Kingborough Waste Services, a new business wholly owned by Kingborough Council, is now running the new state-of-the-art Barretta Waste Transfer Station. The Barretta site includes the Re-Use Shop, recycling and green waste areas and general refuse drop off points.

The site has been designed to ensure minimal traffic delays and to keep customers moving through the area with ease. The design was developed to ensure all construction and operational legislative requirements were met and concerns were addressed after extensive community consultation. A major consideration was looking at how existing infrastructure could be used in the new facility and the purchasing of the latest equipment to ensure value for money and long-term reduction in operating costs.

The recycling area is easily accessible with ample parking allowing easy disposal of recyclables before crossing the weighbridge. The bins are large capacity and staff are on hand to ensure that goods dropped off meet recycling standards. Items suitable for recycling include oil, batteries, glass bottles and jars, metal, timber, cardboard, paper and co-mingled which is plastic bottles and milk cartons.

Drivers are weighed as they cross the weighbridge after dropping off their recyclables. If they have general waste, the charge will be calculated when they leave the site. If customers only have recycling, a small fee of $2 will be charged which helps Kingborough Waste Services cover costs related to transport and disposal of recyclables.

Information sheets are available at Barretta Waste Transfer Station and from customer services at the Civic Centre.
The Hobart City Council has recently developed the Hobart Rivulet Catchment Management Plan to highlight appropriate stormwater management practices for the Hobart Rivulet catchment and its subsequent sub-catchments.

The Hobart Rivulet serves as a major waterway for a large catchment area of approximately 2,217 hectares and is one of many tributaries into the Derwent Estuary. It is a continuously flowing body of water that extends approximately 9.5km from its origin. The rivulet flows in its natural form throughout most of the catchment area and it is only when it reaches the periphery of the city urban centre that it changes and flows through concrete and stone-lined channels.

“The Catchment Management Plan identifies that improving stormwater quality of the Hobart Rivulet catchment can be achieved by minimising the contamination of stormwater at its source, before it reaches the water of the Derwent Estuary.”

The Hobart Rivulet Catchment Management Plan provides a list of actions that have been developed with the aim to improve the overall long-term stormwater quality within the entire catchment. The actions outlined in the plan will assist in the review of management process and the development of stormwater programs.

The Southern Midlands Council is serious about contributing to action on climate change. The Council is undergoing internal changes to adapt to future climate pressures and helping the community to understand the implications of climate change, assisting residents to play their part through energy efficiency initiatives, and assisting farmers to implement adaptation strategies.

Between 2006 and 2008 the Midlands experienced the worst drought in living memory. Businesses and the community as a whole suffered. With growing community awareness about climate change, there was concern that its effects were beginning to be experienced locally.

To guide Council’s response to climate change, an Action Plan was developed. Amongst other things, the plan aimed to assist the local community in adopting practical solutions in a way that not only tackled climate change, but also saved money for residents and businesses.

Early initiatives that arose from the plan were focused on renewable energy. Information sessions were held and resources developed in an effort to help residents demystify government rebates for renewable energy. Council then organised bulk purchases of solar panels and solar hot water systems for residents. Council also waives fees for installation of domestic renewable energy technologies, thus removing some of the barriers that might preclude uptake of the technology. Council also provided options to residents to help them understand and reduce their home energy usage through free home energy audits.

Recently Council began working with Levendale School in a program designed to involve students and the school community in energy auditing, target setting and energy efficiency measures. The students have committed to sharing their approach with other schools through the AUSSI schools network.

A significant area of Council’s work (in conjunction with NRM South) is in assisting farmers to adapt to climate change through promoting and trialling the technique of pasture cropping. Pasture cropping involves combining cropping and grazing into one land management system in a way that each benefits the other and reduces farm input costs. The track record of pasture cropping interstate has shown that it is a valuable technique for maintaining ground cover, minimising erosion, building soil carbon and maintaining soil moisture levels for longer during dry spells. Farm trials of pasture cropping facilitated by Council generated a lot of interest. Some farmers are now adopting the technique on a broad scale in an effort to capitalise on the many benefits of pasture cropping and particularly to build resilience in their soils to cope with future dry periods.
Tasmania’s Action Plan to Reduce Emissions

Tasmania’s Action Plan to Reduce Emissions has been released which sets out the State Government’s immediate priority plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions following the Tasmanian Wedges Report, and advice from the Tasmanian Climate Action Council. The Wedges Report provides a projected business as usual emissions profile and looks at the potential emissions reduction opportunities available to Tasmania. The Government has identified six priority areas for action over the next two years including: working with Tasmania’s biggest emitters; generating more energy from renewable sources; helping low-income Tasmanians and small-business use energy wisely; improving the energy efficiency of Government buildings and public housing stock; understanding the carbon value of Tasmania’s forests, and considering short-term targets for reducing emissions. The action plan is available for download from the Tasmanian Climate Change Office website www.climatechange.tas.gov.au.

Home Energy Toolkit a Winner

A toolkit designed to help Tasmanian families understand and take control of their energy use received two awards at the 2011 Tasmanian Awards for Environmental Excellence. The Home Energy Audit Toolkit (HEAT), developed by Hobart City Council on behalf of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, won the Local Government Award and the Leadership in Climate Action Award. The toolkits can be borrowed at no charge and aim to help families understand and take control of their energy usage. In 2010, there were 700 loans through 26 councils and by early this year, all Tasmanian councils and a number of government departments and schools were participating in the program. The entry will now be considered as part of the Banksia Environmental Foundation national awards, to be announced later this year.

Seeing RED over Plastic Recycling

An exciting innovation in closed-loop plastic waste recycling has been introduced to Tasmania by REPLAS and the RED Group. The RED Group, an organisation dedicated to recycling and education, aims to show local councils, schools and businesses how their plastic waste can be recycled into durable, cost-effective outdoor furniture and infrastructure materials. The Clarence City Council has already implemented the RED Project, with plastic waste collection points provided at various public locations. Other councils are encouraged to take up the program. Replas and the RED Group produce environmentally-friendly and sustainable products which not only offer an alternative to the unnecessary use of virgin materials, but also reduce the amount of plastic going to landfill or being shipped overseas. To find out more, go to www.replas.com.au, or phone (03) 6231 3134.

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