 5x business showcase videos, takeaway food advice stickers for food businesses, bin signage and promotional signage.
- ▶ Developed and launched a new website, based on a resource sharing model, with the website content designed to empower business to make positive change with their waste management.
- ▶ Updated Waste Warrior project branding and started a blog.
- ▶ Assisted in the setup of a Farm Waste Recovery project in Kyogle, providing project support and signage.



Across the Northern Rivers
370 BUSINESSES have helped to save over
1100 TONNES
 of our valuable resources going to
 landfill by wasting less and recycling more.



Congratulations!

Please join us and your local Council in saying a BIG thank you to these awesome local Waste Warrior businesses!

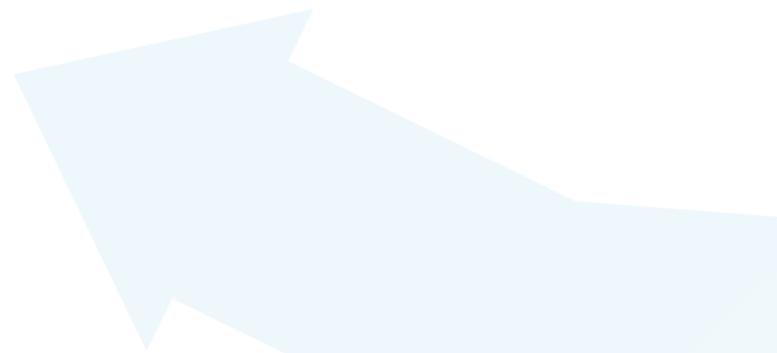
- ☺ Coraki Newsagency
- ☺ Woodburn Newsagency
- ☺ Casino Pools and Toys
- ☺ Burnt Wood Cafe
- ☺ Casino Outdoors
- ☺ SPAR Coraki
- ☺ Casino Engineering
- ☺ Casino RSM RLFC INC
- ☺ Coraki Bakery
- ☺ Irrestistible Treasures
- ☺ Sunrise Caravan Park
- ☺ Liberty Fuel Supplies
- ☺ Londy's Takeaway
- ☺ Maya Designs
- ☺ Parkside Cafe
- ☺ IGA Woodburn
- ☺ Casino RV Park
- ☺ Shimla Curry House
- ☺ Summerland Textiles
- ☺ Sandcastles Childcare Centre
- ☺ Rainbow Station Childcare Centre
- ☺ Country Kitchen Pies
- ☺ Richmond Bakery
- ☺ Tony's Workshop
- ☺ Woodburn Pharmacy
- ☺ Gibbos Auto Spares
- ☺ Zeebars Restaurant and Cafe
- ☺ Horseshoe Creek Nursery
- ☺ Sundowner Cafe

Check out www.wastewarriors.com.au for more information about how you can get involved.

This project has been funded through the NSW EPA Waste Less Recycle More Initiative with support from your local Council and North East Waste.



LOVE OUR PLANET
 Proud to be a Waste Warrior Business
www.wastewarriors.com.au



1.7

RENEW

Aim: Providing training, professional development and networking opportunities for regional waste groups and personnel

North East Waste is one of eight Voluntary Regional Waste Groups (VRWGs), which operate in rural and regional areas of NSW. All VRWGs are members of RENEW NSW and encompass over 95 regional Councils. We work together to improve resource recovery and waste management in regional NSW.

RENEW is supported by the NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its primary goal is to highlight the differing waste management issues and priorities within regional areas and implement better waste and sustainable recycling systems. It also serves as an advisory body on matters of regional concern regarding waste management and regulatory change.

This year the RENEW team met four times in Sydney and at Coffs Harbor, to coincide with the waste conference.



Collaboration between groups both at and between meetings has been regular and beneficial. The Forum also provided a number of opportunities for groups to be involved in consultations and to provide submissions to the State Government. This year RENEW made submissions on changes to Waste Regulations and the Container Deposit Scheme, The draft MRF Protocol, and the Proposal for minimum environmental standards in the scrap metal industry' consultation paper. This allows for regional perspectives to be heard and considered in the policy design phase.

1.8

Illegal Dumping



Aim: To reduce illegal dumping across the NE Waste region and improve the Council's capacity to respond to illegal dumping.

North East Waste has facilitated a Regional Illegal Dumping Program across 7 participating Councils since 2012 and has continued to provide resources, support and training to our councils. In addition, this year the Clean up and Prevention program applied for and received funding to coordinate and pilot a RID Officer program. Over the last 12 months there has been significant improvement in the quality and quantity of data collected by three of the North East Waste member Councils - Ballina, Clarence Valley (CVC), Richmond Valley (RVC) under this program. We also assisted Byron Shire council to secure funding from the EPA to improve its data collection and report through RID online.

In summary, our Illegal dumping projects highlights included:

- ▶ The number of ID incidents reported and investigated more than doubled in 16/17, to 1881 across the region.
- ▶ Ballina, Byron and RVC in particular have recorded large increases in the number of ID incidents recorded.
- ▶ Six of the regions seven Councils are now registered to use RID online.
- ▶ Illegal dumping disposed of this year, increased from 219 to 725 tonnes.
- ▶ Penalty and clean up notices issued across the region this year increased by 36% to 56 in total.



- ▶ Illegal dumping of asbestos continued to rise, with 57 reported incidents in 16/17.
- ▶ Lismore City Council was successful in receiving a \$20 000 NSW EPA grant to improve their internal reporting and recording processes and data collection.
- ▶ We assisted Jali and Tweed Byron LALC's to put in ALCUP grants. Both were successful and secured approximately \$50,000 each.
- ▶ Secured funds for Tweed Byron LALC to have an app developed for the rangers using Cybertrack software. The app will assist the rangers to report dumping, signage, clean up and camera use on their Country. This is being run as a trial for the NSW EPA for future ALCUP projects.
- ▶ Training was held in Investigative Interviewing and was delivered in April 2017. Thirteen staff from five councils attended the two-day NE Waste funded program, which was delivered by experienced Hunter/Central Coast Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad trainer, Rob Robertson. The course was very well received by staff.
- ▶ Arranged for Barry Ryan from RID squad to come up and deliver surveillance camera training over 3 days in June 2017. It included 1 day with 6 Tweed Byron LALC rangers in Fingal, 4 Jali LALC rangers in Wardell and 13 Council officers from CVC, RVC and Ballina Councils in Grafton.

This year the project coordinator collated data from 7 individual Councils Illegal dumping reports and produced a Regional ID Report, to compare the last 3 years data for ID and identify weaknesses and strengths in our programs. This will also support future funding applications.

1.9

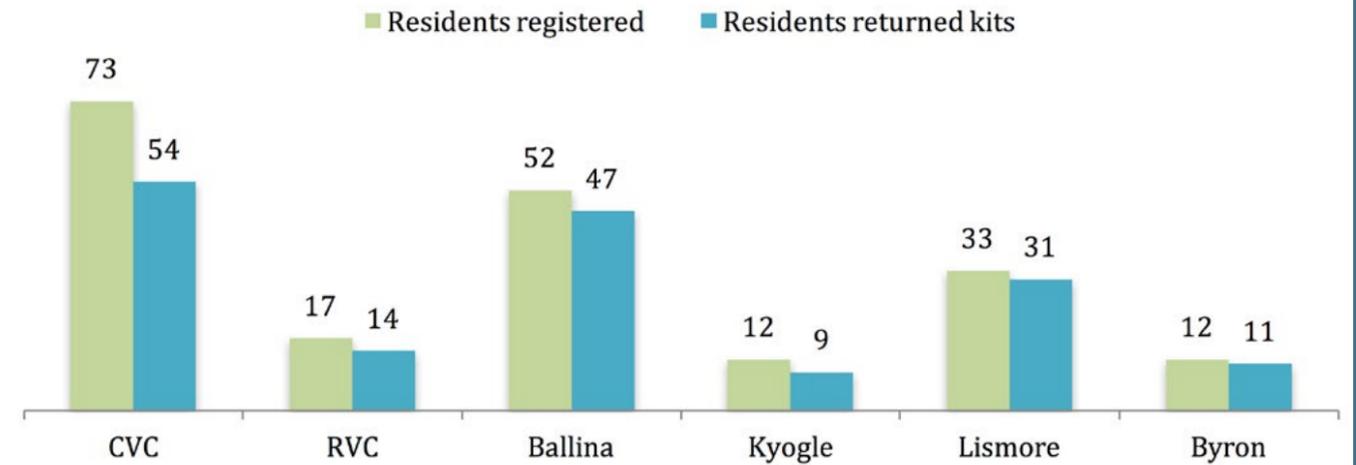
Household Asbestos Disposal and Testing Project

Aim: To increase public awareness about the disposal of asbestos and improve their ability to deal with asbestos disposal safely

North East Waste has facilitated a Household Asbestos Disposal (HAD) Kit Program for the past 3 years across 6 member Councils; Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Richmond Valley, Kyogle and Lismore. In the first year the program was run as part of a NSW EPA funded program. When the funding ceased in June 2015, NE Waste initiated the funding of HAD kits across the region to encourage safe disposal of asbestos by residents undertaking DIY projects containing asbestos. NE Waste purchased 420 kits, produced a TVC to promote the program on regional TV and implemented the program.

In 16-17 all 6 Councils continued implementing the Household Asbestos Disposal Kit Program, resulting in the sale of 231 kits regionally, a 76% increase on the previous year. The return rate of between 71 - 88% was also a significant program improvement.

Residents Uptake of Program



This year the Asbestos Testing Kit program was also successfully introduced, with six of the 7 member Councils now offering free asbestos testing to residents. The asbestos testing kits allows residents who were uncertain of the asbestos content in their homes to have it tested for free. Residents could collect a testing kit that included instructions and PPE from their Councils and return a sample for testing. The project coordinator followed up on residents who had a positive result. 480 testing kits have been distributed to Councils. Since September 2016, 270 samples have been sent in for testing, resulting in 157 positive asbestos results and 113 negative results across the region. In evaluating the program

- ▶ 88% said they would be happy to pay for the service
- ▶ 81% said they used the information sent to them on disposal and removal

NE Waste has agreed to continue to run the program for a further 12 months and the program is nominated as a finalist in the Local Government NSW Excellence in Environment Awards 16/17.

1.10

Clean Up Country

Aim: This project aims to work with Local Aboriginal Land Council's and discrete communities to build their capacity and assist to improve waste management and engagement with resource recovery

In 15-16 under the Illegal Dumping Program NE Waste conducted a regional review of waste management issues on our discrete aboriginal communities. 13 LALC's in the Northern Rivers were contacted whilst developing the "Rubbish Issues for LALC's report" in early 2016. As a result, a pilot project, Clean Up Country, was launched in September 2016. The project worked with 2 local Aboriginal communities, Muli Muli and Cabbage Tree Island to develop Rubbish Management Plans. The project coordinator worked with a Community Engagement Advisor to assess the quantity of waste to be removed.

A baseline report was submitted to the EPA estimating that 465T of waste at Muli Muli & 33T at Cabbage Tree Island would need to be removed.



The project also supported the development of a social change music video by Desert Pea Media. Over a week long program students were involved in learning about rubbish and recycling, then producing lyrics to a hip hop song that was filmed on country. 30 students and 50 community members were engaged and the song is available on you tube, as well as been presented at a number of conferences. The project will also be presented at the the 11th NATSIEH conference in September in Cairns.

The work of clean up at Cabbage Tree has been completed and the work at Muli Muli has been sent to tender and will be undertaken in 16-17.

This pilot project is being used to inform the NSW EPA Aboriginal Rubbish Program, launched July 17.

1.11

Community Recycling Centres



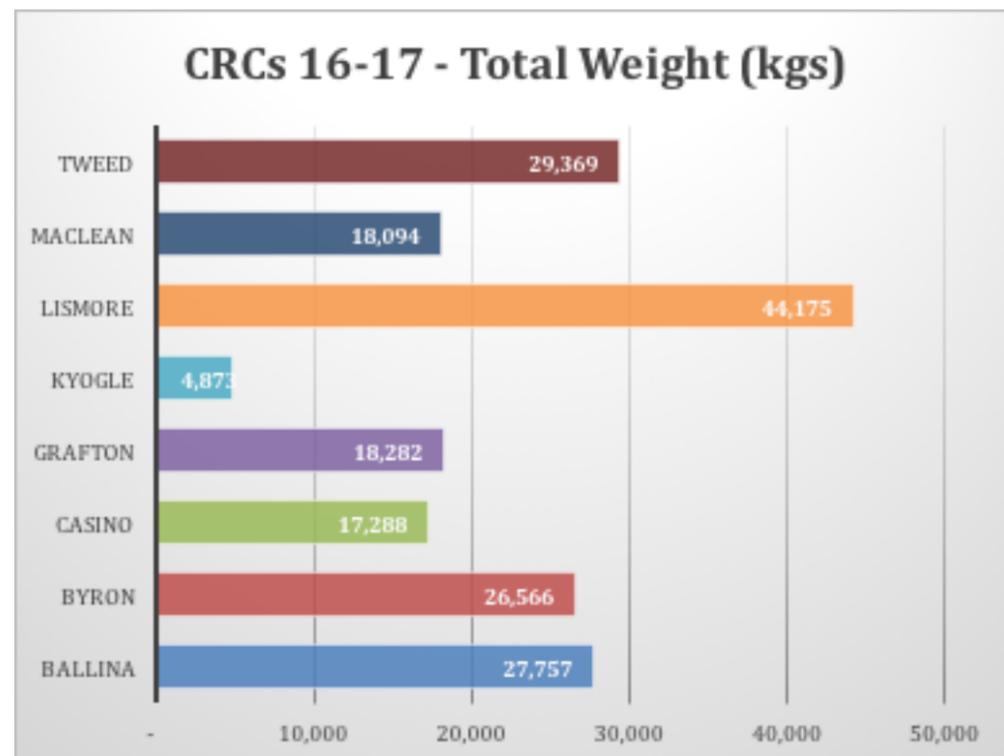
Aim: To make it easier for residents to recycle problem household waste items and avoid putting them into their kerbside bins, by establishing a NE Waste regional network of free and easily accessible Community Recycling Centres, to receive low toxicity problem wastes.

2016-17 was the third year of the EPA WLRM funded the program to roll out 101 Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) across NSW. In 2014-15 NE Waste secured \$627,764 in funding under 8 separate Environmental Trust grants in two funding rounds, to develop a regional network of 8 CRC.

In 16-17 the 8th and final CRC was opened at Stotts Creek in Tweed Shire.

New CRC Operational agreements between the EPA and participating Councils are now in place to manage and fund the ongoing collection of problems wastes dropped off at CRCs until 2021 under the Waste Less Recycle More 17-21 Extension program.

The North East Waste Region CRC Communication and Education Plan 14-17 has been successful in informing and engaging the community to participate in the correct disposal of household problem waste items via the regions completed network of 8 CRCs.

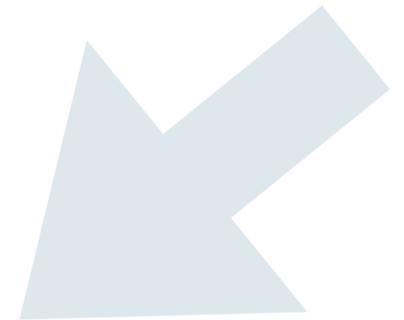


Key achievements and outcomes for 16-17 include:

- ▶ An integrated program of communication and education activities which has extended to all 129,000 households across the region.
- ▶ The collection and diversion from landfill of 186.4 tonnes of household problem wastes.
- ▶ An estimated cost saving of \$379,000 to Councils and the community in the disposal of problem wastes.
- ▶ Successful use of the CRCs particularly for the disposal of household paints, which has negated the need to continue beyond Sept 16, with the program of household chemical clean out events and has resulted in further cost savings for councils.
- ▶ Information from Council kerbside audits indicates an average 47 percent reduction in household problem wastes being disposed of via household kerbside bins.
- ▶ A comprehensive program of targeted print and digital media articles, updates and campaigns, delivered via NE Waste, Council and media networks to maximise reach including:
 - ▶ 1,449 visits to CRC webpage – a 10% increase from 15-16
 - ▶ CRC Facebook promotion reached 8800+
 - ▶ 3600 paid TV and cinema advertisements
 - ▶ 273 paid radio advertisements
 - ▶ More than 49 ads and 32 editorials printed in local newspapers
 - ▶ 3600+ CRC brochures distributed
- ▶ The collection and review of 65 community feedback surveys to inform and improve the strategies to increase community use of recycling centres.

- ▶ Feedback surveys indicated that respondents: i) had a high level of satisfaction with their CRC experience with 95 percent stating they were likely to visit in future; ii) had heard about the CRCs predominantly through newspaper articles or ads, Council communication networks or TV ads (76% overall).

In 2017-18 a new 2 year 'Regional CRC Education and Communication Plan 17-19' will be developed. Its delivery will again be funded through the EPA's Waste Less Recycle More initiative with the aim of continuing to improve community awareness and participation in the correct disposal of household problem waste.





1.12

Litter Prevention project

Aim: To support NE Waste member councils in delivering litter prevention initiatives that best address their local needs while contributing to achieving regional and NSW goals in long term litter reduction.

In 2016-17 NE Waste received funding to deliver a Roadside litter campaign that was undertaken in collaboration with the Roads and Maritime Services. Six hotspots were targeted in Tweed, Ballina and Clarence Valley Council areas. Baseline data at the hotspots was gathered through litter counts (94) and the sites were cleaned and monitored over 7 months during the campaign by the RMS and NE Waste. Encouraging people to sign up and report littering from vehicles to the EPA was a major aim of the project.

The promotional campaign included:

- ▶ Pop up events in service centres and shopping malls
- ▶ 21 business partners including RMS & Service NSW
- ▶ Print media ads and Radio ads
- ▶ Online banners, social media and NE Waste website promotion
- ▶ Pull up banners, bollard signs, posters and cards to encourage signing up to report

The project targets and actual outcomes achieved included:

- ▶ Increasing the number of local residents who registered to report littering from vehicles via the 'Report to EPA' online system, by 20% in the first year (16-17). This target was exceeded with the number of new registrations totalling 269. This is an overall increase of 149% which was achieved by April 2017;
- ▶ Reducing the volume of roadside litter present at identified litter hotspots by 40% by 2018. By April 2017 - this target had been exceeded at 3 of the 6 hotspots, where reductions from 75% to 84% were achieved. At the other 3 hotspot locations, mixed results were achieved due to a number of influencing factors including disturbance due to road construction, vandalism and adverse weather events. However significant reductions of between 10% and 33% were still achieved;
- ▶ The project was presented at the Keep NSW Beautiful Litter Congress in July 2017.



1.13



Hazardous Waste Stores and Household Chemical Clean Out Days

Aim: To reduce hazardous waste to landfill

This program has traditionally held surrender or collection events for residents across the region to drop off hazardous wastes to ensure they are recycled or disposed of correctly. 2016-17 will be the last year that NE Waste holds chemical collection days. Community Recycling centres collect many of the wastes that were traditionally brought to the events and those not catered for are disposed of at one of the regions 4 permanent hazardous waste stores at Grafton, Lismore and Stotts Creek (Tweed Shire) and one at Nammoona (Richmond Valley). This situation and the increasingly high cost of setup to hold the events has lead to the decision to discontinue them.

In 2016 -17 the EPA again provided \$17,000 for the program and North East Waste Councils have funded the balance and the promotion and reporting of the events. Toxfree was selected as the collection contractor in 2016 and supervised the drop offs at 2 sites, Byron and Ballina.



Results Household Chemical CleanOut Days

Council	Sites	Quantity (Kg)	Collection Cost (excl GST)
Byron	1	530	13,038.00
Ballina	1	694	13,695.00
TOTAL		1224 kg	\$26,733.00*

* More than half of the collection costs were attributed to staff and the setup of the site to receive the chemicals.



1.14

Training

Aim: Provide training, professional development and networking opportunities for landfill and education staff in the region.

Training and professional development is an important part of making NE Waste a cohesive and collaborative entity. It enables contractors and Council staff to build skills that enable an enhanced performance in their roles. In 2016 a number of training events were provided by NE Waste and the EPA.

- ▶ Asbestos Identification and Awareness Training was held at Ballina and was attended by 20 staff. The Course was run by GETEX. The training has enabled personnel to identify potentially asbestos containing materials with confidence, ensuring that such materials are appropriately treated and thereby preventing inappropriate handling and potential health, safety and licensing risks to arise.
- ▶ In May 2017 a collaborative Leadership workshop was held. It was facilitated by Laura Hamilton, Sydney Fellowship Program Facilitator, Centre for Sustainability Leadership. This face-to-face workshop allowed participants to get beyond the buzz word and explore what collaboration really means. We looked at existing models including nature as examples and the use of Emotional Intelligence and the Strengths Based



Approach as tools for fostering trust and collaboration. We were also introduced to an individual Action Learning project. The training was well received by North East Waste Contractors, Council waste staff and educators.

- ▶ In 2017 our NE Waste team and Council staff underwent two rounds of Cultural Awareness training, one sponsored by NE Waste and the other by the EPA. The Cultural Mindfulness training in Mullumbimby was delivered by a local aboriginal woman, Amber Seacombe, for NE Waste contractors only. One of the aims of this training was to introduce participants to awareness of the impact their own values have on their interactions with people of different values and cultural backgrounds. As North East Waste has moved into projects in Aboriginal Communities this training was timely. A second 2 day course was conducted in Sydney in March - EPA's Cross-Cultural and Communications Seminar Aboriginal Communities.
- ▶ Purposeful Facilitation Training was held in February in Sydney and sponsored by the EPA. It was a two-day course with experienced facilitators, Richard and Maria Maguire of Unfolding Futures Pty Ltd. The focus of the training was learning practical skills in facilitation which proved useful to those who conduct meetings and workshops.
- ▶ In addition, a number of project workshops and learning experiences occurred in the past 12 months, both in-house and from external providers, to support Council staff to participate in North East Waste Projects e.g. Illegal Dumping training.

1.15

The Better Waste Recycling Fund

Aim: To support voluntary waste groups with regional coordination and infrastructure planning



In 2016-17 our aging ‘Greenhouse’ Van was retired to Richmond Valley Council, who had provided it for our education programs for many years. The BWR funds were used to purchase a new mobile waste education van and have it fitted out with a hydraulic ramp and shelving. The van transports staff, marquees, tables and education resources to schools and community events to spread the message of Wipe Out Waste – the new vans logo.

Our Host Council, Clarence Valley, provided procurement and induction for the Van, which will now be decaled in colourful educational graphics and again engage students and the public with its important messaging.



▶ Grafton staff inducting the WOW team for new van.

2

NEW COUNCIL INITIATIVES AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

The recovery of resources across the region through shared contracts and individual Council effort continues to increase. We continue to look for opportunities and initiatives to increase diversion through recycling, removing problematic elements from our landfills and encouraging the reuse of limited resources.

2.1

New Council Initiatives

During 2016-17 NE Waste Councils implemented a range of new programs and services. Key changes and achievements are outlined below.



Ballina Shire Council

- ▶ A Kerbside audit for municipal, C&I and C&D and PP recycling, including CDS was conducted in late 2016. Data on CDS is also being collected via trucks.
- ▶ Public Place bins were stickered up to reduce commercial & domestic use.
- ▶ Funds from the BWRP were used to tackle Illegal Dumping hotspots.
- ▶ Council implemented a resource recovery education campaign to Shire residents.
- ▶ Asbestos awareness program was implemented with the introduction of Asbestos testing kits for domestic householders.
- ▶ Council a trialled a micro-phazir asbestos gun for two weeks to check reliability and accuracy and quantifying with lab testing. The unit has been purchased to assist in screening for asbestos at the weighbridge. This gun has been incorporated into our secondary screening process where loads are inspected for hazardous material such as asbestos.
- ▶ Council engaged APrince Consulting to complete a feasibility study for changes to our load out area and transfer station.



Ballina Shire Council trialling asbestos gun

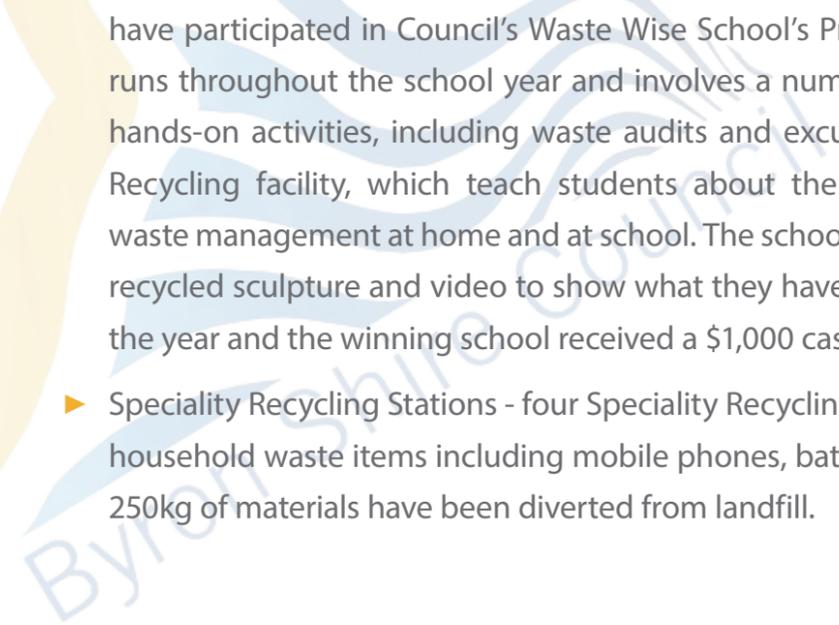


Byron Shire Council

- ▶ Byron Resource Recovery Centre Masterplan – A Masterplan for the Byron Resource Recovery Centre was developed to guide future development and logistical operations which will improve resource recovery on site.
- ▶ Key projects as part of the upgrade over the next 12 months will include – organics processing (complete), the introduction of EPS and cardboard recycling.
- ▶ Recommendations to relocate the Tip shop and CRC, combined with new collection receptacles will improve traffic flow and customer access to drop-off.
- ▶ Byron Resource Recovery Centre Stage 1 Upgrade (Masterplan) – A new Mobile Aerated Floor (MAF) composting facility was constructed at the Byron Resource Recovery Centre at Myocum in 2017. BSC received \$118k to convert approximately 3,500 tonnes of self-hauled garden waste per annum into a high quality, mature compost product that will be made available for sale to the Byron community in early 2018. The new MAF facility is part of a multi-staged upgrade (Masterplan) to resource recovery infrastructure at the BRRC which will see several additional recycling streams added to Council’s operations in the coming 12 months.
- ▶ Illegal dumping reporting and recording project – In July 2016 BSC received a grant from the NSW EPA to improve processes and systems for illegal dumping reporting and recording with the aim of developing sound baseline data for future project development. The project enabled BSC to quantify the problem and understand the hotspots and types of illegally dumped waste. This study led to the creation of a new Waste Education and Compliance Officer role, specifically tasked with creating programs to tackle the illegal dumping and litter issues faced in the Byron Shire. 717 illegal dumping incidents reported over the 16/17 FY/ Estimated 287 tonnes of illegally dumped waste/\$109,920 or rate payers money spent to clean-up and dispose of this waste.
- ▶ Public place recycling and infrastructure enhancement - Over 70 new enclosures, including 38 recycling bins, were installed along the Byron Bay Foreshore in December 2016 and extended into the Byron Bay town centre and Brunswick Heads

in early 2017. The new enclosures incorporated stencil designs on stainless steel to reflect the local environment.

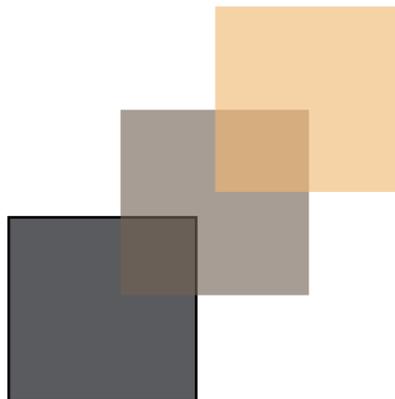
- ▶ Public place recycling was introduced to the Mullumbimby town centre and parks in September 2017. In keeping with Mullumbimby’s theme of reuse and recycle, BSC up cycled and refurbished 36 pre-loved enclosures for re-use in the town. Two public place organics bins are also being trialled in the Mullumbimby town centre.
- ▶ Organics program - more than 10,000 tonnes of organic waste diverted from landfill since the introduction of the FOGO system August 2015.
- ▶ Dirty Dozen recycling campaign - launched in November 2016 collaboration with Lismore, Richmond and Ballina.
- ▶ Waste Wise Schools Program – In the 2016/17 year a total of 12 local schools have participated in Council’s Waste Wise School’s Program. The program runs throughout the school year and involves a number of interactive and hands-on activities, including waste audits and excursions to the Lismore Recycling facility, which teach students about the importance of good waste management at home and at school. The schools are asked to create a recycled sculpture and video to show what they have achieved throughout the year and the winning school received a \$1,000 cash prize.\
- ▶ Speciality Recycling Stations - four Speciality Recycling Stations for problem household waste items including mobile phones, batteries and Light bulbs. 250kg of materials have been diverted from landfill.

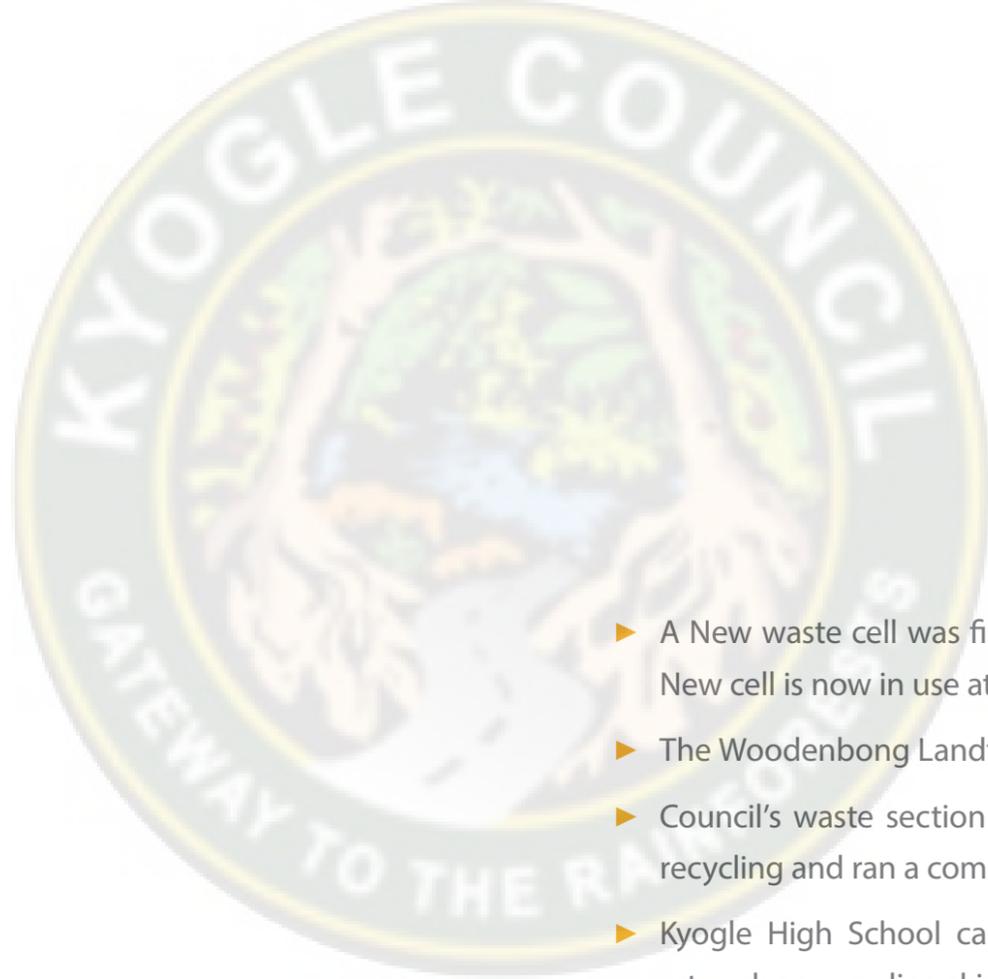


Clarence Valley Council

Council awarded a contract for a new cell at the Grafton Regional Landfill.

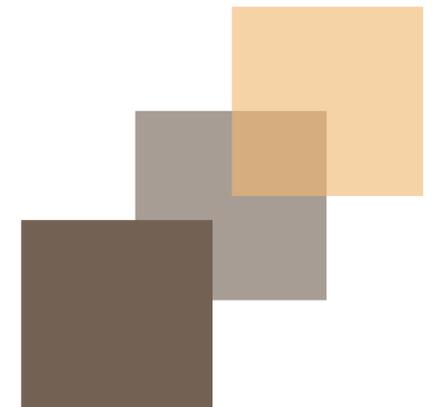
- ▶ A Council waste app was developed and will be launched in 2017.
- ▶ Mattress recycling commenced with 2604 mattresses sent to Kempsey to be recycled by a social enterprise.
- ▶ A Weighbridge solar system was installed with a Tesla battery back up. The expected capacity is enough power stored to run the weighbridge for at least a day.
- ▶ Tyringham (unmanned) WTS was closed on 01 Apr, to prevent illegal dumping, commercial drop off etc. It is now fenced, secured and managed. Consequently, the quantity of waste dropped by half.
- ▶ Public place recycling bins were installed throughout the Maclean CBD.
- ▶ Council hosted Simon Bice (Illegal Dumping Officer) for the year to improved data collection on illegal dumping in CVC, RVC and Ballina. The pilot program ends in Oct 2017.





Kyogle Council

- ▶ A New waste cell was finished at Kyogle and should last for few years. New cell is now in use at Kyogle landfill.
- ▶ The Woodenbong Landfill Closure Plan was approved.
- ▶ Council's waste section is trying to improve in house separation and recycling and ran a competition to incentivise.
- ▶ Kyogle High School carried out a project that included painting of artwork on recycling skip bins. The artwork focused on local area scenes and recycling messages. There was a very positive response to the project, and Old Bonalbo Public School carried out a similar project.
- ▶ Council's litter reduction and waste management at events program continued through the reporting year.
- ▶ Council provided pick-up and management of waste and recyclables following the major flood event.
- ▶ Construction of a new drop-off bay for green waste at the Kyogle landfill commenced during the reporting year.
- ▶ An agricultural waste project was developed with one of the local stores and is looking to work with local agricultural producers to significantly reduce waste. A fertiliser bag drop-off point was established.



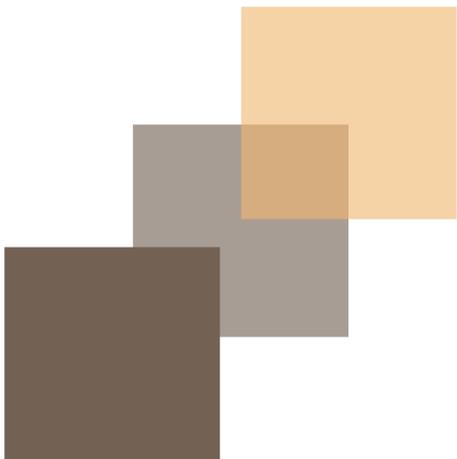


Lismore City Council

- ▶ A restructure has taken place at Lismore City Council with the operations waste, the quarry, the airport and gardens all under an operations manager and strategy, compliance, finance and customer service under a business manager.
- ▶ A new Optical sorter has been installed and has increased plastic recycling at the MRF. This was funded by Waste Less Recycle More.
- ▶ There are plans to develop a new Drop off centre in town as the current one will need to move as Lismore Square expands. The new drop off centre will be larger and provide a safer drop off for residents.
- ▶ A new landfill cell is in the approval phase and construction is planned for 2018/19. The cell will be twice the size of the existing cell 2A footprint.
- ▶ Council is commencing planning approval for future landfill cells, being cells 3,4 and 5.
- ▶ Finalising of the phytocap of the old cell 1 is underway. The cap will feature a lookout for visits to view the waste facility site and landfill from an elevated platform.
- ▶ New Waste Strategy is being presented to Council in December 2017 for endorsement. It is a five year plan with a number of longer term strategies listed.
- ▶ New waste education officer, Barb Jensen, was appointed this year and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience about community education.
- ▶ A new Aerated Maff composting system was installed and became operational in 2016. The high demand for compost continues and composting bagging trials are underway.
- ▶ Lismore received a Waste Less Recycle More grant for a new commercial waste sorting facility. This facility will see 18,000 tonne of commercial, construction and municipal self-haul waste sorted annually with a projected recovery rate of 52%. This will result in a significant reduction in commercial waste going to landfill annually.
- ▶ The Council dealt with over 15,000 tonne of waste after the recent floods. Waste operations were impacted by the significant rainfall including the MRF and leachate collection systems.
- ▶ Glass recycling continues as new markets and customers for the glass sand are developed. The glass processing is no longer undertaken in the MRF but on a campaign crushing program.



lismore
city council





Richmond Valley Council

- ▶ FOGO has been implemented in Richmond Valley and is going well.
- ▶ Approval to cap Bora Ridge has been given for a soil cap on older sections with a clay lining on the newer section. Council was very happy with the process for approval and the outcome. MRA did the closure plan.
- ▶ Rationalising of opening hours at smaller sites including Rappville and Bora Ridge has been undertaken.
- ▶ Council engaged lola to develop a capping plan for Nammoona. A capping plan is being developed to progressively cover at Nammoona. Plans for Cell 6 are being developed to provide security if the option to transport to SEQ is closed.
- ▶ A recent kerbside audit was undertaken of the residual bin and an increase in diversion from landfill via FOGO bin was a good result.
- ▶ Public Place recycling was rolled out at 16 locations with recycle bins being paired up with existing waste bins. An audit will be completed to determine the level of contamination.
- ▶ An upgrade to the tip shop at Nammoona and up grading WH&S across the site was completed. Intensive training on the 'Clearway' system for staff on weighbridge was also completed.
- ▶ SAR Consulting are working on the closure of Bora Ridge Landfill.
- ▶ Council is developing master plan for Nammoona and cell development for the next 30 years.





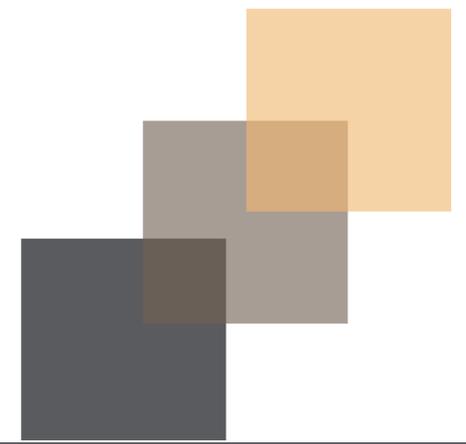
Tweed Shire Council



- ▶ Community Recycling Centre launched at Stotts Creek Resource Recovery.
- ▶ Expression of Interest for the construction of a Food Organics and Garden Organics processing facility at Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre.
- ▶ Three year tender awarded for waste collection and recycling processing including a three bin system with FOGO collection.
- ▶ FOGO collection commenced in urban areas (approx. 26,000 properties) on 1 July 2017.
- ▶ Significant community consultation program undertaken by a newly appointed project officer for the introduction of Tweeds FOGO collection service.
- ▶ Successful clean-up of the worst flood event in history in Tweed Shire with over 20,000 tonnes of flood related waste being collected and managed in March/April 2017.
- ▶ Ongoing development the Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre Masterplan with community and customer consultation to be undertaken before proceeding.
- ▶ Closed section of Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre have been successfully rehabilitated with major improvements to the site becoming evident

e.g. visual, erosion control, leachate management improvements.

- ▶ Council's internet site has been revamped and is more interactive. Council now using social media more extensively on projects and for communication.
- ▶ Asbestos awareness program being implemented with the introduction of Asbestos testing kits to become available for domestic householders in 2017/18.
- ▶ Landfill cell development progressing for Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre with the relevant approvals and licences being attained.
- ▶ Stage 1 of the Eviron Quarry Landfill site commenced with sections of the haul road linking the site to Stotts Creek Resource Recovery Centre being constructed.
- ▶ Construction of a new FOGO loading bay completed to accommodate bulking up of FOGO material.



2.2

Resource Recovery/Waste Diversion Reporting from July 1st 2016 to 30th June 2017



Regional Recycling/Diversion	Tonnage
Hazardous Waste	101
Kerbside Comingled dry recycling	32,296
Drop Off dry recycling	8,344
Kerbside Food and Garden Organics	33,364
Drop off Garden Organics	12,971
E-waste	288
Batteries	398
Metal	6,232

► Where reliable figures across all councils were not available categories have been left out. Resource recovery previously reported on is now captured by the Community Recycling Centres.

3

MANAGEMENT, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

NE Waste provides tangible benefits to Member Councils through programs aimed at delivering efficiencies and cost savings and promoting innovation and excellence in waste and resource management.

NE Waste has the following objectives:

- ▶ Collectively discuss and investigate the future waste management needs of the region and of Member Council areas.
- ▶ Provide a coordinated approach to waste management and minimisation.
- ▶ Avoid duplication of effort between member Councils.
- ▶ Confirm a commitment to reduce the volume of waste to landfill.
- ▶ To exchange knowledge between member Councils on waste management issues.
- ▶ To formulate draft policies, strategies and guidelines in relation to regional waste management and education needs.

3.1



Governance of the Group

The role of host Council is important in ensuring our effective operation and in June 2015 Clarence Valley Council became the new host Council for North East Waste.

The NE Waste Memorandum of Agreement is current until June 2020. The member Councils in 2016-17 and their delegated officers were:

Ballina Shire	Cheyne Willebrands, Christine Pitman
Byron Shire	Lloyd Issacson
Clarence Valley	Ken Wilson, Richard Roper
Kyogle	David Bell
Lismore City	Kevin Trustum, Phil Klepzig
Richmond Valley	David Timms, Carla Dzenolet
Tweed Shire	Rod Dawson, Wes Knight

3.2

Meeting and Reporting

NE Waste meets at least 4 times per year. Meetings are rotated to each member Council. Each Council is entitled to a single vote, with decisions carried by majority vote. A tied vote shall be a motion lost.

In addition, a meeting of NE Waste contractors is held on alternative quarters to allow updates to the Coordinator, resource sharing and support across projects.

Regional waste groups meet with the NSW EPA quarterly in Sydney and regional areas under the banner of RENEW NSW. These meetings include an update of each groups projects and achievements, as well as encouraging discussion of issues that challenge the regional areas.

Under the Waste Less Recycle More Initiative reporting to the EPA by the waste group is annual. Once reporting is complete, funding is allocated for projects and administration. Grant funded projects have a different reporting regime, that varies depending on the funding section and structure of the program. There are progress and milestone reports for most projects but some non-contestable funding, such as the Better Waste Recycling Fund, are also annual.

3.3



Sustainability Aims

In 16-17 NE Waste reviewed our policies that contractors adhere too, in line with Clarence valley Councils. We aim to minimise our footprint by choosing to:

- ▶ Offset air travel
- ▶ Carpool when possible
- ▶ Purchase local or Australian made products
- ▶ Adopt reuse and repair where possible
- ▶ Minimise waste and compost and recycle
- ▶ Use energy and water efficiently
- ▶ Make socially and environmentally ethical choices when operating for NE Waste

3.4

Finances

The NSW EPA provides funding to develop and implement our projects and NE Waste reports on our outcomes, achievements and resource recovery figures on an annual basis. In addition, each member Council contributes between \$0.80 -\$1.00 per head of population towards operations, project development and implementation. This is capped at maximum of 50,000 residents. This means each Council shares in decision-making and contributes a proportionate share of running costs and project expenses.

Not all voluntary waste groups are fortunate enough to operate under this model and NE Waste appreciated that this combined expenditure allows us to develop and deliver high quality programs. Additional funding is sought from grant programs such as the Environment Trust and the Waste Less Recycle More initiative for specific projects.

In 2016-17 NE Waste was again very successful in securing additional funds from the EPA and Environment Trust and our operational budget was approximately 1.36 million dollars.

3.5

Procurement & Contracts

NE Waste can authorise expenditure for works or services by resolution at a meeting of the Working Group. Unless otherwise directed by the Working Group, procurement is undertaken in accordance with the procedures of the Host Council. The Host Council is responsible for the calling of and awarding tenders. The coordinator and group assists the Host Council by preparing any technical specifications and tender documents, assessing tenders; and making a recommendation to the Host Council regarding the preferred tenderer.

NE Waste delivers its projects through the engagement of contractors and consultants. This engagement is made under the procurement policies of the Host Council.



In 2016- 17 consultants managed projects in the role of:

- ▶ **Coordinator** – Jeanie McKillop
- ▶ **Education Coordinator** – Linda Tohver
- ▶ **Business Waste Reduction Coordinator** – Kim Potter
- ▶ **Illegal Dumping and Clean Up Country Coordinator** – Tash Morton
- ▶ **Community Recycling and Litter Coordinator** – Karen Rudkin
- ▶ **Website Management and Maintenance** – Flavio Stankievich

In addition preferred suppliers were engaged as:

- ▶ **Green House Site Managers** – Joanne Hoy, Sally Prescott
- ▶ **Greenhouse Performers** – Peter Notley
- ▶ **Education Consultants** – Samala Heart, Barb Jensen and Elaine Toogood

3.6 

Financial Statement

Project Expenditure and Budget 2016 -17

Project	Budgeted 16 -17	Expenditure 30/6/16	Carried forward to projects or reserve
Coordination and Project Management	\$98,000.00	\$93,982.52	\$4,017.48
Communication	\$30,000.00	\$30,933.52	-\$933.52
Business Waste Reduction	\$58,000.00	\$57,262.19	\$737.81
BIN TRIM	\$72,327.00	\$71,170.24	\$1,156.76
Strategic Plan delivery	\$120,000.00	\$71,052.64	\$48,947.36
Waste Education	\$100,000.00	\$99,815.68	\$184.32
RENEW	\$7,000.00	\$6,114.82	\$855.18
Illegal Dumping Project	\$25,000.00	\$24,569.66	\$430.34
Community Recycling Centres	\$161,754.00	\$166,872.45	-\$5118.45
Hazardous Waste Project	\$29,000.00	\$28,609.08	\$390.92
Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW)	\$46,065.00	\$43,208.46	\$2,856.54
Better Waste Recycling Fund	\$98,606.00	\$75,832.46	\$22,773.54
Household Asbestos program	\$24,875.00	\$23,485.95	\$1,389.05
Litter	\$134,442.50	\$91,557.74	\$42,884.76
Training	\$7,000.00	\$8,341.53	-\$1341.53
Waste Wise Events	\$35,000.00	\$30,494.13	\$4,505.87
Joint Councils Report Illegal Dumping project	\$147,400.00	\$62,790.00	\$84,610.00
Early Childhood Waste Education	\$90,000.00	\$89,215.98	\$784.02
Clean Up Country	\$134,000.00	\$50,022.25	\$83,977.75
Education Coordination	\$70,000.00	\$61,687.19	\$8,312.81
TOTALS	\$1,488,469.50	\$1,187,018.49	\$301,451.01



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