

MAY 2013

ISSUE 145

\$9.00

**waste**  
AWARENESS

**procurement  
practices**  
*what do they do in Aus?*

*Canterbury earthquake*

**MODEL FOR  
LARGE SCALE  
PLASTERBOARD  
RECYCLING**

**Wake-up call *for*  
Zero Waste**

**PLUS** SQEP progress update  
Social procurement  
The latest from the Ministry



# MAY SPECIALS

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**ON THE COVER** : A road in Avonside bearing scars from the Canterbury earthquake.

**waste minz**

Developing a sustainable NZ together

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Paul Evans \ +64 9 476 7172

[paul@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:paul@wasteminz.org.nz)

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

Carole Inglis \ +64 9 476 7163

[carole@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:carole@wasteminz.org.nz)

OFFICE MANAGER

CJ Dooner \ +64 9 476 7162

[cj@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:cj@wasteminz.org.nz)

SECTOR GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

Nic Quilty \ +64 9 476 7167

[nic@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:nic@wasteminz.org.nz)

EDITOR, WASTE AWARENESS

Kim Mundell \ +64 21 655 917

[wasteminz@gmail.com](mailto:wasteminz@gmail.com)

DESIGN, WASTE AWARENESS

Leanne Lassman \ +64 21 267 3885

[leanne@electricdedgehog.co.nz](mailto:leanne@electricdedgehog.co.nz)

T +64 9 476 7162 F +64 9 476 7164

PO Box 305426, Triton Plaza, North Shore 0757

Unit 1B, 5 Ceres Court, Rosedale Auckland 0632

New Zealand

[www.wasteminz.org.nz](http://www.wasteminz.org.nz)

WasteMINZ is the authoritative voice on waste and resource recovery in New Zealand, and seeks to achieve ongoing and positive development of our industry.

WasteMINZ publishes Waste Awareness magazine five times a year, it plays a vital role in ensuring our members are up-to-date with the latest in industry news, policy and legislative changes as well as innovations and advances.

NZ ISSN 1170-1935

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## FROM PAUL'S DESK

**Talk to me**  
**+64 9 476 7172**

Paul Evans CEO, WasteMINZ  
[paul@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:paul@wasteminz.org.nz)

Hi everyone.

You will notice that there is a strong focus on procurement in this edition of Waste Awareness. Grahame Christian's board column emphasises that the key to producing positive procurement outcomes is better communication, planning and understanding between the parties involved. On page 18 Ewen Skinner and Sue Hamilton from Morrison Low highlight some of the key differences between local government procurement here and in Australia and the relative advantages of each approach. And on page 16 Sue Coutts of the Community Recycling Network states the case for considering the 'social' elements of procurement and how this might benefit your community.

Here at WasteMINZ we believe that to achieve positive and sustainable environmental outcomes for the various communities around New Zealand, we need to have the appropriate services in place, and procurement

is a hugely important, and often neglected, part of this puzzle. This is why we have recently begun work on a project to build a comprehensive calendar of upcoming Territorial Authority procurement activities. It is our intention is to make this calendar available to all WasteMINZ members.

The benefits of the calendar are:

1. TAs will be able to plan their procurement more effectively, as they will be aware of intended procurement activity by other TAs and any possible potential for time-frame conflicts.
2. Waste and recycling operators will be aware of any future planned activities, thus allowing them to manage their resources more effectively.

At the heart of this, our goal is to ensure that all TAs receive a broad range of high quality and innovative tender responses, allowing them to choose the one that best meets the needs of their community. To

all of our TA members—I would encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. We will of course keep you updated as this project progresses.

I'd also like to welcome Jenny Marshall to the WasteMINZ team. As you know, our sector groups play a fundamental role in our work and Jenny has come aboard in a part-time basis to work with Nic Quilty in advancing these activities. Many of you will have already met Jenny, as she worked as a volunteer at the 2012 WasteMINZ conference, where she was the ever-smiling face behind the registration desk.

I look forward to seeing you shortly at the Mid-Year Roundup in Wellington on 16 and 17 May.

Paul

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



Paul Bishop CHAIR  
EnviroWaste Services Ltd  
[paul.bishop@envirowaste.co.nz](mailto:paul.bishop@envirowaste.co.nz)



Darren Patterson DEPUTY CHAIR  
Patterson Environmental  
[darren@pattersonenvironmental.co.nz](mailto:darren@pattersonenvironmental.co.nz)



Grahame Christian  
Smart Environmental  
[grahamec@smartenvironmental.co.nz](mailto:grahamec@smartenvironmental.co.nz)





## YOUR BOARD

Grahame Christian

[grahamec@smartenvironmental.co.nz](mailto:grahamec@smartenvironmental.co.nz)

I'm new on the board so I have been focused on understanding the role WasteMINZ plays, and together with my fellow Board members, determining how as an organisation we can continue to add value in the future. I want to take this opportunity to discuss an area where I think that—with just a little more thought, discussion and planning—our industry can improve significantly; this being a good practice approach to the procurement of waste and recycling services.

Based upon my 20 years' industry experience I believe that the key to achieving better outcomes, is building greater understanding between clients (in this case I am talking specifically about Councils) and service providers (like myself). The procurement process can be challenging for both parties, but for different reasons:

For councils the challenges may include:

- A lack of internal knowledge in how best to procure waste and recycling services

- Project planning, approval and implementation timeframes are too short
- Procurement policies that don't allow sufficient flexibility to look at service innovations
- The ever present and very real financial constraints

For operators the challenges include:

- Tender timing, all too often multiple councils release their tenders at the same time creating bottlenecks and stretching resources
- Response timeframes are often unrealistically short, meaning many late nights and weekends filled with tenders
- Tender documents are unnecessarily complex, long and prescriptive

From a personal perspective I believe that a two stage procurement process (an EOI followed by an RFP) provides for the very best outcomes.

The EOI allows the Council to shortlist those parties who they

believe can not only do the job, but also that they can work with and who understands what the community wants, now and in the future. From a service provider's perspective an EOI provides a good lead time and also lets us know if we are in the running or not.

From here we move to the RFP, which is very much about hammering out the specifics that will apply to the contract, what resources will be used and how the contractor will meet the agreed outcomes.

Whilst all the challenges are real, many of them could be easily overcome if we just worked together a little more closely and understood realistic timeframes. If we address these challenges, I believe that Councils will likely receive a broader range of high quality tenders, allowing them to select the service which best meets their community's needs.

I'm glad that WasteMINZ is placing a focus on procurement and my challenge to you is to engage in this process to ensure that as an industry we move forward.

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR BOARD MEMBERS



John Dragicevich  
\\ Auckland Council  
[john.dragicevich@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:john.dragicevich@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



Simonne Eldridge  
\\ Tonkin & Taylor  
[seldridge@tonkin.co.nz](mailto:seldridge@tonkin.co.nz)



Dominic Salmon  
\\ Hastings District Council  
[dominics@hdc.govt.nz](mailto:dominics@hdc.govt.nz)



# News Bites

## RECYCLING SUCCESS CONTINUES

Love NZ is in its second year of collating data about what gets recycled in the Love NZ recycling bins. In the six months to end February 2013, 1215 tonnes of packaging and organic waste was collected.

While this is only slightly more than what was collected in the same period the previous year, it reflects a significant increase, given that almost 50 percent of what was collected in the six months to February 2012 was achieved as part of the massive effort made by New Zealanders and visitors during the Rugby World Cup. Without the Rugby World Cup impact, we are now recycling around 47 percent more each month compared to our first year of reporting, with over 200 tonnes collected each month.

Nicky Wagner, Chair of the Love NZ Board says this is an enormous achievement by the councils and businesses involved. "200 tonnes is the equivalent of recycling 7.7 million

bottles, cans, plastic bottles and cartons. To put it in perspective that would fill around 83 forty-seat buses collected around the country every month. The Rugby World Cup was the catalyst to put the infrastructure in place but it was vital to build on this momentum."

The increase in recycling comes from more recycling bins and greater consumer awareness. Recycling bins can now be found at major transport hubs, service stations, tourist attractions and on ski fields.

It's been a hot and thirsty summer with a big demand for beverages at events around the country so the Glass Packaging Forum (which manages the Love NZ brand) has taken recycling on the road. The Forum has contributed \$85,000 towards summer events and tourist locations in the first quarter of 2013 as part of its annual investment. These include the Classic Hits Winery Tour, the Horse of the Year Show, the Lantern



### *Recycling Italian style*

The equivalent of 1,600 recycled plastic shopping bags or 400 recycled plastic containers were used to produce each of these recycling bins, in the Cinque Terre region of Italy.

Festivals, Tauranga's Jazz Festival and community support to assist with Waihi's summer visitors. The Forum has supported recycling at the Classic Hits Winery Tour for four years now and this year 80 percent of the packaging consumed at these concerts was recycled.

Organisations interested in being part of the Love NZ programme should contact [donna@lovenz.org.nz](mailto:donna@lovenz.org.nz)



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# MOVERS & SHAKERS



## PETER FINLAY

Peter has taken over the role of containment business development at Maccaferri NZ Ltd from Adrian Gardner. Peter has been with Maccaferri for over 20 years and has seen the introduction of GCLs and expansion of the use of geomembrane liners in waste and water management. He's also involved with development into the agricultural market, largely FDE ponds, the use of Geotube® dewatering technology for waste processing, and erosion and sediment control.

Peter can be contacted at [pfinlay@maccaferri.co.nz](mailto:pfinlay@maccaferri.co.nz)



## CRAIG WILSON

Craig recently joined the NZ Management team at Transpacific Industries Group (NZ) Ltd as General Manager Sales. He is stepping into a newly developed role and is responsible for overall leadership in sales and marketing activities for all Transpacific businesses within New Zealand. He is looking forward to meeting the challenges that come with such an all-encompassing role.

Craig's experience in sales and business development is substantial, most recently with Elders Rural Holdings and prior to that with Fonterra.

Craig can be contacted at [cwilson@transpac.co.nz](mailto:cwilson@transpac.co.nz)

## welcome to our NEW MEMBERS

### CORPORATE

Municipal Calendars Canada

### INDIVIDUAL

Charmaine Boocock

Joanne McGregor

Nicola Malloch



## JENNY MARSHALL

Jenny has joined WasteMINZ as the part-time Sector Group Coordinator assisting Nic Quilty whilst studying for her Post-Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management. With her background in teaching and marketing, behaviour change and waste minimisation are key areas of interest. Jenny comes to WasteMINZ after 8 years working in local government at Auckland City Council and before that at Waitakere City Council.

Jenny can be contacted at [jenny@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:jenny@wasteminz.org.nz)



> Transpacific is New Zealand's largest and most comprehensive industrial and environmental services, recycling and residual waste management company.

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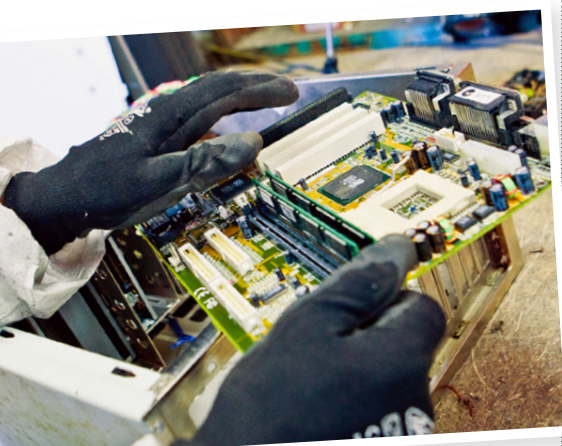


# Ministry for the Environment

[www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz)

## Publication of the new AS/NZS 5377

*(Collection, storage, transport and treatment of electrical and electronic equipment)*



New Zealand has been jointly working with Australia to produce a new Standard for the processing of e-waste (AS/NZS 5377 Collection, storage, transport and treatment of electrical and electronic equipment).

A Ministry for the Environment representative has been part of the Standards drafting committee along with the

following representatives from New Zealand: Trevor Munro, Scrap Metal Association; Sandra Murray, Auckland Council; Sue Coutts, Community Recycling Network, Jon Thornhill, RCN; and Jonathon Hannon, Zero Waste Academy.

The drafting process was an excellent example of collaboration between a cross section of e-waste stakeholders. Standards are written by consensus; so all points of view were valued and all stakeholders contributed to the final product. The group of nearly 30 members all benefited from listening to the ideas and experiences of other members.

The Standard will improve the management of e-waste in New Zealand, particularly reducing the impact of e-waste recycling on the environment and the risks to human health when handling and processing e-waste.

Adoption of the Standard in New Zealand will be voluntary at present; however, any future Deeds for Waste Minimisation Fund supported projects involving the collection and processing of electronic waste will require compliance with this new Standard.

The Ministry for the Environment strongly encourages all organisations that procure e-waste collection and recycling services to request compliance with AS/NZS 5377 Standard and for all organisations that handle and process e-waste to adopt the Standard. This Standard will be an important tool in lifting the capability across the e-waste sector.

AS/NZS 5377 can be purchased from the Standards New Zealand online shop for \$121.50.

[www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz)

## Visy Recycling Education Centre



*Learning about the environment and how we can all play our part in protecting and improving it is now an established part of the school curricula.*

*At Visy Recycling we provide educational tours not only for school groups but also for community groups and businesses to learn more about what happens to their recycling once it leaves the kerbside.*

*Tours are run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at our Onehunga Material Recovery Facility (MRF) bookings are essential.*

Please contact  
Meredith Graham  
Education & Marketing Manager  
for more information.  
Ph (09) 975 2003

[meredith.graham@visy.co.nz](mailto:meredith.graham@visy.co.nz) | [www.visy.co.nz](http://www.visy.co.nz)



## New online guidance on how to manage waste streams or end-of-life products that may contain brominated flame retardants

Brominated flame retardants (BFRs) are a type of chemical added to products during manufacture to increase their resistance to fire. BFRs are present in a range of products, such as insulation, the hard plastics in many electronic appliances, some upholstered furniture, and carpets and curtains, which will eventually become waste.


BFRs are considered hazardous substances and some types are classified as persistent organic pollutants. Therefore, any end-of-life product or waste from products containing BFRs must be managed in a way that minimises the potential impact on human health and the environment.

You cannot export any waste plastic for disposal or recycling overseas if that waste plastic contains BFRs, unless you have a Basel export permit from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). If the type of brominated flame retardant is likely to be a persistent organic pollutant listed under the Stockholm Convention then you cannot recycle, or export for recycling, the waste plastic.

A decision tree is included in the guidance to help exporters decide whether or not they must apply to the EPA for an export permit. However, it is recommended that all organisations that handle waste streams or end-of-life products

that may contain BFRs read the guidance to understand the legal requirements. We are all responsible for ensuring that this waste stream is managed in an environmentally sound manner.

If you are uncertain about whether a permit is required for your waste, contact the EPA for further assistance. You can contact the EPA's Hazardous Substances team by emailing [importexport@epa.govt.nz](mailto:importexport@epa.govt.nz)

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# GLASS

On behalf of Céline Cousteau, O-I is making a donation to the World Resources Institute's Reefs at Risk Initiative.



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- Contaminated Site Remediation
- Stormwater Monitoring
- Landfill Gas Extraction, Processing and Monitoring



TV TakeBack progresses around New Zealand with local public awareness as well as national campaigns.

## TV TakeBack continues around the country

TV TakeBack is well underway but still has many months to go, as New Zealand Goes Digital. The programme moved to most of the South Island from late March, with public drop off sites continuing to open through April.

As the second phase of TV TakeBack was announced, Environment Minister Amy Adams spoke about the continued national rollout, with the lower North Island and Auckland scheduled for mid 2013 and the rest of the North Island in September, ahead of the digital switch over in each region.

This second phase follows a successful start in Hawke's Bay and the West Coast, where more than 20,000 TVs were collected for recycling.

The Government is partnering with a range of recyclers, retailers, producers and councils to divert televisions from landfill. The TV TakeBack programme provides Waste Minimisation funding to reduce public charges for recycling for limited periods, to improve recycling infrastructure and raise public awareness.

Some retailers are using their networks of stores to offer TV TakeBack recycling around New Zealand outside of the main phases of the programme.

Increasing recycling infrastructure will ensure recyclers have capacity and capability to deal with increased volumes of TVs. With a view to the longer term, the Government is also investigating options for long term improvements in the management of all electronic waste, not just TVs.

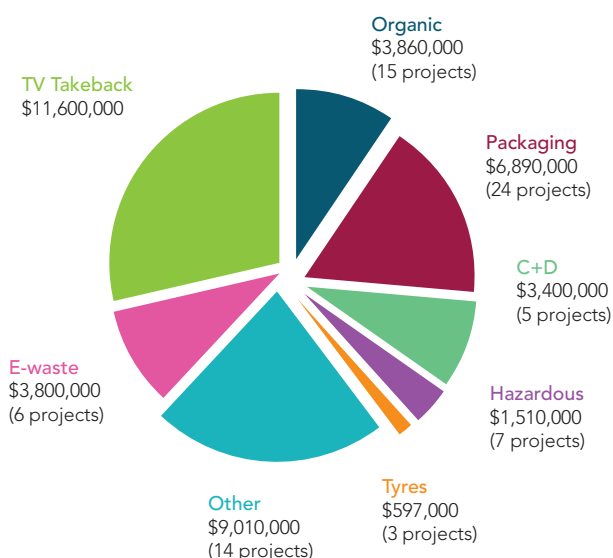
TV TakeBack is looking to ensure high recycling standards. All participating recyclers must follow the Ministry for the Environment's guidelines for collecting and recycling e-waste or the Australian-New Zealand Standard for collection, storage, transport and treatment of electrical and electronic equipment, and must report on where all collected materials have gone. Recyclers will be audited to make sure these requirements are being followed correctly.

## ANOTHER \$8.7 MILLION DOLLARS TO SUPPORT WASTE MINIMISATION

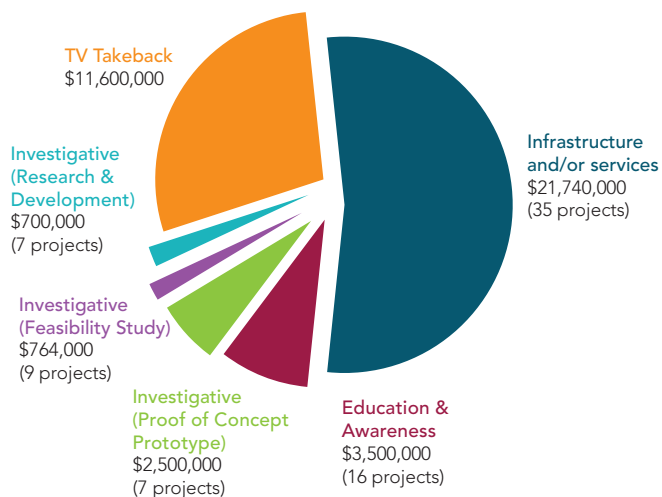
Environment Minister Amy Adams recently announced \$8.7m in funding for 12 new waste minimisation initiatives throughout the country. The Minister said “Successful applicants that have been awarded funding have really thought outside the square and have been proactive in identifying ways to minimise waste going to landfill in New Zealand”. A complete list of projects, together with further information on the Waste Minimisation Fund can be found on the Ministry’s website at [www.mfe.govt.nz/wmf](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/wmf).

The Government’s Waste Minimisation Fund has operated five funding rounds since its inception in 2009, including one round specifically for the TV TakeBack programme. 74 projects have been awarded funding to date.

WMF FUNDING AWARDED BY WASTE STREAM



WMF FUNDING AWARDED BY PROJECT TYPE



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Finding appropriate avenues for recycling waste in ordinary times is usually a challenge, but in times of natural disaster such outlets quickly become very difficult to find. When the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 hit Canterbury, the result was a tragic loss of life, many traumatised people and a nationally unprecedented volume of demolition waste with few immediate options for recycling.

One of these waste streams, plasterboard, attracted the attention of a group of interested organisations including Winstone Wallboards, Holcim Cement, Christchurch City Council, BRANZ and 5R Solutions. Holcim's internal testing had indicated that a substantial proportion of the natural, imported gypsum used in cement manufacture could be replaced by recycled gypsum from waste plasterboard. This prompted the group to seek Ministry for the Environment Waste Minimisation Funding to undertake a feasibility study into the large scale recycling of plasterboard in Canterbury.

## DEFINING THE BUSINESS MODEL

In August 2011, having successfully obtained funding, the 'GR4CM' (Gypsum Recycling for Cement Manufacture) study was launched with an overall objective of "reducing the amount of waste plasterboard entering the waste stream by 32 percent per annum through improved design and onsite management practices and increasing the amount of plasterboard being collected and recycled in the Canterbury region by 3,000-6,000 tonnes per annum".

The governance group considered it critical that the project was grounded as much as possible in commercial reality, so that any business model was

robust, economically viable and sustainable. The project therefore focused on ensuring commercial sustainability at every step of the supply chain, from those extracting or generating waste on building or demolition sites, through to Holcim using the recycled gypsum in cement manufacture.

The GR4CM project quickly identified that the business model must offer compelling benefits to waste owners in terms of ease, convenience and cost when compared to simply sending waste plasterboard to landfill. Key stakeholders in the areas of residential demolition, residential construction, commercial demolition and commercial construction were consulted extensively to ensure an accurate understanding of their drivers and the reality of the work they were doing.

## SOURCING WASTE

Both commercial construction and commercial demolition proved to be relatively straightforward sources of waste to capture. The demolition processes being employed in Christchurch typically involved a stage by stage deconstruction, particularly in larger commercial buildings. This produced large plasterboard sheets, relatively free from contamination, which could be extracted and transported for recycling. Demolition contractors had to pay a fee for recycling but this was significantly lower than landfilling, and attracted a strong level of interest. Likewise, even though very little commercial construction activity was taking place in Christchurch, the scale of such activity, the volumes of waste generated and the resulting savings from recycling made separation of plasterboard waste a fairly easy process to promote.





The next waste source considered was residential demolition. It was strongly hoped that this waste stream could be captured, because of the sheer volume of plasterboard inside the 20,000 or so homes in Christchurch slated for demolition. Unfortunately, it quickly became evident that the barriers to successfully removing plasterboard from homes set for demolition were insurmountable. Initially the cost of plasterboard waste extraction was presented as the primary barrier, but as further work was done on developing systems for quick extraction, it was the time constraints on the demolition site that dealt the fatal blow to such endeavours. The time that would be required to extract reasonable quantities of plasterboard would exceed the overall time demolition contractors are allotted for each home.

The final major source of plasterboard for recycling to be considered was residential construction waste. This was also considered a priority due to the likely volume of waste that would be generated in the upcoming Christchurch rebuild.

## REFINING THE LOGISTICS

Extensive work was done with a number of building companies including Stonewood Homes and Jennian Homes, to understand how plasterboard installers undertake their work and whether source separating plasterboard waste would be feasible.

Various methods for efficiently

collecting plasterboard offcuts on building sites were trialled in a three month pilot, with the most effective being Transpacific's 'Flexibin'. This small polypropylene bag, initially designed for residential garden waste collection, folds out from the size of a briefcase to a three cubic metre bin. In the pilot the Flexibins were deployed inside a garage or just outside the house if required. Instead of carrying waste outside to a general waste skip, offcuts were thrown into the Flexibin during, or at the end of, the plasterboard installation process. Despite some initial reservations, most of the installers involved in the pilot quickly and happily adapted to using the Flexibins.

Transpacific provided a customised gantry truck to collect the bins, providing accurate weight feedback to the building companies involved in the pilot. This feedback proved to be particularly useful to Stonewood, which was surprised at the volume of plasterboard waste being produced. Across all participants the average plasterboard waste was 700kg per home, or roughly 13 percent of the total plasterboard order for each home. In response to this data, Stonewood initiated a complete review of its waste management systems, and began transitioning all waste streams into Flexibins.

## SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

The systems and processes developed for builders to collect plasterboard waste proved successful, and Transpacific has

begun to roll these services out to other builders. This ongoing source of plasterboard waste, along with commercial building waste from the rebuild and the remaining commercial demolition waste, will provide a valuable resource for Holcim Cement and reduce the volume of waste being sent to landfill.

The key to ensuring the resulting business model works sustainably is to continually review and refine each step, ensuring any bottleneck or quality issues are quickly resolved. It is critical that the throughput of waste continues unabated, as many such programmes have failed when one step in the supply chain 'turns off the tap' and the recycling service will no longer receive raw material. It was evident in undertaking the study that waste owners and waste transportation companies are particularly wary and intolerant of this phenomenon.

However, with strong and experienced participants in the new model, there appears genuine hope that a valuable resource will be productively utilised rather than wasted in landfill. ♻️



Fraser Scott is the Managing Director and principal consultant of True North Consulting. Fraser has degrees in Law and Commerce and has over thirteen years' experience in service design, IT development and management consulting. Fraser has worked with clients in sectors including energy, IT and electronics, waste management, government, health and disabilities, and social services.

# Having difficulty engaging young adults in Trash Talk?

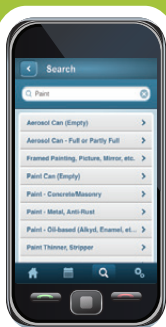
Connect with younger residents the way they communicate with one another – ***go mobile!***

Two-thirds of young adults currently own smart phones, and for many ***...it's the only device they use to get the information they want.***

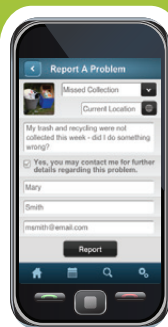
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# Social procurement: **MORE FOR YOUR MONEY**

By Sue Coutts, Wanaka Wastebusters

**Consumers use their purchasing power to support causes, organisations and companies they believe in. When we buy ‘fair trade’ or ‘eco’ brands we are helping to create a fairer, greener world. What we choose to buy determines what gets invested in, manufactured and pumped out onto the shelves at our local or virtual stores.**

Organisations and institutions use fancier labels when they go shopping. They engage in procurement with complex sets of guidelines and value for money imperatives. ‘Sustainable’ procurement has been on the radar for 20 years, but in most cases we haven’t moved far beyond stocking the office with recycled content copier paper.

Social procurement happens when an organisation chooses to purchase goods or services which also provide a social benefit<sup>1</sup>. Purchasing power is applied

strategically to generate social impact in the same way that green procurement creates positive environmental outcomes. Even in these hard times councils have significant purchasing power in their local economies.

Australian research provides evidence that local government could resolve key social and economic problems by engaging more effectively with social and community enterprises<sup>2</sup>. Social procurement provides the tools local authorities, business and government need to build these

relationships. Recent work done on investing for social impact points to the power of making wise use of contracts and other purchasing decisions, so that you get both the required service levels and additional spin off benefits<sup>3</sup>.


There has been a flurry of research done across the Tasman exploring the benefits of and the barriers to social procurement<sup>4</sup>. It’s happening because the approach has the power to increase prosperity and wellbeing for people and communities.



Mana Recovery<sup>5</sup> in Porirua is a great example of social procurement in action. They use resource recovery, recycling and sustainable living as a vehicle to provide rehabilitation, training and work opportunities for people with mental health needs. Mana Recovery partner with the Porirua Council, their district health board and other businesses to achieve these outcomes.

These organisations value both the services they receive from Mana Recovery and the social outcomes being achieved alongside. The benefits include social inclusion, employment, training, local sustainability and service innovation. The raft of awards Mana Recovery has won testifies to their success in delivering these multi-dimensional outcomes.

Social procurement is common practise in the UK. It's on the agenda in Australia. It's happening

under the radar here in New Zealand. Make the time to find out more about how your organisation can use existing spending power to change our world. 

- 1 Burkett (2010) Building social enterprise through social procurement.
- 2 Duniam, M. & Eversole, R. 2013, Social Enterprises and Local Government: A Scoping Study, Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government, Sydney.
- 3 <http://deewr.gov.au/news/deewr-releases-impact-australia-investment-social-and-economic-benefit-report>
- 4 <http://www.socialtraders.com.au/social-procurement#news> provides a good introduction to the process and the thinking behind it.
- 5 <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/nights>



Sue Coutts has managed Wanaka Wastebusters since 2002 and has been actively involved with the development of the Community Recycling Network since 2003.

## LOOKING FOR A GLASS GRANT?

The Forum is committed to ensuring that as much waste container glass as possible is diverted from landfill and put to an effective use.

It recognises that this can only be achieved if there is input into the critical areas of infrastructure, education of the community and co-operation with local commercial recyclers and local authorities.

In some locations it may be necessary to utilise local alternative uses or upgrade infrastructure to improve glass quality and/or the tonnages recycled.

Councils and community groups are invited to apply for funding to assist glass recycling projects. Refer to the Forum's website for the application form and the criteria for grants.

### Funding projects to date include:


- Infrastructure for the collection of quality glass for remanufacture into new containers
- Support infrastructure for the collection of glass at community events
- Trials of glass as a substitute for sand in golf courses/sports fields
- Engineering report on glass in building slab construction
- The separation at source bin for single collections with glass separate
- Modification of MD4 specifications to allow glass in road construction



GET IN TOUCH WITH  
John Webber  
[john@glassforum.org.nz](mailto:john@glassforum.org.nz)  
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**CREATING OPPORTUNITIES**





# HOW THEY DO IT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DITCH

By Sue Hamilton, Senior Consultant and  
Ewen Skinner, Director of Morrison Low

## A comparison of waste collection and disposal services procurement practices.

Similarities abound between New Zealand and our Aussie cousins when it comes to the operations of local government. But so do the differences. Given the varying operating environments, scales and politics, how does the realm of waste procurement stack up in a direct comparison? The intent of this article is to highlight differences that Morrison Low have encountered and dealt with in our work across Australasia and to ask the question: are there any lessons to be learnt from our progressive colleagues and are they in fact progressive? Some key things we have learnt from our Australian neighbours about tendering include:

- They are not as well prepared as we are, often lacking a plan or strategy for waste management to guide service procurement.
- Their procurement processes are more formal than those in New Zealand.
- They have higher levels of service than New Zealand councils but these come at a cost.
- Their tenders are complex and complicated.
- For most services there are a range of service options that residents can choose from to best suit their needs.
- Inorganic collection services are alive and well.
- They have the same issues as we do with constraints on landfill space and limited options for avoiding landfill.

### SERVICE PLANNING

Having recently completed work in NSW assisting a council to tender their collection and disposal services, we reflected on whether there were parts of that process that may be useful to those of us in New Zealand faced with preparing and conducting a tender process.

There are a number of key areas where we could learn from the Aussies and, conversely, New Zealand's waste procurement processes are more advanced in other respects.

Any procurement process should commence with knowing the outcome you are seeking to achieve. New



Zealand's waste management and minimisation planning framework provides this basis, whereas purchasing services in Australia can require the development of a specific strategy prior to drafting a tender document.

It is common practice for Australian councils to conduct an operational review of existing services and contracts to identify cost efficiencies and guide improvements to service delivery. This linking of waste management and resource recovery to a council's sustainability planning is a more strategically cohesive and advanced approach to that commonly employed in the New Zealand market. While the WMMP provides New Zealand councils with high-level direction, there are opportunities to use the procurement process as a catalyst to realise operational improvements and efficiencies. However in order for this to occur, councils need to plan well in advance and have a thorough understanding of industry trends and best practice.

## PROCUREMENT PROCESSES

When it comes to procurement, the NSW process is more formal than that of New Zealand. There are Tendering Guidelines for NSW Local Government and, as in New Zealand, a Local Government Act. These provide legislative and regulatory guidance and result in a more formal procurement process, but the drawback of this is that you become locked into a process that may not achieve the best results. The intention of the tendering guidelines is to ensure that the planning and conduct of tender processes are managed in an open, transparent, accountable and fair manner that obtains best value for the council.

In contrast, New Zealand's relative informality provides the flexibility to achieve your objectives while still being transparent and fair. Good practice tender evaluation in New Zealand involves the preparation of a Tender Evaluation Plan that may include probity management. In Australia a Probity Plan is required and the importance of this document is highlighted by the perceived risk from litigious tenderers—a factor considered less likely here in New Zealand but which cannot totally be discounted. A carefully managed procurement process can minimise conflicts and the potential for litigation (by taking the best elements of the Australian system), without losing the flexibility that underpins New Zealand processes.

## LEVELS OF SERVICE

Residents in Australia can be offered more services with a greater choice of bin sizes than their counterparts in New Zealand. The downside of this 'gold plated' service provision is the cost to the user (usually through rates), however, increased diversion is achievable where residents are offered the capacity and collection frequency to meet their recycling needs.

As a result of the number of service options and housing arrangements (multi-unit high rise buildings to single dwellings) price schedules and resulting evaluation processes are complicated and complex.

Inorganic collection services are alive and well in Australia with councils offering several rate funded kerbside collections per year and unlimited user pays on-call services. It is interesting to note that some of these collections are restricted to bulk vegetation and metal encouraging diversion, while others are for general waste.

# Waste Management and Minimisation

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- + **Improves** the safety and hygiene of the whole collection system and the quality of compostable waste material sent to the composting plant

## WASTE DISPOSAL

Waste disposal is a significant issue for the councils located across the Sydney area, just as it is in New Zealand. Landfill space is at a premium and options for avoiding landfills limited. This is driving councils to assess their resource recovery solution options. The resulting efficiencies are best evidenced at the Kimbriki Resource Recovery Centre where diversion of waste has reached 70 percent. With a burgeoning population and on-going landfill concerns, the surrounding region's councils are currently assessing how further efficiencies can be derived. There is also an increased prevalence of Waste to Energy plants, which have been driven and are often part-funded by the Federal Government.

As in New Zealand, there is a competitive market for collection services and less competition for disposal. A key consideration therefore is how to package your contracts. Ideally, the right packaging will optimise the potential for competition and produce best value, while minimising the ongoing contract management burden for your staff.

## SUMMARY

Councils in New Zealand and Australia can learn from one another and enhance their future tender processes for waste collection and disposal services.

Key lessons can be learnt from the procurement processes used in both countries:

- Use the procurement process to derive efficiencies from your current waste management and minimisation systems.
- Give some consideration to probity in order to reduce the risk of litigation, however do not lock down the council to the extent that you don't get the outcome you want.
- Price schedules and the evaluation of tenders are complicated and complex where there are a range of service options.
- There is a competitive market for collection services but little competition for disposal, knowing how to best package up services will increase competition and provide cost savings. 🗑️



Morrison Low has extensive experience providing organisational, operational and financial advice to local government throughout Australia and New Zealand. We have completed a range of waste management and resource recovery projects in New Zealand and Australia including waste strategies, operational and organisational reviews and the procurement of services for councils.

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# 'FREE' PCB DISPOSAL!

Call **0800 PCB WASTE** to register PCBs for collection (see details below).

A **FREE** nationwide service to collect and safely dispose of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) is offered by Transpacific Technical Services (NZ) Ltd (TTS)



The promotion is focused particularly on the disposal of small PCB containing capacitors, typically found in older style fluorescent lighting ballasts. These ballasts may still be operating in some older buildings.

Transformers and other items of electrical equipment containing PCBs are also eligible.

Where there is a requirement to replace light fittings that contain PCBs, the replacement cost can be offset against the savings from modern energy efficient lighting. In addition, by registering for this promotion with TTS, PCB disposal costs are **FREE**, therefore removing a cost barrier when dealing with PCBs. This is an attractive offer that can encourage building owners to get their fluorescent fittings checked and upgraded.

There are significant quantities of PCBs still remaining in New Zealand, despite legislation in place since 2004 prohibiting their use or storage. Increased awareness of this legislation and the mandatory elimination of PCBs is one goal of the promotion.

This promotion is made possible by a grant from the Waste Minimisation Fund, managed by the Ministry for the Environment.

TTS also acknowledges Tredi NZ Ltd as its PCB offshore disposal agent and promotion partner.

## \*CONDITIONS OF THIS PROMOTION ARE:

- This promotion is limited to the collection and disposal of **12 tonnes** (maximum packaged weight) of PCB waste.
- This PCB elimination and disposal promotion **expires 31 March 2015**.
- All applicants under this promotion must register with TTS by phoning Carolyn Armstrong on **0800 PCB WASTE**. Acceptance approvals will be issued by TTS prior to pick-up.
- Any applicant currently on ERMA's PCB register must disclose this status.
- Free collection and disposal will be applied on a first come first served basis.
- TTS will assist applicants with information on identifying PCBs and on any requirements concerning PCB storage, handling, registration, transport and disposal.
- TTS retains sole discretion as to whether or not to accept PCB waste and is not obligated to accept waste it considers outside the promotion's objectives.
- PCBs must be removed from lighting systems or fittings and rendered safe, prior to TTS accepting possession.

TTS is able to provide more information about the project to building owners and other organisations who think they may still have PCB components. This includes information to help identify whether or not suspect capacitors and ballasts contain PCBs. Further information on PCBs is available on the websites below.

1. Safe Management of PCBs Code of Practice publication is on the MOH website: <http://www.moh.govt.nz>
2. Phasing out Small PCB Holdings is on ERMA website: <http://www.ermanz.govt.nz>



# Wake-up call for Zero Waste



## The phenomenon of zero waste to landfill initiative failure

By Robert Krausz, PhD Environmental Policy and Planning

Zero Waste has become a worldwide, popular term, used to describe a broad set of efforts to address the modern waste problem. The goal of 'Zero Waste to Landfill' (Zero Waste) implies the total elimination of residuals requiring landfill disposal, with firm deadlines for doing so.

Around the world, Zero Waste initiatives have been launched primarily at the local government level, where the responsibility for dealing with rubbish typically falls. The first such initiative was launched in Canberra, Australia in 1996, and since then similar 100 percent diversion goals have been adopted globally, including in New Zealand.

However, Zero Waste has proven to be an elusive goal, as all initiatives to date have either failed, or are on track to failure.

A recently-completed three-year study at Lincoln University surveyed the wider global set of Zero Waste initiatives, with in-depth examination of campaigns in four locations: Canberra; Christchurch, New Zealand; Toronto, Canada; and San Francisco, USA. The first three initiatives are already confirmed failures, while San Francisco's

Zero Waste by 2020 campaign is ongoing.

### RESULTS TO DATE

Zero Waste is a chronic failure, as no campaigns have yet managed to achieve an end to landfill dependence. Results vary, but tend to follow a typical pattern, as illustrated in the Canberra case in Figure 1.

Canberra's reported percent diversion from landfill has steadily

increased, exceeding 70 percent in recent years. This is the statistic typically cited when proponents comment on their Zero Waste campaigns (notably, San Francisco recently reported reaching 80 percent). However, percent diversion increases mask underperformance at the top-of-pipe: overall waste generation levels that are not decreasing significantly, or worse—they are still increasing, as in the case of Canberra.

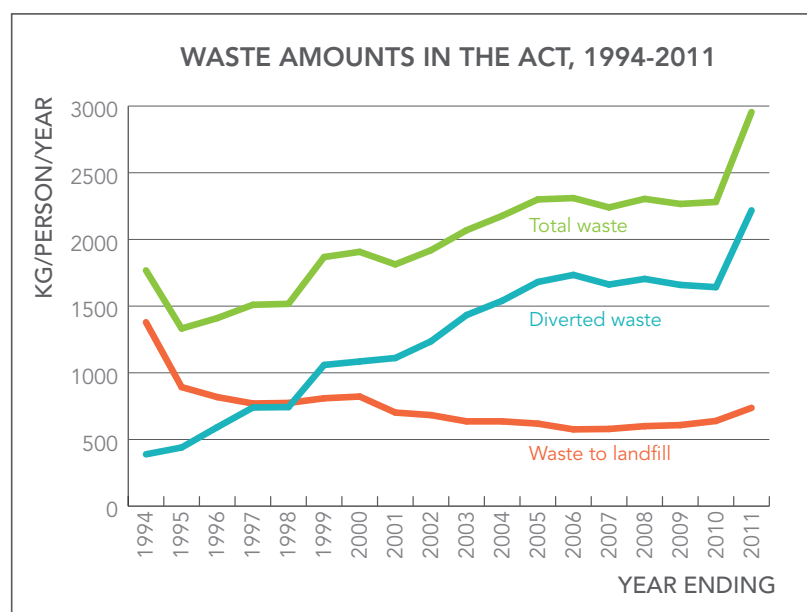



Figure 1: Waste Generation Trends in Canberra (based on data provided by the Australian Capital Territory Government, 2012).



The net result, as seen for Canberra, is that the more relevant 'per capita waste to landfill' statistic decreased only slightly, before levelling off and even increasing again in recent years. This general pattern repeats itself, across Zero Waste campaigns.

## THE NEW ZEALAND STORY

Canberra's pioneering Zero Waste initiative was partially influenced by Zero Waste advocates from New Zealand, and these same people helped launch similar campaigns here, with more than half of all local councils signing on by 2003. In 2002, meanwhile, the central government released a new National Waste Strategy, which featured an aspirational Zero Waste goal. New Zealand had become a perceived global leader on Zero Waste.

The decade since then has been marked by underperformance and abandonment on the Zero Waste file. Christchurch's 1998 Zero Waste initiative, the first big-city campaign in the country, was dumped only three years later, in favour of pursuing a new public-private joint venture regional landfill. In 2008, the Waste Minimisation Act was passed, which included a Priority Products clause giving the central government new powers to regulate or ban problematic items. By 2010, though, central government had explicitly dropped the aspirational Zero Waste goal; and, in 2013, the number of Priority Products remains at zero, with further local councils abandoning their Zero Waste commitments.

## UNDERSTANDING RECURRING ZERO WASTE FAILURE

The overarching reality about Zero Waste is that it requires *top-of-pipe* solutions, whereas initiatives

to date have been focused on *end-of-pipe* measures.

To achieve 100 percent diversion, problematic materials, which defy existing efforts to divert them from landfilling, must be eliminated from the waste stream. Product design must be shifted from current designs for disposability, and refocused towards long-life, reuse, and reassembly.

This requires a wholesale retooling of industry, a fundamental shift in public behaviour, and unprecedented strong leadership from government. In other words, Zero Waste is a supermegaproject.

Zero Waste initiatives have typically been launched with bold rhetoric about becoming a "waste free society" (Canberra, 1996), or moving "beyond the landfilling of garbage" (Toronto, 2001), or seeing all waste "diverted from landfill through recycling, composting or other means" (San Francisco, 2003). However, these clarion calls have not coincided with any clearly-articulated public recognition that serious and unprecedented change and sacrifice would be necessary, to achieve the goal. In other words, Zero Waste is an unacknowledged supermegaproject, and these campaigns are doomed for failure from the start, as stakeholders are largely unaware of what is required, and as such the extreme effort expected for success simply does not materialise when and where it is needed.

## HOW COULD ZERO WASTE INITIATIVES SUCCEED?

**Zero Waste is a top-of-pipe solution, so efforts must be focused there**

Zero Waste success requires the elimination of problematic materials, and better product

design. Therefore, investment and energy need to be directed into these areas. This work, which could be the 'new recycling' of tomorrow, will require enormous amounts of specialist skills and coordinated activity, and has the potential to stimulate economic development in places that proactively embrace Zero Waste thinking.

### Go local...but seek help from afar

Local councils have almost no control over the nature of wastes flowing into their communities, as it is myriad in form, and from points of origin all over the world.

Communities could seize the Zero Waste agenda, by removing themselves entirely from the global-market grid—an idea admittedly far removed from prevailing economic, political and cultural paradigms, but a reminder perhaps of just how large an undertaking Zero Waste really is.

Under present conditions, it is highly unrealistic to expect local governments to solve the Zero Waste riddle. Support is needed, from multiple local governments working together, and from higher levels including national governments and international accords—the latter being the most potent tool for shutting the waste pipe to the things that keep us dependent on landfilling. 🌐



Robert Krausz has recently completed a PhD in Environmental Policy and Planning at Lincoln University. The full text of his study on zero waste to landfill initiatives is available on the Lincoln research archive at: <http://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/dspace/handle/10182/5301>





SQEP PROGRESS REPORT:

# DEFINITION, ACCREDITATION AND TRAINING

By Simon Hunt, Golder Associates (NZ) Limited

I have to thank the National Environmental Standard for introducing yet another acronym into my cluttered life of abbreviations, passwords, pin numbers and more—SQEP (Suitably Qualified and Experienced Practitioner). Such a young and innocuous acronym—but a game changer for the New Zealand contaminated land sector and one that I believe will raise the operating bar.

## WHAT MAKES A SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED PRACTITIONER?

The Ministry for the Environment outlined the likely qualifications for contaminated land practitioners and SQEPs in the NES Users Guide in April 2012. The definition was a little vague (perhaps deliberately so) requiring industry to better define what a SQEP should look like, level of competence and so on.

The WasteMINZ Contaminated Land Management Sector Group rose to the challenge, establishing a small group of practitioners and regulatory representatives in June 2012 to work on defining what a SQEP might look like.

As part of this, a NES workshop was held at the WasteMINZ conference in October 2012, which included a panel discussion with members of the NES Working Group. Off the back of the workshop, and to add more clarity, WasteMINZ conducted a survey in December 2012 to gain feedback

on a number of SQEP issues and compliance with the NES. A summary of the survey results can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/SQEPResults>.

A couple of the key survey findings were:

- 89 percent of the survey respondents supported the concept of a SQEP accreditation system.
- Just over 50 percent of respondents indicated that they receive less than 20 hours of external continuing professional development (CPD) training a year, with only 17 percent undertaking more than 40 hours of external CPD training.

## ACCREDITATION OPTIONS

Over the last 11 months the group has reviewed a number of accreditation options for contaminated land professionals, debated the various NES definitions, CPD requirements and contaminated site reporting requirements.

The group has taken on board comments raised in the survey and has collectively proposed that a SQEP's qualifications should be along the following lines:

1. A relevant tertiary qualification.
2. A minimum of 10 years contaminated land management experience.
3. Be accredited by a professional organisation—supported by referees.
4. Undertake annually a minimum of 40 hours of CPD training a year. The nature and weighting of the CPD is subject to further discussion.
5. Operate in accordance with a Code of Ethics.

Interestingly, Local Government New Zealand has recently sought legal opinion on a number of NES issues and this opinion in general terms supports the need for an accreditation or auditing scheme.

The group, following much robust debate, has proposed that the SQEP is the person who should be signing-off on Preliminary and Detailed Site

Investigation reports. More junior staff and aspiring SQEPs are likely to undertake the work—but the buck stops with the company producing the report and the SQEP.

We think we are on the right track with the outlined SQEP qualifications and have subsequently been in discussion with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), regarding the potential for a New Zealand specific SQEP accreditation scheme. Like all good things this will take a little time to get up and running, but we firmly believe the above definition of qualifications will assist Territorial Authorities (and other authorities) to establish whether a practitioner is competent and has the right level of expertise.

In the absence of the accreditation scheme, all those people operating as SQEPs should take stock of the qualifications and establish a mechanism to work towards this.

## PRACTITIONER TRAINING

The advent of SQEP accreditation, and in particular the need for CPD, will generate an increase in the need for practitioner training, which can only be a good outcome for all involved in the New Zealand contaminated land sector.

## ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

The function and operation of a SQEP still poses some issues—including, but not limited to:

- Should regulators dealing with contaminated sites be SQEPs? Personally I believe wherever possible they should be, particularly in the larger centres.
- How do you deal with technical specialties? Other jurisdictions around the globe are dealing with the same issue and haven't necessarily resolved this. Clearly sticking to your knitting and abiding by the Code of Ethics will provide operating boundaries. The CPD requirement and on-

going technical specific training will ensure that good practices are adopted consistently across the country.

- Enforcement of SQEPs? How should compliance with the qualifications and Code of Ethics be managed?

Progress is being made and clarity gained on the inner workings of the NES and accreditation of SQEPs—but there is still more work to do. 🌱

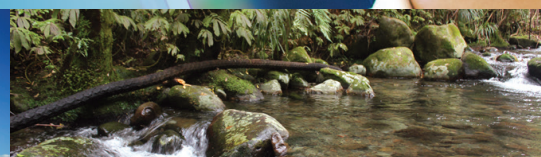


Simon Hunt is an Associate with Golder Associates (NZ) Limited in Auckland. He has over 25 years of contaminated land management experience gained in industry and consulting undertaken in various countries. Simon is a member of the WasteMINZ NES Working Group and has been actively involved in central and local government contaminated land policy and guideline development for many years. The views and opinions expressed are personal and not necessarily those of Golder and the NES Working Group.



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# COUNCIL NEWS

## ASHBURTON

The Ashburton District Council is reviewing its existing Trade Wastes Bylaw. Changes proposed include defining additional circumstances where flow metering might be required for businesses. A framework for trade waste charges will be added, as well as additional provisions relating to the disposal of tankered waste. There will also be an upper limit for BOD5 in Schedule 1 added. This will keep quantities of this type of discharge to a level able to be effectively managed by the wastewater system and improve protection of the community's asset.

*Ashburton District Council website*

## HUTT CITY

Earthlink has partnered with Hutt City Council to offer a new free e-waste collection. Earthlink is a local not-for-profit organisation offering employment opportunities for people with health and social barriers to employment and recycling is a big part of their business. The public is able to call Earthlink and arrange a time for anything with a plug or a circuit board to be picked up from their homes. If it is fixable, it will be repaired for sale in their recycling shop in Wingate, otherwise it gets dismantled and the components are recycled, or the parts used to repair new appliances. They will take almost everything from cell phones to ovens, from washing machines to radios. However, they currently can't collect fridges or freezers, and there's a fee for collecting old-style TVs and computer monitors.

*Hutt City Council website*



## KAPITI COAST

More than 8,000 people attended this year's Sustainable Home & Garden Show. Visitors enjoyed a wide range of stalls exhibiting sustainable home and garden products, school gardens, presentations and workshops, food and drink, music and kids' activities.

The 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' stall challenged visitors to use resources more efficiently with reference to the waste hierarchy. Best practice recycling was illustrated and recycled.co.nz delivered a series of DIY workshops inspiring kids of all ages to see 'waste' in another light.

Show organisers reaffirmed their commitment to the Zero Waste Event philosophy. Signage and displays were constructed from waste materials or designed to be reused in the future. All stallholders were subject to Zero Waste requirements.

Over 75 percent of the waste generated at the show was diverted from landfill, up from approximately 55 percent in 2012, and contamination levels were so low that a full post-sort was not required.

*Simon Calcinai, Waste Minimisation & Services Officer, Kapiti Coast District Council*

## CLUTHA

Plans to remediate an old dump site near Kaka Point are a step closer, with tenders for coastal protection work currently being called for. Although the site was never operated by Clutha District Council or its predecessors, the majority of the site is on council road reserve and council has reluctantly assumed responsibility to resolve the issues the site is facing. Clutha District Council manager - district assets, Jules Witt said, council had received resource consent from the Otago Regional Council for the work currently out for tender, which includes excavation, removal of waste from the most vulnerable area, and protection of the site by rock armoring about 170m of foreshore.

Through last year's Long Term Plan process, council set a budget of \$330,000+GST for this work. This will be rated for via the Uniform Annual General Charge at a cost of about \$3 per property for the next 25 years. Council did previously look at the option of removing the contaminated materials and disposing them at Mt Cootee Landfill. However, the cost to transport and dispose of the waste was estimated to be around \$1 million and council's application to the Ministry for the Environment for funding assistance was declined.

*Clutha District Council media release*

## DO YOU HAVE COUNCIL NEWS TO SHARE?

These are your pages – email Nic at [nic@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:nic@wasteminz.org.nz)



## AUCKLAND

The Waste Minimisation and Innovation Fund (WMIF) is one of the first actions to emerge from the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, adopted in June 2012. The fund aims to foster fresh ideas and support projects to help reduce waste going to landfill in the Auckland region.

The WMIF has an annual pool of \$500,000 to disburse through two funding rounds. Projects will fall into three main categories: small grants (\$250 to \$5,000), medium (\$5,001 to \$25,000) and large (over \$25,000). A project can receive up to 50 percent of its cost from the fund, with sources of additional funding and support to be secured by the applicant. The WMIF can support a broad range of projects to reduce waste going to landfill, from the development of feasibility studies, business cases and surveys, through to infrastructure design and development, equipment and plant, pilot programmes and workshops. The key areas of focus for the fund are resource recovery, commercial waste, organic waste and community and behaviour change.

*Auckland Council media release*

## WESTERN BOP

A kerbside recycling trial using a prepaid bag similar to a kerbside rubbish bag is being trialled at Waihi Beach. The trial is made possible by a grant from the Glass Packaging Forum and will be run by Avalon Incorporated and Waste Watchers. 800 households have been selected to take part in a month long free trial in April. At the end of the trial, council will evaluate the findings to assess whether a user-pays recycling bag is a viable option in the Waihi Beach Community.

*Western Bay of Plenty District Council website*

## THAMES-COROMANDEL

A biosolid composter is on its way to becoming fully operational in Whitianga with green waste now starting to be loaded into the machine. The Biosolid Compost Project began in 2009 when it was identified that biosolids from the Eastern Seaboard Wastewater Treatment Plants (ES3) could be combined with green waste (garden waste collected from council's refuse transfer stations after it has been through the mulching process) and turned into Grade Aa Compost.

After a successful trial at the Tairua Refuse Centre, the composter was transported to Whitianga at the end of last year, where a larger, more fully operational model has been constructed. It takes six weeks for green waste inside the composter to reach a temperature of more than 55°C to ensure good compost is made. Once the green waste inside the composter is regulated to the right temperature, biosolids from the Whitianga Wastewater Treatment Plant can then be introduced. Green waste is currently delivered from refuse transfer stations from Whitianga, Tairua and Pauanui and then loaded into the composter. The unit holds up to 45 tonnes of compost and will run 24 hours, seven days a week. "For the first eight months the compost we produce will be used on council's parks and reserves," says project manager, Rob Paterson. "If there is a demand we expect to make the compost available to the public for use."



## TAUPO

Taupo District Council is encouraging families to recycle their green and food waste and as an incentive, is offering a subsidy towards composting equipment. The public can choose between compost bins, worm farms or bokashi zing. Discounts of up to \$100 on selected composting equipment are available from Taupo stores and online, with vouchers able to be collected from council offices.

*Taupo District Council website*

Construction of an odour room beside the composting unit should be completed in the next few weeks. This will allow trucks containing the biosolid waste to drive directly into the odour room and close the doors. "The odour room is purely to contain unpleasant smells," says Mr Paterson.

The Biosolid Compost project has shown that composting of biosolids is the most economic and sustainable method of dealing with this type of waste, which is currently carted off the Coromandel and ends up in landfill.

*Thames-Coromandel District Council website*



## SECTOR GROUPS

Nic Quilty  
Sector Group Coordinator  
[nic@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:nic@wasteminz.org.nz)

You will be pleased to hear that WasteMINZ now has another resource (human, that is) dedicated to sector groups. Jenny Marshall was part of the WasteMINZ team at the conference in Hamilton last year and showed us what an asset she was, so we had to employ her! She couldn't have come at a better time, as the sector groups are very busy developing guidelines, exploring the possibility of an accreditation scheme, developing strategies and undertaking various projects to raise the professionalism of their sectors. Check out 'Movers & Shakers' on page 7 to get the low-down on Jenny.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

Development of the next parts of the Health and Safety Guidelines: for the Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Sector are humming along. Two technical working groups have been formed; one to work on the development of the bin, bag and crate modules (outstanding modules from part two) and the other to work on part three of the guidelines; resource recovery parks and material recovery facilities. Part two's technical working group met on 12 April to review the drafts of the bin, bag and crate modules and part three's technical working group met on 22 April to discuss and agree on the activities that need to be included in the resource recovery parks and material recovery facilities modules.

The steering committee met on 23 April when they were updated on the guidelines' progress and provided advice, where necessary. They also discussed safety alerts

that needed to be forwarded to the industry, benchmarking and possible content for the WasteMINZ conference. The group's next meeting will be on 25 June.

### ORGANIC MATERIALS

The steering committee has now been formalised. The members are George Fietje (Living Earth), Chris Purchase (SKM), Darren Hoskins (Wellington City Council), Graham Jones (EnviroWaste Services), John Cocks (MWH New Zealand), Mike Jones (Earthcare Environmental), Parul Sood (Auckland Council) and Terry Atkinson (Bio Cosmo). The committee met on 24 April and key agenda items were appointment of a chair, the Mid-Year Roundup, identifying agencies the group needs to form key relationships with and the group's key operating goals.

If organic materials are your bag, or are going to be in the future, make sure you attend the

Mid-Year Roundup. It will feature a stream dedicated to organic materials and participants will look at the issues and opportunities for organic materials, the key drivers for diversion and evaluate the various options available.

### LANDFILL & RESIDUAL WASTE

The development of the Land Disposal Guidelines are tracking well, ably project-managed by Laurence Dolan. The project team met on 16 April when the team discussed the timelines going forward, draft sections were reviewed and future actions were agreed on.

If you would like to give feedback and hear about progress on the Land Disposal Guidelines, make sure you attend the workshop at this year's Mid-Year Roundup.



## CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT

The steering committee met on 7 March to discuss the SQEP survey results, updates to the fact sheets (and how this is going to be managed), the group's work plan for the year, various issues around the National Environmental Standard (NES) and the upcoming WasteMINZ conference.

On 26 March the NES Working Group met to discuss the SQEP survey results in more detail (and subsequent amendments to the SQEP flow chart), an accreditation scheme for practitioners and councils' liability under the NES. By the time you receive this edition of Waste Awareness, the updated flow chart will be on our website, awaiting your feedback. So make sure you give some!

Check out Simon Hunt's article on page 24 reporting on the progress made by the NES Working Group, of which Simon is a member.

## LIQUID & HAZARDOUS WASTE

On 14 March, the Liquid and Hazardous Waste Operators Certification Council met with the Ministry for the Environment in Wellington to undertake a review of WasteTRACK. The Certification Council also ran its regular meeting that same day, where the auditor presented her report and code compliancy issues and disputes were discussed.

The Certification Council made a submission to Auckland Council's Proposed Trade Waste Bylaw 2013 and Bruce Holland, Chair of the Certification Council, presented this on 13 April.

## TA FORUM

The Ministry attended the forum's last teleconference on 12 March and discussed the review of the effectiveness of the levy, Tyrewise, TV TakeBack and SWAPs with the TAs.

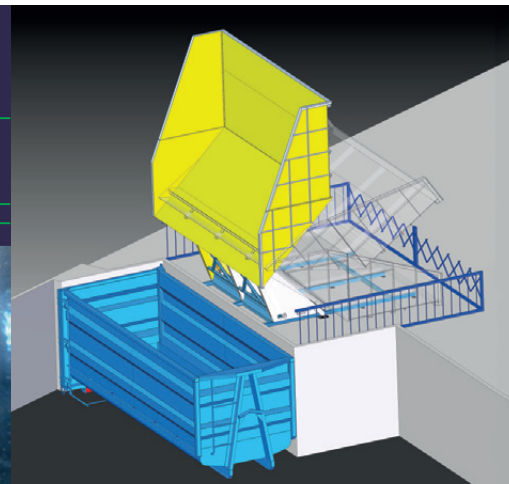
The agenda also included reviewing the structure of the TA Forum held at the 2012 conference, the forum's work plan for the year and managing e-waste.

WasteMINZ is gathering information that will allow us to develop a TA Procurement Calendar to ensure that all TAs receive a broad range of high quality and innovative tender responses. A survey was sent out to all TAs on 12 April and the responses will enable this calendar to be developed. The calendar will then be made available to all WasteMINZ members. 📅

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# EVENTS

## WasteMINZ Mid-Year Roundup : Reducing the Waste in Waste

► 16-17 MAY

[www.wasteminz.org.nz](http://www.wasteminz.org.nz)

Mac's Function Centre, 4 Taranaki St, Wellington.

To register email [info@wasteminz.org.nz](mailto:info@wasteminz.org.nz)

## Waste-to-Energy Study Tour

► 24-28 JUNE

[www.iswa.org/en/75/calendar.html](http://www.iswa.org/en/75/calendar.html)

Austria.

## Scrap Metal Recycling Association of New Zealand

► 11-13 JULY

### AGM & CONVENTION AND CALL FOR PAPERS

[www.scrapmetal.org.nz/agm.php](http://www.scrapmetal.org.nz/agm.php)

Holiday Inn, Rotorua.

## ISWA Beacon & 5th Australian Landfill & Transfer Stations Conference

► 7-9 AUGUST

[www.wmaa.asn.au](http://www.wmaa.asn.au)

Jupiters, Gold Coast, Queensland.

## The Waste & Recycle Conference

► 11-13 SEPTEMBER

[www.wasteandrecycle.com.au](http://www.wasteandrecycle.com.au)

The Esplanade Hotel, Freemantle, Australia.

## Sardinia 2013: Waste management & landfill symposium

► 30 SEPTEMBER - 4 OCTOBER

[www.sardiniasymposium.it](http://www.sardiniasymposium.it)

Italy.

## ISWA World Congress

► 7-11 OCTOBER

[www.iswa2013.org](http://www.iswa2013.org)

Vienna, Austria.

## Waste Expo

► 9-10 OCTOBER

[www.wasteexpo.com.au](http://www.wasteexpo.com.au)

Melbourne, Australia.

## WasteMINZ Annual Conference & Expo 2013

► 22-24 OCTOBER

[www.wasteminz.org.nz](http://www.wasteminz.org.nz)

Energy Events Centre, Rotorua.

## Eco Expo Asia Environmental Protection

► 28-31 OCTOBER

[www.ecoexpoasia.com](http://www.ecoexpoasia.com)

Hong Kong.



**Ian Maddaford**  
General Manager / Export Manager

**Transpacific Recycling**  
52-58 Austin Street, Onekawa, Napier 4110  
PO Box 3137, Napier 4142  
[imaddaford@transpac.co.nz](mailto:imaddaford@transpac.co.nz)

Direct: +64 6 843 1853  
Phone: +64 6 843 3103  
Fax: +64 6 843 3102  
Mobile: +64 27 579 3899



**Graham Jones**  
National Resource Recovery  
and TLA Market Manager



**EnviroWaste Services Limited**  
Level 1, 345 Neilson Street, Onehunga  
Private Bag 92610, Penrose  
Auckland 1642, New Zealand  
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**Ray Austen** 027 4496 415  
General Manager

Office 18 Taratua Street, Tauranga 3112, New Zealand  
T +64 7 578 3935 F +64 7 571 2521 Toll Free 0800 868 473  
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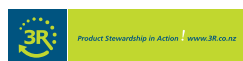
**Gary Fahey**  
FACTORY MANAGER

PHONE 03 688 2900  
MOBILE 029 364 1910  
FAX 03 688 2081  
EMAIL [garyfahey@scarlett.co.nz](mailto:garyfahey@scarlett.co.nz)

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PO BOX 2070  
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[www.metalman.co.nz](http://www.metalman.co.nz)



Omarunui Landfill  
[www.hastingsdc.govt.nz](http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz)



Plasback  
[www.plasback.co.nz](http://www.plasback.co.nz)



Sims Recycling Solutions  
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#### Give the agricultural sector a huge boost.

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- Compost reduces the need for cultivation by improving the soil structure.
- Improved soil structure reduces erosion by improving the ground's water-holding capacity.
- This, in turn, reduces irrigation requirements.
- Greener fields: compost reduces the need for other fertilisers which reduce the cost of production.
- Good compost improves soil and plant health, boosting disease resistance and fostering better yield.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND READING

Earthcare Environmental knows how to make food waste collection work for territorial authorities. We have built the financial, operational and marketing models to achieve it. For more information, including on our Putaruru Food Trial, visit [www.earthcarenz.co.nz](http://www.earthcarenz.co.nz). On the home page you can download the *Household Organic Waste Cost Benefit Analysis* report we commissioned leading environmental research firm Eunomia to undertake.

If you would like additional information, contact our CEO, Mike Jones, directly on [mike@earthcarenz.co.nz](mailto:mike@earthcarenz.co.nz)

[www.earthcarenz.co.nz](http://www.earthcarenz.co.nz)

\* "Household Organic Waste Cost Benefit Analysis" 2010, Eunomia Research and Consulting.



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