



***Minutes of the Northern Inland Regional Waste Meeting  
held in Quirindi  
Tuesday, 20 May 2003***

**1. PRELIMINARIES**

The Chairman welcomed invited guests from Resource NSW and the Upper Hunter Councils.

**1.1 Acknowledgments and Apologies**

**PRESENT**

*Cr John Green – Tamworth City Council*  
*Cr Trevor Carter – Manilla Shire Council*  
*Peter Resch – Tamworth City Council*  
*Kellie Woods – Parry Shire Council*  
*Vanessa Tiernan – Tamworth City Council*  
*Cr Harry Ellis – Parry Shire Council*  
*John Davis – Parry Shire Council*  
*Mike Porter – Armidale Dumaresq Council*  
*Amy Sawtell – Moree Plains Shire Council*  
*Graham Price – Severn Shire Council*  
*Bruce Neilson – Quirindi Shire Council*  
*Geraldine Perkins – Tamworth City Council*  
*Gerry Moran – Walcha Council*  
*John McClelland – Nundle Shire Council*  
*Nick Shmakoff – Nundle Shire Council*  
*Ralf Stoeckeler – Glen Innes Municipal Council*  
*Sue Cox – Gunnedah Shire Council*  
*Tracy Chalk – Resource NSW*  
*Martin McKenzie – Resource NSW Hunter Office*  
*Michael McFadyen – Resource NSW Hunter Office*  
*David Pilgrim – Resource NSW Hunter Office*  
*Bede Spangle – Scone Shire Council*  
*Duncan Rayward – Scone Shire Council*  
*Brian Carter – Singleton Council*  
*Glen Duggan – Merriwa Shire Council*  
*Malcolm Jones – Muswellbrook Shire Council*  
*Philip Dunn – Murrurundi Shire Council*  
*Terry Kavanagh – Dungog Shire Council*

**APOLOGIES**

*Bill Webster – Uralla Shire Council*  
*Greg Roberts – EPA*  
*Glen Pereira – Bingara, Barraba, Yallaroi, Shire Council*  
*Bob Furze – Guyra Shire Council*  
*Scott Riley – Tenterfield Shire Council*  
*Tim Russell – Inverell Shire Council*

## 1.2 Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 February 2003 were approved as a true and correct record.

## 2.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

### 2.1 Annual General Meeting

The Committee resolved that the AGM be rescheduled until after the Local Government elections in March 2004.

### 2.2 Executive Committee & Program Committee Election

The Committee resolved that the NIRW Program Coordinator, Vanessa Tiernan, be elected to the NIRW Executive and NIRW Program Committee.

### 2.3 Draft Meeting Schedule

The Chairman tabled the draft NIRW meeting calendar for the next 2 years.

***Resolved:***

*The draft Calendar was approved by the Committee on the understanding that the meeting programmed in Walcha in November 2003 would be rescheduled before the release of the Calendar.*

### 2.4 Extended Producer Responsibility Report

The Executive Officer reported that the response to the Extended Producer Responsibility Consultation Paper had been submitted to the EPA and copies were available for review by NIRW Council members.

### 2.5 Used Oil Recycling Facilities Funding

The Executive Officer notified the meeting that funding from Environment Australia for Used Oil Recycling Facilities of the \$132,000 had not been received to date but that it should be released by the end of May 2003. The grant funding was for the supply of used oil storage facilities to the following NIRW Councils:

- Armidale Dumaresq Shire Council
- Glen Innes Municipal Council
- Manilla Shire Council
- Narrabri Shire Council
- Parry Shire Council
- Quirindi Shire Council
- Severn Shire Council
- Walcha Council
- Tamworth City Council
- Tenterfield Shire Council

The meeting agreed that the supply of used oil recycling facilities would be undertaken under one regional tender.

***Resolved:***

- (i) *Councils participating are to advise the NIRW Executive of their requirements (size & quantity) for the Used Oil Recycling Program.*
- (ii) *The NIRW Executive is to arrange for the provision of used oil recycling facilities under a regional tender/contract.*

### **3. SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

Mr Martin McKenzie, Resource NSW Hunter Office, gave a presentation to the meeting regarding the Sustainable Schools Program being implemented by Resource NSW and the Department of Education throughout regional NSW. Mr McKenzie advised that 10 schools in the North West had been nominated to participate in the pilot project. The project will be coordinated out of the Thalgarrah EEC, near Armidale and Ms Julie Kennelly is the project coordinator for the region.

The Sustainable Schools Project will provide support to schools that are prepared to embrace the implementation of a School Environmental Management Plan as a priority. The project will support the schools to improve their performance over time, working towards improved outcomes in grounds management and resource management. The project will support the participating schools to work towards becoming accredited as a “Sustainable School” in the short to medium term.

Resource NSW will be looking at Councils and regional waste groups for support especially in regards to contacts in the community to assist with the program.

***Resolved:***

*That NIRW will support the Sustainable Schools Program and provide assistance to regional schools where possible.*

### **4. RESOURCE NSW REPORT**

Ms Tracy Chalk, Resource NSW Regional Program Manager, congratulated the NIRW on their progress and achievements to date, including the appointment of the Program Coordinator.

Ms Chalk thanked the Committee for inviting the Upper Hunter Councils to the meeting, as it is helpful to observe how a successful voluntary waste group networks and communicates. Ms Chalk recommended that it might be worthwhile to invite members from boundary regional groups to attend future meetings to report on their current and proposed projects.

The meeting was advised that a new program being developed by Resource NSW was focusing on Illegal Dumping and Enforcement Officer Training which might be beneficial to the NIRW group.

***Resolved:***

- (i) *That NEWF be invited to attend the August meeting in Guyra.*
- (ii) *The Program Coordinator to follow up the Illegal Dumping program.*

### **5 REGIONAL WASTE TO ART & DESIGN COMPETITION 2003**

The Program Coordinator reported on the progress of the Regional Competition:

- Local competitions were currently being coordinated in eighteen (18) NIRW Councils
- Gunnedah Shire Council was confirmed as the host for the 2003 Regional Competition
- Harvey Norman Computer Store were sponsoring \$1800 worth of prizes for the regional judging

- Grace Bros Fine Art Removals were sponsoring \$1000 towards the program, as well as relocating the artworks around the region
- Ruth Neave had been invited to judge the regional competition
- Insurance and liability issues were being investigated before coordination of the regional competition

Ms Chalk suggested that the group consider displaying winning entries from the regional competition at Ag-Quip in August.

***Resolved:***

- (i) *That winning artworks be displayed at Ag-Quip in August 2003 either on the Resource NSW stand or Gunnedah Shire Council Stand.*
- (ii) *Councils that require assistance with funding promotion of their competition are to submit a request in writing to the Program Coordinator.*

## **6. CHEMICAL COLLECTION PROGRAM**

Parry Shire Council reported on the tenders received for the 2003 Chemical Collection Campaign and tabled a Summary of Costs spreadsheet.

The Executive Officer advised that the Program Committee had met to review the tenders and recommended that CWDS be appointed as the successful tenderer and Option 2 as the preferred option. Option 2 involves the Contractor being in attendance at each site to control the collection and removal of chemicals and will mean the program is run over a period of 2-3 weeks. Option 2 does not require Council staff to undertake chemical identification and handling training.

The Committee was also advised that the NIRW Program Funding would reimburse participating Councils 50% of their Contractor costs provided they applied a 20 litre/kg Free Threshold into their collection.

Information on contract costs will be supplied to each participating Council (by Parry Shire Council) to enable each Council to make a reasonable assessment of costs.

The Program Committee recommended that each participating Council should supply at least one staff member to provide customer service/public relations (on behalf of the Council) and to facilitate the application of the 20 litre/kg free threshold, including the recovery of costs for quantities over the threshold limit.

Promotion of the campaign will be funded and coordinated by the NIRW. Brochures are currently being produced and will be distributed shortly.

All promotions of the chemical collection program will advise the community to contact their local Council for further information. The Contractor will not be used as a central information point for community inquiries but will be available to Councils who require information on the program.

***Resolved:***

- (i) *That CWDS be endorsed as the successful tenderers for the NIRW 2003 Chemical Collection Program;*
- (ii) *That Option 2 of the Tender be adopted;*
- (iii) *That participating Councils are to review their Program costs in light of the tender information (provided by Parry Shire Council) and proposed NIRW Program Funding*

*contribution and advise Parry Shire of the number (and location) of collection sites they require.*

## 7. METAL WASTE PROGRAM

The Executive Office tabled a report submitted from Metalcorp Recyclers following the last round of NIRW's Metal Waste Program.

***Resolved:***

*Councils that participated in the program would receive a copy of their section of the report and any photos that were included.*

## 8 3 YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

The Executive Officer tabled the Progress Report that has been submitted to Resource NSW for the 3 Year Program and advised that Resource NSW were ready to release the next funding allocation \$50,000.

A sample Program Reporting Form was distributed at the meeting and Councils were advised that they would need to complete the Forms from now on to enable the NIRW Executive to provide more detailed progress reports to RNSW.

***Resolved:***

*That Councils participating in any of the NIRW Programs will be required to complete and return the Program Reporting Forms to the NIRW Executive as requested.*

## 9. GREEN WASTE & METAL WASTE PROGRAMS

Mr Steve O'Rourke, Constructive Solutions, gave an overview of the draft tenders for the Green Waste & Metal Waste Programs. The contracts are proposed to be for a fixed term of 12 months with a 12 month option in favour of NIRW. The Committee was advised that the contracts had been designed to be flexible and provide a framework for Councils to benefit from regional collaboration. The contracts will also serve to protect Councils in the event of disputes with the Contractor.

***Resolved:***

*Councils are to liaise with Steve O'Rourke in regards to required service levels and site details to be included in the annexure of the tender documents.*

## 10. ILLEGAL DUMPING

The Executive Officer reported that the Program Committee had reviewed the issues of Illegal Dumping throughout the region and the following recommendations were made:

- Develop a strategy on Illegal Dumping that also includes training of Council staff
- The possibility of purchasing a mobile CCTV to be investigated further
- Investigate consultants to develop a awareness campaign for the region

Resource NSW Hunter Office offered the use of their mobile CCTV as a trial to any Council that would benefit from the surveillance.

***Resolved:***

- (i) *That the Program Coordinator organise a trial of the CCTV offered by Resource NSW Hunter Office.*

- (ii) *That the Program Committee liaise with Resource NSW and produce an Illegal Dumping Strategy for consideration at the next NIRW meeting.*

## 11. LITTER REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

The Executive Officer advised members that signage for the region on litter reduction was being investigated, in particular the “Don’t Waste Australia” campaign developed by The Beverage Industry Environment Council (BIEC). It is proposed to place signs on all main roads at the Shire boundaries (entry and exit). The signs would be 1200mm x 600mm and mostly located in 100km zones.

The RTA has advised that signage could only be placed on main roads if it related to driving. Resource NSW advised that they would be willing to support the program by adding weight to the submission to the RTA for approval on placement of the signage on main roads.

Members of the Committee recommended that “Cover Your Load” and “Adopt a Road” could be also included in the Program.

***Resolved:***

- (i) *The Program Coordinator to submit a proposal to RTA with Resource NSW support letter.*
- (ii) *The Program Coordinator to forward a signage audit to member Councils for completion.*

## 12. HOUSEHOLD MEDICAL WASTE

The members were advised that NSW Health were offering non-recurrent funding to regional Councils to provide safe disposal facilities/programs for Community Sharps.

***Resolved:***

- (i) *The Program Coordinator to forward information to members.*
- (ii) *That the NIRW Councils would not apply for the funding on a regional level, Councils are welcome to apply on an individual basis.*

## 13. REGIONAL WASTE DATABASE

The Executive Officer advised the Committee that a funding submission for Organic Waste Modelling was being prepared for consideration by Resource NSW.

It was also advised that a quotation brief was being prepared for the provision of waste audit services required for the Waste Database Program. A draft brief was tabled at the meeting and members agreed that the objectives needed to be reviewed and “tightened up” to ensure that the data collected was both relevant and useful in developing or enhancing regional programs.

Ms Chalk confirmed that the audits proposed in the region would be beneficial to Resource NSW and the waste database that they are developing.

***Resolved:***

*That the Program Committee prepare a final quotation brief and proceed with the collection of data required for the Waste Database Program.*

## 14. PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

The report from the Program Committee was noted by the members.

**Resolved:**

*No resolution required.*

**15. REGIONAL WASTE FORUM, SYDNEY**

The members were informed of the Regional Waste Forum that was attended by the Executive Officer and Program Coordinator in Sydney on 5 May 2003.

The Chairman congratulated both the Executive Officer and the Program Coordinator on the progress of the 3 Year Plan.

**16. GENERAL BUSINESS****16.1 Further Information from Resource NSW**

Ms Chalk, Resource NSW, advised the Committee on the following:

- Harden Shire Council would be approaching regional Councils to review a report on DrumMUSTER.
- Councils to consider the collection of paint containers with the Used Oil Facilities as there is the possibility of funding for storage facilities.

**16.2 Recycling of PET Bottles**

Quirindi Shire Council reported that Coca Cola had changed the Diet Coke Plastic bottles from clear to silver which has caused issues with recycling.

**Resolved:**

*The NIRW contact BIEC for further information on this matter.*

**16.3 Regional Waste Management**

Parry Shire Council enquired whether Councils had received the facsimile/discussion paper forwarded to them (from Parry Shire) regarding Regional Waste Management. Parry outlined their concerns regarding the issue of regional landfill facilities and the need for the region to consider its long term waste disposal requirements and look at all options available for the sustainable long term management of waste.

The Executive Officer informed the Committee that Landfill Management had been included in the second year of the 3 Year Program. The development of long-term strategies for landfill management within the region was the basis of the program.

Armidale Council advised that they were working with the University of New England's Rural Futures Institute in investigating the future of regional landfills and alternative waste solutions. The Committee agreed that the report produced by Armidale Council and the UNE would be tabled for discussion at the next NIRW meeting.

**Resolved:**

*Armidale Council to present report from UNE at the August meeting and that this matter is given further consideration.*

**16.4 Educational Brochures**

The Program Coordinator advised that NIRW was developing a 'Resource Kit' and that educational brochures (on recycling, mulch, worm farms, composting and natural cleaning) were being developed with the assistance of Resource NSW. The brochures would include the NIRW logo and will be distributed by the Program Coordinator in hard copy and via the website.

## **17. NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of Northern Inland Regional Waste would be hosted by Guyra Shire Council in Guyra on 26 August 2003.

**Thanks to Quirindi Shire Council for hosting the meeting.**