

Table of Contents

	Page
Executive Officer's Report	2
NIRW, The Model	3
Objectives	4
NIRW Executive	4
Program Committee	4
General Meetings	5
Host Council	5
Resource Recovery Figures	5
Regional Programs – 2007-2008 Achievements	6 – 8
Regional Tenders – 2007-2008 Achievements	9
Program Milestones - 2008-2009	10 - 11

Executive Officer's Report

The last twelve months have been a productive time for the Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW). The dedication and participation of our member Council continues to make it possible for our group to achieve our objectives.

It is pleasing that our Group has again received funding from the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change to allow continuance of regional waste management programs. This funding recognises the significant benefits that the collaboration of our member Councils brings to the region. Our thanks go to the Department for their continued support, with a special mention to Dr David Blackmore, Ann Trofa and Nicole Weise.

Our active involvement with RENEW NSW has provided a valuable networking opportunity which delivers a shared means of dealing with issues and is the Regions' conduit to the decision makers.

Our regional contracts continue to deliver environmental and social benefits to our region's citizens. Once again, our Annual Chemical Collection Campaign ran very successfully, and resulted in over 20 tonnes of unwanted hazardous chemicals being removed from this region. This figure is up 25% from 2006, demonstrating that we still have more work to do in this area.

With several member Councils approaching the timeframe to develop new waste contracts, an aligned tendering process for the collection of waste and recoverables was carried out for the Tamworth Regional, Gunnedah Shire and Liverpool Plains Shire Councils. This project was seen as a significant opportunity to deliver a broad range of sustainable and cost effective waste management systems across the LGAs.

Special thanks go to the NIRW Program Committee members, who have each contributed to the continued success of the Group. Thank you to Mike Porter, Andrew Croft, Merv Prendergast and Amy McKey for their support and enthusiasm. These representatives commit additional time to attend meetings to review and implement programs that provide benefits to all member Councils. On behalf of NIRW I would like to give a special vote of thanks to Amy, whose active involvement with NIRW spans some seven years. She is moving on from the Council's Waste Division and we wish her all the best for her new role at Council. We will miss her.

Thanks also go to Tamworth Regional Council for their continuing role in providing Executive support to the NIRW Executive Officer and Program Coordinator.

We can look forward to the ensuing year in which we will collectively continue to deliver waste management outcomes that enhance our environment and are appropriate and affordable for our region's citizens.



John Davis
NIRW Executive Officer

NIRW, The Model

NIRW is a voluntary local government networking group formed to specifically address waste management issues on a regional level.

The member Councils are: -

- Armidale Dumaresq Council
- Glen Innes Severn Council
- Gunnedah Shire Council
- Guyra Shire Council
- Gwydir Shire Council
- Inverell Shire Council
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council
- Moree Plains Shire Council
- Narrabri Shire Council
- Tamworth Regional Council
- Tenterfield Shire Council
- Uralla Shire Council
- Walcha Council

Since 1998, NIRW has been developing and implementing waste management programs on a regional level throughout the New England & North West of New South Wales.

The NIRW region comprises a total population of 180,000 and covers an area of 92,658km².



Objectives

- Develop and implement regional programs that achieve a sustainable balance between the region's social, economic and environmental needs.
- Encourage teamwork and cooperation between member Councils and external stakeholders for the overall benefit of the region.
- Identify and investigate all opportunities for coordinated approaches in the provision of waste management services and the achievement of waste avoidance and waste minimisation within the region.
- Consider all waste management issues affecting member Councils, where possible, and speak as one voice in response to State & Federal Government initiatives or directives.
- To prevent the generation of waste & promote awareness by commerce & industry with the ideal being – what is good for commerce & industry is good for the environment.
- To maximize the recovery, recycling & reuse of resources from waste whilst addressing the concept of renewable energy along with a change of thinking.

NIRW Executive

John Davis, Executive Officer
Mike Porter, Assistant Executive Officer
Kate Newlan, Program Co-ordinator
Cr. Col Murray, NIRW Chairman

NIRW Program Committee

The NIRW Program Committee consists of the following members:

John Davis, Tamworth Regional Council (NIRW Executive Officer)
Mike Porter, Armidale Dumaresq Council (NIRW Assistant Executive Officer)
Kate Newlan, NIRW Program Co-ordinator
Merv Prendergast, Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Amy McKey, Moree Plains Shire Council
Andrew Croft, Narrabri Shire Council

NIRW Program Committee meetings were on the following dates throughout 2007-2008:

14 September 2007	Moree Plains Shire Council
18 October 2007	Coffs Harbour
8 May 2008	Glen Innes Severn Shire Council

NIRW General Meetings

The NIRW General Meeting is attended by representatives from each of the member Councils. Representatives assist with the strategic direction of NIRW, through the sharing of knowledge and information in the area of waste and resource management.

NIRW General Meetings are held on a quarterly basis, at various locations throughout the region. During 2007-2008 meetings were held on the following dates:

9 August 2007	Narrabri Shire Council
13 November 2007	Guyra Shire Council
14 February 2008	Armidale Dumaresq Council
8 May 2008	Glen Innes Severn Council

NIRW Host Council

During 2007-2008, Tamworth Regional Council hosted NIRW staff and finances. NIRW wishes to thank Tamworth Regional Council for their continued support and assistance.

Narrabri Shire Council also provided office accommodation for the NIRW Program Coordinator, and the Group thanks the Council for their assistance.

Resource Recovery Figures

Waste Type	Resource Recovery Rates	Resource Recover Timeframe	Measurement (tonnes/kg/m ³)	Recycled or Reused?
drumMUSTER	96,325	1 July – 30 June 2008	Drums	Recycled
Hazardous Chemical Waste	20,050	July & August 2007	Kg	Recycled & disposed
Greenwaste	74,854.77	1 July – 30 June 2008	m ³	Recycled
Metal Waste	4,076.36	1 July – 30 June 2008	Tonnes	Recycled
Batteries	117.84	1 July – 30 June 2008	Tonnes	Recycled & disposed
LPG Gas Cylinders	10.2	1 July – 29 21 November 2007	Tonnes	Recycled & reconditioned
LPG Gas Cylinders	200	22 November – 30 June 2008	Cylinders	Processed for scrap metal stockpiles

Regional Projects – 2007-2008 Achievements

Annual Chemical Clean Out Campaign

In July/August 2007, NIRW conducted its 8th Annual Chemical Clean-Out Campaign, which resulted in over 20 tonnes of unwanted hazardous chemicals being removed from the region. This was an increase of 5 tonnes from the 2006 Campaign and saw the largest collection figure since the inception of the campaign.

Landfill Operator Training

In August 2007, NIRW facilitated Landfill Operator Training for member council staff. Participants gathered in Tamworth to attend the 2 day training course, which involved both classroom based learning and site tours. The training, which aimed to increase the participants' awareness of waste management issues, was attended by a range of staff, including Managers, Technical Staff and Landfill Operators. It also provided an excellent opportunity for participants to network with other member Councils and discuss issues at a local and regional level. The training will be held again in 2009.

Aligned Sub Regional Waste Tender

NIRW coordinated an aligned sub-regional tendering process for the collection of garbage, recyclables and organics on behalf of three member councils; Tamworth Regional, Gunnedah Shire and Liverpool Plains Shire Councils. The Request for Tenders were called in May 2008. This process seeks to minimise waste collection costs through economies of scale and provide access to sustainable resource recovery services for the communities within the participating Council areas.

Waste Education Trailer

The waste education trailer was displayed at the Ag Quip 2007 in Gunnedah in August 2007, as part of the drumMUSTER 10,000,000th drum presentation by the Governor General. It was also used at the Tamworth Garden and Outdoor Expo in October 2007 and the Tamworth 2008 Country Music Festival.

2007 Youth River Health Conference

NIRW were a silver sponsor of the 2007 Youth River Health Conference held in Inverell in November 2007. A hands-on litter removal activity, involving 120 students, resulted in the removal of 240L of litter and seven shopping trolleys from the Macintyre River.

Sustainable On Farm Waste Management Program

The Group again formed a partnership with the Namoi CMA to conduct a 2nd Sustainable On Farm Management Campaign. The Campaign will be conducted in 2008-09.

Landfill Full Cost Accounting

Landfill full cost accounting studies were undertaken for four NIRW member councils to demonstrate the true value of landfill space and provide justification for investment in resource recovery and review of gate fees. This study will prove beneficial to member Councils as well as providing valuable input to the proposed DECC model.

Inter-Regional Tender for Used Oil Collection

NIRW and NetWaste called for expressions of interest from service providers for the collection and appropriate reuse and/or disposal of used oil, and included the option for collection and processing of plastic oil containers and used oil filters. This will be progressed to a selective tendering process in late 2008.

Gas Cylinder Processing

Established a regional contract for the safe dismantling of gas cylinders at member Councils' landfills. This enables the cylinders to be collected in the scrap metal recovery contract.

Waste > Art & Design Competition

The NIRW Waste > Art & Design Competition opened in April 2008, with local competitions held in 9 member Council areas. Winners from local competitions went on to compete in the Regional Competition and Exhibition which was hosted by Armidale Dumaresq Council through out August 2008. The exhibition, held at the University of New England, featured over 40 artworks.

2008 marked the 8th year for competition, which encourages schools, community groups and individuals from all walks of life to take up the challenge and create a 'new life' for materials that would otherwise have been thrown away and considered useless.

The competition featured categories for primary school students, secondary school students as well as the open community. There were 6 first place and 6 second place prizes awarded.

E-Waste

E-Waste is a rising problem within our community. The consumption of technology is growing each year and the number of items being deposited at landfills is increasing. There is a need to address this type of waste and reduce the number of items being buried at the landfill.

In the absence of a co-ordinated State or National approach, Armidale Dumaresq Council, in partnership with the Armidale Computer Library, have established the "Armidale E-Waste Processing Facility" at their local landfill to address this waste stream not only on a local level, but at a regional level. This initiative is in line with NIRW's regional objectives and strategies and NIRW will support the initiative in a variety of ways.

NIRW intends to promote the facility within the local regional community and to include information on our website. NIRW intends to investigate the potential of a regional collection contract to service member councils and conduct any subsequent tender or expression of interest process.

Community Sharps Management

NSW Health are offering groups of Councils up to \$60,000 in funding towards community sharps management programs. NIRW have applied for funding on behalf of member Council, and if successful, will work with NSW Health and other key stakeholders to establish a regional approach to the management of sharps in participating member Council areas.

This will be done through the implementation of a combination of strategies, including the appropriate location of sharps disposal units (including public toilets

and larger public place units), providing education and training opportunities for Council staff and other community stakeholders, and the role out of a broad community education campaign including promotion of the NSW Health Needle Clean Up Hotline. The project will also include the development of a community sharps management policy for adoption by participating member Councils.

Regional Tenders – 2007-2008 Achievements

drumMUSTER

Challenge Disability Services were awarded the NIRW Supply of Container Collection, Processing, Removal and Disposal Services under the drumMUSTER Program Contract.

The contract commenced in July 2006, and 137,591 drums were processed during 2007-2008.

The contract will be tendered again in August 2008.

Regional Green Waste Processing Contract

Shoalhaven Recycling were awarded the NIRW Green Waste Processing Contract in October 2007 for a two year period.

In 2007-2008, 74,854.77m³ of processed green waste was produced.

Regional Metal Waste & Battery Collection Contract

NIRW encourages member Councils to increase the amount of metal waste collection in their local government area & actively separate batteries for suitable disposal.

Smorgon Steel Recycling were awarded the NIRW Metal Waste and Battery Collection Contract in August 2006, with the contract to expire in January 2009.

A total of 4,076.36 tonnes of scrap metal, and 117.84 tonnes of batteries were collected from the NIRW region in 2007-2008.

A substantial financial return for scrap metal and batteries collected at Council waste facilities across the region occurred in the last financial year. The servicing arrangements and proportional financial return has been delivered at both small and large sites in our region thus benefiting all regional Councils. The income has allowed investment in improving waste management operations and making services more sustainable for the respective communities.

Program Milestones for 2008/2009

Program milestones for 2008-09 include:

- Continued facilitation and monitoring of regional contracts for garden organics, C&D waste processing (separation & recycling), metals and batteries and drumMUSTER.
- A second campaign of the *sustainable on farm waste management program* in partnership with the Namoi Catchment Management Authority, and selection of a farm to use as a model farm waste management case study.
- Investigate options for recycling of plastic wastes generated through on farm practices, both within and outside the region, if necessary, and educating the rural community about these options.
- Implementing a regional anti litter education and awareness campaign in the NIRW region, in line with the NIRW Regional Litter Strategy.
- Development of a regional Illegal dumping strategy.
- Implementing stage 3 of the regional organic waste stream mapping project, working with a large producer of organic waste in the region to produce a 'best practice' case study for the disposal/reuse of organic waste.
- Holding a regional *Second Hand Saturday* campaign across the NIRW region, to coincide with Clean Up Australia day.
- Continuance of the regional milk run for the collection and reconditioning of LPG Gas Cylinders.
- Establishment of an industry network to progress resource recovery with local businesses.
- Investigate opportunities for the further recycling of C&D waste, education program for builders; develop a list of C&D recycling service providers for member councils.
- Update reuse service directory.
- Continued provision of landfill operator training for new landfill operators/waste management supervisors to encourage resource recovery and operational improvements.
- Dissemination of, and reporting on, the take up rate of E:RAMP by member Councils.
- Implementation of an inter-regional contract in partnership with NetWaste for the collection and appropriate reuse and/or disposal of used oil, potentially including processing of plastic oil containers and used oil filters.
- Introduction of a regional milk run for the collection of e-waste from member councils and delivery to the new Armidale E-Waste Processing Facility.
- Development of a regional community sharps management program in partnership with NSW Health.
- Introduction of a regional education program including:
 - Media campaign using local television stations and newspapers to run commercials and advertisements to deliver a variety of messages, such as plastic bag alternatives, recycling, green waste, drumMUSTER and Sustainable On Farm Waste Management.

- Review and update of the NIRW school education kit and implementation of the school education program involving *2008 River Health Youth Forum*, *Waste > Art & Design*, and *Reel Waste* campaigns to increase participation and raise awareness about sustainable waste management.
- Development of environmental sustainability kits for member councils to increase community awareness of environmental issues and promote creative resource use.
- Review and update of resources and education materials for the waste education trailer which is used by member councils to raise environmental awareness. A regional events calendar developed with the aim of targeting up to 5 specific events.