Recycled Glass Initiative Set to Save Australia’s Sand Dunes

In an environmental first for Australia, Tasmania’s Clarence City has designed, developed and managed the construction of a car park using a break-through, recycled glass product. In partnership with Veolia Environmental Services, the Hazell Brothers Group, and the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF), Clarence has constructed a new car park at the Rosny Park Tennis Club, using 45 tonnes of recycled sand. This application of recycled glass has avoided the mining of 53 tonnes of virgin sand from Southern Tasmania’s rapidly depleting natural sand reserves. The recycled glass sand was used in the pipe bedding, concrete and asphalt, with finely ground glass used in the mix. Based on the success of the trial project, the alliance will aim to develop markets that will use up to 20,000 tonnes of recycled glass per annum. Veolia will receive $170,000 in grant funding from the National Packaging Covenant to help bring that potential to fruition.

Innovative Stormwater Harvesting Project Pays off

Victoria’s Knox City Council is achieving better-than-expected water savings from an innovative $525,000 stormwater harvesting system. Within three months of being turned on, the system is producing 350,000 litres of A-class water every 24 hours – a saving equivalent to six Olympic-sized swimming pools worth of water a month. The project involves taking water from stormwater drainage systems surrounding Knox’s Carrington Park, filtering the water and then pumping it to a specialised water tank over a distance of 1.3 km. The water is then used for irrigation. To contact Knox City Council, phone (03) 9298 8000.

Innovative Website for Local Road Closures

Six New South Wales councils have launched an innovative online resource for local communities, providing information on scheduled road closures and roads that are closed due to flooding or another emergency. The councils, which form the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils, spent nine months designing and developing the site. The project was financed through funds obtained through the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program. Road users can now view a map of the Northern Rivers Region to see the latest information on road closures, with markers placed on the location of the closure. The new system will also provide valuable information during emergency situations. To view the website, go to www.myroadinfo.com.au.

Celebrating the successful completion of the recycled glass project are (L-R) Philip Wise - Resource Recovery Manager for Veolia Environmental Services, Peter Bennett - Business Development Manager for the Hazell Brothers Group, and Chris Jeffreys - Program Manager Glass Recovery and Recycling, Packaging Stewardship Forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council

Photography by David Bellamy
QLD Councils Reach Land Use Agreement with Indigenous Community

Three councils in Queensland’s north have finalised a land use agreement with Indigenous people covering infrastructure development and terms of access to more than 20,000 square kilometres of land under a native title claim. The agreement between Charters Towers, Isaac and Whitsunday Councils and the Jangga People centres on traditional country around the township of Mt Coolon, 120 kilometres west of Mackay. The agreement provides clear terms of access for the councils to follow when developing infrastructure, such as roads and buildings, and when providing community services. It is a legally binding document and has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. The agreement also sets down guidelines for the Jangga People to work with the councils.

New Online Lodgement System

Western Australia’s City of Melville has launched an online system for lodging planning and building applications that will lead to greatly improved efficiency in handling applications and reduced costs. The online system has the capacity to cut administration time by around 50% - the average length of time taken to process a standard application previously was 40 days. Paper and document storage costs will also be significantly reduced. The online system is a step-by-step process that will prompt the user and offer helpful hints during lodgement. Users will be able to track the progress of their application online. Melville will retain over-the-counter and postal lodgement of applications to cater for people who do not have access to a computer. The new online system can be viewed at www.melvillecity.com.au.

Waste Collection Services Streamlined with the use of Electronic Device

The first stage of a scheme under which three Adelaide councils plan to use electronic devices to help improve the management and delivery of waste services to 95,000 households in their municipalities has been implemented. Mobile garbage bins in the areas covered by Gawler and Playford Councils have been fitted with radio frequency identification disks which are linked to the computer system of the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority. The system enables the authority to know when bins are collected and also allows it to track damaged or vandalised bins. The system helps bins to be returned to the right households and provides accurate information on how many households are regularly putting out bins for collection - information that is valuable for budgetary purposes and for providing efficient service. For further information, contact the Northern Adelaide Waste Management Authority on (08) 8252 9666.