

## Contact NIRW:

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# northern inland regional waste NIRW NEWS

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## Chairman's message

It is pleasing to reflect on our work during 2008 and report that NIRW has once again delivered important programs in the region which both increase our resource recovery and reduce our impact on the environment.

NIRW has been busy administering various requests for tenders on behalf of its member Councils, including the collection and processing of drumMUSTER containers, processing of green waste, collection of used motor oil and the transportation of e-waste. These regional tenders seek to minimise waste processing and collection costs through economies of scale while providing sustainable resource recovery services for communities within the participating Council areas.

Of particular note was the work performed for the sub-regional aligned waste and recyclables collection and processing tender involving Tamworth, Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains Shire Councils. This process delivered many positive outcomes, one of which was the strong working relationship developed between the 3 Councils. The experience gained through this process will be valuable to member Councils looking at aligned or sub-regional request for tenders in to the future.

Highlighting another positive achievement, the collection figures for our 2008 Annual Chemical Collection Campaign were the lowest since 2003, signalling that the program has had a positive impact on the amount of unwanted hazardous material being stored across our region.

Our Group's thanks goes to the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) who has continued to provide support and assistance over the past 12 months. As we approach the time to submit our next 3 year strategy and funding bid to DECC, we can be sure that NIRW Executive will put a strong case forward on the Group's behalf, and we should deservedly look forward to a positive response to the submission being confirmed in the first half of this year.

Regards  
Cr Col Murray  
NIRW Chairman

## Resource Recovery Figures 2007/2008

Through the regional contracts in place during 2007/2008, NIRW member Councils have collectively achieved the following resource recovery results:-

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| * drumMUSTER        | 96,325 drums    |
| * Green Waste       | 74,854.77 m3    |
| * Metal Waste       | 4,076.36 Tonnes |
| * Batteries         | 117.84 Tonnes   |
| * LPG Gas Cylinders | 10.2 Tonnes     |

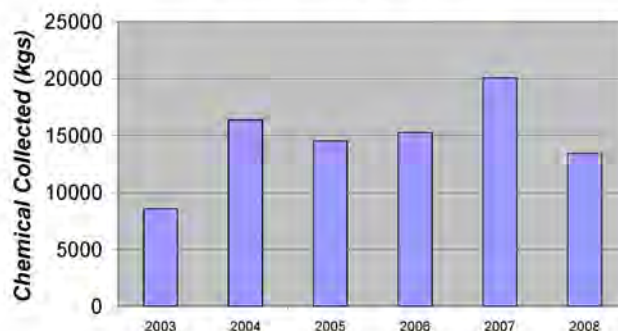
Plans are currently in place to establish regional contracts for more services, such as the collection of used oil, E-Waste and the processing of construction and demolition waste.

## NIRW Programs

### Chemical Collection Campaign

During July & August 2008, NIRW conducted its annual household and rural hazardous waste collection campaign in the region. The first 20kg of chemicals were collected from each user for FREE! In 2008, 13,455kg of chemicals were collected in the region. The graph below shows the trends in collection figures since 2003. NIRW will continue the program in July & August 2009.

NIRW Chemical Collections



### 2008 NSW Youth River Health Conference

NIRW were a Silver Sponsor of the 2008 Youth Environment Conference held on 17 & 18 November in Tamworth.

The first day of the conference was centred around the "Kids Teaching Kids" methodology whereby students from Schools across the region led workshops to teach other students about the environmental issues we face.

Rain on the second day of the conference meant the planned outdoor clean up activity couldn't go ahead, so instead NIRW ran workshops on worm farming, recycling and contamination and the waste hierarchy.

In 2009, NIRW will look to sponsor students in the region to attend other conferences, including the 2009 International Youth Environment Conference and others across NSW.



Don't forget to check out our website at  
[www.nirw.org.au](http://www.nirw.org.au)

## NIRW - A Sharp Smart Region

NIRW has secured a \$60,000 grant from NSW Health to carry out a regional community sharps management program in 2008/2009, and is working closely with Hunter New England Area Health and TAFE NSW.

The program will incorporate a number of strategies including the installation of new, appropriately located sharps disposal facilities; providing education and training opportunities for Council staff, and the roll out of a broad community education campaign.

TAFE NSW held a pilot training session in Tamworth on 19th November with staff attending from Tamworth, Armidale and Gunnedah Councils. Further training sessions are planned for other areas of the region in January and February.



## Collective Waste Tender

In 2008, Gunnedah Shire Council, Liverpool Plains Shire Council and Tamworth Regional Council developed a collective request for tenders for waste services. Transpacific Cleanaway Ltd have been awarded the contract to service the Tamworth Regional Council area, with Gunnedah Shire and Liverpool Plains Shire Councils awarding their contracts to JR & EG Richards (NSW). The experience gained through the process can now be shared with all member Councils, and the documentation will be made available to those Councils wishing to use it for modelling purposes.

## NIRW Executive for 2009

Chairman - Cr Col Murray (Tamworth Regional Council)  
Executive Officer - John Davis (Tamworth Regional Council)  
Assistant Executive Officer - Mike Porter (Armidale Dumaresq Council)  
Program Coordinator - Kate Newlan

### Program Committee

John Davis (Tamworth Regional Council)  
Mike Porter (Armidale Dumaresq Council)  
Sue Cox (Gunnedah Shire Council)  
Merv Prendergast (Liverpool Plains Shire Council)  
Kate Newlan - Program Coordinator

Next meeting: 12 February 2009, Uralla

## Sustainable On Farm Waste Management

NIRW are working with the Namoi CMA on a further sustainable on farm waste management campaign. A property located in Nea, near Curlew is being used as a model farm, and so far the unsightly scrap metal dump has been cleaned out, with plans now afoot to have the site remediated. A television commercial will be produced to advertise the campaign which is designed to inform landholders on ways to best manage their various waste streams, including scrap metal, unwanted chemicals and empty chemical containers.



Before



After (with more work to be done...)

# Don't be a tosser

## Regional Litter Strategy

Have you seen our latest television commercial? NIRW received funding from DECC to run a regional litter prevention campaign, and we've made our very own commercial to promote the fines associated with littering behaviours. Roadsides signs will be installed throughout the region to reinforce this message.

Lots of materials have also been produced for our waste education trailer, and we've also received practical litter management tools such as personal ashtrays and cornstarch car tidy bags. Contact the Program Coordinator to order any items, or book the trailer.

## Mobile Waste Education Trailer

Don't forget to book the NIRW Mobile Waste Education Trailer for your Community events throughout the year - or you can set it up any time just to remind your residents about the local waste management services. Contact the Program Coordinator to discuss your requirements.



## Member Councils

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