Local Government First on Climate Change

Tasmania will be the first state in Australia to audit the carbon emissions of all its councils under the terms of an agreement signed at the December meeting of the Premier’s Local Government Council (PLGC).

At that meeting, the Premier and LGAT President, Mayor Mike Gaffney, signed two statewide partnership agreements: one on climate change, and one on communication and consultation. These partnership agreements will guide some of the activities of the PLGC in 2009.

Climate Change

Tasmania will become the first state in Australia to audit the greenhouse gas emissions of 100% of councils under the statewide partnership agreement on climate change, which was developed in recognition of the need for a coordinated government response to the issue. The audit will be followed up with the development of plans to help councils to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The audit of Local Government emissions follows another national first - the whole-of-government audit undertaken by the State Government in 2008.

In its first year of implementation, the partnership agreement will also guide collaborative activities on land-use planning, and community consultation and education around climate change. During 2009, the PLGC will identify climate change priorities for action in 2010.

Communication and Consultation

The commitment of both spheres of government to ongoing collaboration was underlined by the signing of the second statewide partnership agreement on communication and consultation in December 2008. This agreement promotes effective day-to-day coordination between the State Government and Local Government. Mayor Gaffney welcomed the new agreement, saying strong communication between the two spheres of government was vital for the best development of the state. Both of the newly signed statewide agreements are available on the Local Government Division’s website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgd/partnership_agreements.

PLGC work plan 2009

A busy work plan will see a range of outcomes through the PLGC this year. As the PLGC continues to implement the Stronger Councils, Better Services initiative, you can expect to hear about:

- The development of long-term asset and financial management plans for councils;
- Demonstration projects promoting shared services funded by the Shared Services Grants Program;
- Changes to the Local Government Board; and
- A new program to build understanding of land-use planning.

The PLGC will also seek to expedite take-up of the First Home Owner Boost through an advertising campaign.

For further information on the PLGC and the activities of the PLGC, visit the Local Government Division’s website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/lgd/plgc.

Veolia Environmental Services provides a full range of waste management, resource recovery, environmental and industrial services to councils across Tasmania. Specialising in waste and recyclables collection, we work closely with local government and have assisted many Tasmanian councils to develop waste management solutions that meet local requirements.

Veolia can help design and implement collection systems for the entire recyclable and general waste streams.

Council-specific waste and resource management plans may incorporate options for resource recovery, waste minimisation strategies, hard and green waste services, collection and recycling services, as well as supporting education initiatives.
National Packaging Covenant Welcomes Tassie Councils

The Local Government Association of Tasmania signed the Covenant on 16 February 2006 which means, through association, all local governments in Tasmania are National Packaging Covenant signatories.

As a signatory, your Council is part of a national initiative between governments and industry, to stop packaging waste ending up in landfill. Together with major Australian brand owners and the packaging supply chain, you commit to good practice for recycling packaging, kerbside collection and community education. You are part of a collective to achieve a national packaging recycling rate of 65% by 2010. By this time, some 3.5 million tonnes of packaging waste will be diverted from landfill each year.

The Covenant helps fund 60 projects across Australia, worth more than $80 million, which implement better ways to recover, reuse and recycle packaging by diverting it from landfill. Some projects are Australian firsts, such as finding a viable way to reprocess polypropylene or setting up EPS recycle stations in regional areas. Some local governments are involved in these projects.

The Covenant can help you broker networks and relationships and keep you up-to-date with information by subscribing to their newsletter. Email npc@packagingcovenant.org.au, or go to www.packagingcovenant.org.au.

PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Has Council an understanding of how climate change may affect your municipality?

Do you have a climate change and sustainability policy?

Are the risks and opportunities of climate change and sustainability issues being factored into management, policy, planning and decision making?

Are you benchmarking with sustainability indicators to enable monitoring of your progress?

Would you like help dealing with these issues?

SEMF can:

- Assist in the attainment of Federal funding for sustainability and climate change projects.
- Carbon footprinting.
- Waste management plans.
- Energy audits and efficiency reviews.
- Provide costing and implementation plans.
- Prepare reports for Councils, showing how they are progressing in their planning for sustainability and climate change.

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March 2009 LGAT News 45
Drinking Water Catchments and Bushfires Don’t Mix

DR CHRISTINE MUCHA, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Hobart Water

The recent bushfires which tragically took lives and destroyed communities in rural Victoria were a silent reminder to us in the water industry of how vulnerable our drinking water supplies are. For cities such as Hobart and Melbourne - which largely rely on outlying catchment areas to supply drinking water for their populations - bushfire stands out as the single biggest natural threat.

The consequences of bushfire on water sources such as creeks, rivers and dams can last many years. The combined effects of lost riparian vegetation which acts as a natural filter, together with less water when the vegetation is growing back, and the leaching of charred material and carbon into waterways, can adversely impact on the quality of the water for many years. This clearly impacts water from catchments for which little or no treatment is needed.

In Hobart, an average of around 40% of our drinking water comes from two highly valuable catchments: Mt Wellington and Lake Fenton, in National Park. While the water sourced from the Derwent River is fully treated and we are therefore able to filter out the consequential impacts of bushfire, the pristine waters of Wellington Park and Lake Fenton require minimal treatment. Other than basic chlorination and fluoride, very little further treatment is required to meet Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Along with the water quality, among other reasons to explain why these catchments are valued are because they bring water largely under gravity; thus making the cost of transporting the water significantly less than if it were all sourced and pumped from the Bryn Estyn Water Treatment Plant.

In a worst-case scenario, where either the Lake Fenton or Mt Wellington catchments were destroyed by fire, the city of Hobart would need to pay a higher price for its drinking water. In Canberra’s 2003 bushfires, the catchment was so badly affected - first by fire and weeks later by a storm which washed carbon into the water - that it was around nine months before water was of sufficient quality to use for drinking.

At the time of writing, although the bushfires are still burning in Victoria, the city’s metropolitan water quality and supply remain unaffected. However, Melbourne Water has had to take a large number of active and precautionary measures to protect its waters, including transferring water away from reservoirs in the bushfire zones. More than 100 fire fighters and planners were working closely with other agencies to minimise damage to the Maroondah catchment and prevent fires progressing in the Upper Yarra catchment. Other catchments were fire damaged, and these were being assessed at the time of writing.

How are we equipped to prevent and deal with bushfire in Hobart’s water catchments? Hobart Water’s recent experience following a bushfire at Knights Creek, near Glenorchy in late 2007, exemplified the importance of relationships, the value of catchment management plans and the excellence of the Tasmanian Fire Service’s (TFS) response.

The fire, which burnt around 40 hectares on the fringes of Glenorchy, started near a vital watercourse and swept up the hill towards a nearby ridge. Fortunately for us, the vegetation which grows along watercourses in Tasmania tends to be fire-retardant and the fire at Knights Creek swept away from the watercourse, rather than across it. The TFS acted rapidly and was largely responsible for containing the fire before its damage became wide-spread.

Bushfires are also one of the many hazards identified in the catchment management plans which Hobart Water prepare and review. The plans highlight the vital need for relationships with partners such as the TFS, Wellington Park Trust, Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania and local councils. This collaborative approach often takes the form of Fire Management Plans, which outline a regime of actions such as fuel reductions burns, which Hobart Water undertakes with its partners to ensure that risks are minimised, wherever possible. Other activities, including the work of authorities to minimise inappropriate behaviours such as dumping and burning vehicles in bush areas, remain vital tools in the fight against bushfires.

We will never be able to prevent bushfires. However, by working closely with a range of professional bodies and by constantly reminding the community that our drinking water is precious, we must do all we can to minimise the risks. A bushfire which destroys lives, properties, fauna and flora is bad enough. However, a bushfire that additionally destroys a water catchment can also directly impact on communities hundreds of kilometres away and carry consequences for years to come.
Facing an Uncertain Future

CHRISTINE MATERIA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY OFFICER
Local Government Association of Tasmania

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Ofragged mountain ranges,
Of drought and flooding rains,
I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel sea,
Her beauty and her terror -
The wide brown land for me.

Dorothea MacKellar

The global financial crisis momentarily took our attention until the realities of our changing climate were brought home via the horrific loss of life and property in Victoria from the Black Saturday fires.

A record-breaking heatwave gripped South-East Australia for over a week. In South Australia, Adelaide experienced more than a week of temperatures over 40°C. Ambulance offers were treating up to 900 people per day and the heatwave claimed an unprecedented number of lives due to heat-stress. Melbourne rail lines buckled in the heat as the bushfires raged out of control. More than 60% of Queensland has been declared a disaster zone in the worst floods for more than 30 years. Some 3,000 homes have been affected, and the main highway between Cairns and Townsville has been cut off. On 19 February, large areas of New South Wales were declared a natural disaster zone after heavy rains and flooding inundated the mid-north coast. Hundreds of people were cut off in upstream towns.

State disaster recovery units have been mobilised in three states to deal with the fallout from heat, floods and fires. The Commonwealth Government has announced a Disaster Recovery Assistance Package to Queensland and Victoria and the New South Wales Government is providing support through recovery centres.

Australia has, of course, experienced bushfires and cyclones since the dawn of time. But in recorded history, we have never seen anything like the heatwave that saw temperatures across Southern Australia soar above 40°C for days on end.

According to research by the CSIRO, the Climate Institute and state bushfire councils, if temperatures creep up over the coming decades (even under a “low global warming” scenario), catastrophic fires are expected to occur every five to seven years in Victoria by 2020. Under scenarios of greater global warming, which most climate scientists think are more likely, some regions would be experiencing the conditions for catastrophic fires almost every year by 2050.

Prof Mark Adams from the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre said the extreme weather conditions that led to the bushfires are likely to occur more often. A government-commissioned report on climate change last year warned that exceptionally hot years, which used to occur once every 22 years, would occur every one or two years, virtually making drought a permanent part of the Australian environment. Clive Hamilton, author of Scorchert: The Dirty Politics of Climate Change, emphasised that climate scientists have long predicted that more frequent and extreme fires will hit Australia.

Roger Stone, a climate expert at the University of Southern Queensland, said that the extreme conditions being encountered fit climate change models. The debate on climate change and the relationship between increasing temperatures, heat, storm, flood and fire events will no doubt continue to rage. Local Government will, however, be increasingly called upon to mobilise resources for community recovery following such events, regardless of the “causal” factors. How can Local Government respond to this increasing pressure? Katrena Stephenson provides some clues in her article Councils Play Vital Role in Community Recovery Process on page 26.
Council Recognised for Action on Climate Change

Hobart City Council has received a Planning and Review Recognition Award for its commitment to reduce the impact of global warming by participating in Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Australia, a unique program that helps local governments and their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Of the 232 councils involved in the Cities for Climate Protection program, Hobart is only the sixth council to receive the award. Deputy Lord Mayor, Ald Eva Ruzika was among representatives from State and Local Government at the award presentation, hosted by ICLEI Oceania during the Australian Local Government Association Local Government Constitutional Summit in December.

The event also saw the release of the CCP Australia Local Government Action on Climate Change 2008, which shows greenhouse gas savings of 4.7 million tonnes by CCP Australia councils in 2007-08 - equivalent to removing well over one million cars from the road for an entire year. Hobart's most recent CCP greenhouse gas emissions inventory revealed a 71% emission reduction from its corporate activities since 1996.

Hobart's greenhouse gas emission reductions have been achieved through a range of actions including capture and cogeneration of landfill gas methane from McRobies Gully and cogeneration at the Macquarie Point Sewage Treatment Plant, conversion of the Bitumen Plant to natural gas, and conversion of all computer screens from CRT to energy LCD. A further initiative has been the extraction of heat from sewage effluent flowing from the Self's Point Sewage Treatment facility and using that heat to advantage at the Hobart Aquatic Centre. This heat extraction method is also used at the Concert Hall and at Sandown Village, again reducing the demand for electricity.

Council will continue to work towards reducing emissions, particularly in the community sector, having engaged Sustainable Living Tasmania to assist the community to conserve energy used at home and save money. Council is also trialling energy efficient street lighting. Another popular initiative has been Council's Solar Rebate Scheme, with approvals for more than 130 solar rebates for the installation of solar hot water systems on residential houses. Council is also reviewing its Greenhouse Local Action Plan which will include actions to meet its commitment to zero corporate emissions by 2020.

NRM North - Working with local government to care for the natural resources of our island home
www.nrmnorth.org.au

Our vision:
“To be the leading non-government organisation that produces results in natural resource management across northern Tasmania”

We cannot achieve our vision alone. We closely work in partnerships with stakeholders to develop the best ways to protect, conserve and manage our natural resources for future generations.

FOX ERADICATION PROGRAM

Evidence shows fox activity in a number of areas in Tasmania, including around the urban areas of Devonport, Burnie and Wynyard.

Recent DNA analysis of fox positive scats has identified five individual foxes in the state. This includes 3 males and 1 female in areas along the north-west coast.

Please report all fox sightings or any possible evidence of fox activity to the 24hr hotline:
1300 FOX OUT (1300 369 688)
All calls are strictly confidential and you may provide vital information.

For more information about the Fox Eradication Program and foxes in Tasmania (including organising briefings for interested groups) phone (03) 6336 5426, contact Fox.Enquiries@dpiw.tas.gov.au or visit www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/fox

FOX ERADICATION PROGRAM
Activity Update

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Our City, No Butts About it

The Butt Free City campaign, which kicked off on 23 March, asked people to “Please butt it, then bin it” to eliminate the costly environmental, social and economic impacts of cigarette butt littering.

“Over 7 billion cigarette butts are littered in Australia every year,” says the Butt Littering Trust’s Executive Director, Wendy Jones. “Our biggest challenge is that most people don’t know about the huge costs associated with cleaning up butts, or the negative impact they have on water quality and wildlife habitat.”

Major city councils spend in the tens of millions of dollars collecting butts off city streets annually. Still, one in ten butts escapes into waterways through drains after being littered on city streets. Cigarette butts leach tonnes of toxic chemicals into the environment every day from their plastic filters. One butt can poison 8 litres of water to a toxic level within hours, threatening the quality of water we swim in and the health of fish we eat.

Butt Free City is an annual national campaign to improve butt litter management and ask people to change their littering behaviour. Butt Free City educators hit the streets throughout the week-long campaign to talk to people about butt litter impacts and offer a pocket ashtray in return for their pledge. Butt Free City is managed by the Butt Littering Trust in partnership with major and regional city Councils. The Trust initiates, supports and partners projects that reduce butt littering through its Butt Free Solutions including education, infrastructure and enforcement, freely available through their website.

For further information on the Trust, or Butt Free City, go to www.buttlitteringtrust.org.

Model Paves Way for Action on Climate Change

A report assessing the impacts of climate change on Tasmania’s Clarence City Council, and ways to adapt to and mitigate these impacts, could serve as a model for other councils.

The report is one of five major studies that are being undertaken as part of a national initiative coordinated by the Federal Department of Climate Change that aims to help local governments identify and respond to the risks associated with the predicted effects of climate change.

Clarence City Council Mayor, Jock Campbell, says the report is among the most detailed of its kind in Australia. He says the report will assist councils across Australia to understand their vulnerability to sea-level rise associated with global warming, and to prepare for the potential impacts of climate change. The report provides a preliminary assessment of the climate change-associated risks to coastal areas at 18 coastal locations in Clarence at the present time, at 2050 and in 2100. It also makes a number of recommendations of actions the Council could take to adapt to and mitigate the potential risks of impacts such as sea-level rise, storm surges, erosion and coastal inundation.

Actions recommended in the report include changing the Council’s planning and development controls, undertaking works such as revegetation of some beaches and dune areas, and raising and reinforcing some roads to alleviate the threat of current climate change risks. The report forms part of the Federal Government’s $1.5 million ‘Integrated Assessment of Human Settlements’ initiative.

To view the Climate Change Impacts on Clarence Coastal Areas report, visit www.ccc.tas.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=807.
Partnership Continues Efforts to Improve Derwent Estuary

The State Government has extended an agreement with Local Government and industry partners to restore, promote and protect the Derwent estuary.


“Since its inception in 1999, the Derwent Estuary Program has been nationally recognised for excellence in reducing water pollution, conserving habitats and species, monitoring river health and promoting greater use and enjoyment of the foreshore,” Mr Bartlett said. “Today’s signing commits partners to progressively manage the Derwent estuary over the next 10 to 20 years.”

The first Derwent Estuary Program Partnership Agreement was signed in December 2001 and included the implementation of an Environmental Management Plan. “By renewing the agreement, and updating the plan, partners agree a strategic and coordinated management approach across all levels of government, industry and the community remains our best prospect for a cleaner and healthier estuary in the future,” Mr Bartlett said.

Key areas for action identified under the 2009 plan include:

- Managing and reducing heavy metal contamination;
- Preventing eutrophication;
- Promoting water sensitive urban design;
- Conserving iconic habitats and species;
- Linking and extending foreshore tracks;
- Enhancing catchment flows and water quality; and
- Education and interpretation.

Congratulations to the winners of the LGAT Climate Change Word Search Quiz featured in the December 2008 edition of LGAT News.

Helen Burnet of Hobart is the winner of the home energy assessment, valued at $600.

Shaun Cousins of Hobart won the enviro-friendly water saving eco-showerhead, valued at $80, and the Tenni family of Woodbridge has received a $60 gift voucher from Eco-Haven Organic, Fair-trade and Eco-Friendly products.

Thanks to all our readers who took part in the competition.
As part of a Federal Government funded Community Coastcare project, Aquenal in conjunction with the School of Geography and Environmental Studies (UTas), will be assessing and mapping the values, condition and pressures on Tasmanian foreshores.

The study will focus on the North and Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management (NRM) Regions of Tasmania which include 14 coastal municipalities: Break O’Day, Burnie City, Central Coast, Circular Head, Devonport City, Dorset, Flinders, Georgetown, King Island, Latrobe, Launceston, Waratah-Wynyard, West Coast and West Tamar.

This project will produce a GIS-based coastal planning and management tool. It is the extension of similar mapping Aquenal has recently completed in the Southern NRM Region which is now publicly available via the Tasmanian Government LIST website at www.thelist.tas.gov.au/, under the Coastal Values heading, and will provide complete and consistent coverage of the entire Tasmanian foreshore.

The foreshore assessment will compile the large array of existing data and information relating to foreshore ecosystems into readily understood electronic maps. The maps will provide a basis for coordinated ecologically sensitive planning and management of our coasts and will also provide a baseline condition assessment against which to measure future changes caused by coastal development, coastal rehabilitation, climate change, sea level rise and pollution events.

For the purposes of this project, the foreshore has been defined as “the area between the high and low water marks where tidal influence exists”. However, we are also interested in information relevant to the zones on either side of the foreshore as these can influence its condition.

Aqueenal will contact each of the coastal councils within the North and Cradle Coast Regions requesting input in the form of maps, databases, field notes, guidelines, publications or other information related to foreshores. However, we are seeking input from all relevant stakeholders to help identify significant areas and their values, uses, condition and pressures.

If you would like to contribute to this study by providing details of available information in a brief questionnaire, contact Sasha Migus at Aquenal Pty Ltd on 6229 2334, or email smigus@aquenal.com.au.

Paul Bramich, Project Manager of Reveg Tasmania Pty Ltd, offers 10 year experience in the application of erosion control products throughout Tasmania; including ten years as an active member of the International Erosion Control Association – Australasian Chapter.

Civil Construction works including roads, mining, dams etc have specified erosion control and revegetation components as part of these works.

We focus on Hydromulching and Hydroseeding, Strawmulching and the supply and installation of erosion control products. The application of environmental products by experienced personnel will save you time and money and guarantee results.
Litter Busters on the Verge

Parks and road verges in the Dodges Ferry area are being targeted by an enthusiastic group of litter busters intent on cleaning up their neighbourhood.

The Southern Beaches Clean Up Group was formed in August last year when like-minded citizens who had been working individually to collect roadside rubbish decided a combined effort would be more effective. As avid supporters of the State Government’s Litter Hotline, members meet monthly for a group assault on litter in their rapidly growing beachside community. The Sorell Council provides bags and the group drops collected rubbish at the local recycling centre. Glass and other reusable material is recycled.

Sorell Mayor, Clr Carmel Torenius, has thanked the group and welcomed improved communication with Council. “They are doing a wonderful job and I congratulate them for their initiative,” she said. The group has a core of ten committed litter busters who incorporate rubbish collection on their daily walks. Most had been individually collecting litter for some time and realised a team effort might be more fun. Through local promotional activities, the group hopes their numbers will increase.

Mayor Torenius and the group have welcomed the introduction of highway litter warning signs highlighting the Litter Hotline phone number. The State Government’s Look Who’s Littering campaign focuses on littering from cars and urges the public to report anyone littering from a vehicle to phone the hotline on 1300 135 531. Fines for littering cigarette butts start at $120. Fines for dumping bags of rubbish from vehicles start at $240. Penalties also apply for rubbish that escapes from unsecure loads on trailers.

Project Reviews Effects of Climate Change on Infrastructure

Pitt&sherry has begun work on the Climate Futures for Tasmania - Infrastructure project, a two-year partnership with the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC) to assess the effects of climate change on the state’s major infrastructure.

The Minister for Economic Development and Tourism, Michael Aird, announced the project in February, which is partially funded as a Research Partnership Grant by the Tasmanian Government. Additional funding to complete the project was supplied by contributions from various participating infrastructure owners.

Phase one of the project, which is due to be completed later in the year, will provide a practical resource for use by infrastructure owners to future-proof their services. The system will have the capacity to scope and identify climate-related variables that can affect the infrastructure’s capacity to deliver essential services. It will also determine the sensitivity of the infrastructure to climate change by using relevant Australian Standards to determine climate sensitive design thresholds.

Managing Director of pitt&sherry, John Pitt, said that climate change and any rise in sea levels would affect Tasmania’s extensive community and commercial infrastructure and its ability to deliver services. The planning and design of new infrastructure would also need to account for likely climate change.

“Current high-level modelling is conducted in grids of 150 square kilometres and can only provide broad predictions of various climate change scenarios. The ACE CRC is modelling climate projects on a scale of 15 square kilometres and the funding will enable pitt&sherry to generate detailed analysis of the effects on catchments, extreme events and infrastructure,” Mr Pitt said.

The project will inform industry, government, and communities about the likely risks and vulnerabilities arising from climate change and empower them to plan appropriate, targeted and efficient strategies to help adapt.

For further information, interviews, and photo opportunities, contact Mark Wells on 0414 015 966.
Public Vigilance Essential for Fox Eradication Effort

The Department of Primary Industries and Water’s Fox Eradication Program has praised the Tasmanian community for their continuing support for the fox eradication effort.

Much of the recent physical evidence of fox activity has been collected during investigations in response to public sighting reports made to the 24 hour FOX OUT hotline. The Fox Eradication Program received 294 sighting reports during 2008, leading to investigations that collected 15 fox positive scats. Most recently, three fox positive scats were collected following sighting reports from urban areas on the North-West Coast, including areas around Devonport, Burnie and Wynyard.

The latest evidence reinforces the need for public vigilance, even in urban areas. In comparison to rural areas, where the eradication program has historically been focused, urban areas provide a much greater challenge for the eradication effort. They involve much smaller properties, have a large number of people and contain other issues, such as large numbers of domestic pets.

The Fox Eradication Program also recognises the vital support provided by landowners across the state. Permission to access properties is important to ensure that successful fox detection, monitoring and eradication activities can be undertaken. In the past month, staff on the Scat Collection Survey (or Great Poo Hunt) have been overwhelmed by the support from landowners in the south of the state, where phase two of the survey will be completed later this year. Replies have been received from nearly 400 of 970 properties contacted to confirm access permission for the survey.

The Fox Eradication Program encourages all Tasmanians to take seriously the fox threat and support the fox eradication effort. All fox sightings and any possible evidence of fox activity should be reported as soon as possible to the 24-hour hotline on 1300 FOX OUT (1300 369 688). All calls are strictly confidential and the information provided may be vital.

For information about foxes in Tasmania, visit www.dpiw.tas.gov.au/fox, or email Fox.Enquiries@dpiw.tas.gov.au.

In Brief

Tasmanian Designers Invited to Create and Innovate

Local innovators are being asked to use their imagination to create durable products from industry waste. Supported by the Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, the Bricolage II DESIGN PRIZE encourages designers to make a marketable, long-lasting product, using an ongoing source of materials left over from industry. The focus of the Bricolage II DESIGN PRIZE is on the industrial waste stream. This year, the competition will be split into a $500 Bright Ideas Prize and a $2,500 Major Prize. Tasmanians will also have the opportunity to vote for the People’s Choice Prize. Entries for this year’s competition close on 22 May.

Phonetastic Response to Recycling Effort

The sustainable actions of thousands of Australians will lead to the planting of over 100,000 native trees across the country this year, following MobileMuster and Landcare Australia’s Old Phones, More Trees campaign. MobileMuster ran the campaign with Landcare Australia in May 2008, pledging to plant a native tree for every mobile phone handset handed in for recycling. Over 100,000 handsets were collected for recycling - 25,000 more handsets than the previous year. Landcare Australia has selected thirteen locations across Australia for the next round of tree planting, including Sisters Creek in Tasmania. Old mobile phones, batteries, accessories and chargers can be dropped off for recycling at any one of MobileMuster’s 3,500 drop-off points nationally. To find your nearest MobileMuster drop off point, go to www.mobilemuster.com.au, or call 1300 730 070.