

Media release

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SKM wins regional materials recovery contract

Using optical sorting technology to identify and separate colored glass is just one of many smart recycling techniques coming to the Geelong region.

The five councils in the region namely City of Greater Geelong, Colac Otway Shire, Borough of Queenscliffe, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire are working together to improve waste management, awarding a \$5m contract to SKM Recycling for a materials recovery plant in the region.

The new facility will handle all residential kerbside packaging, which means all the materials from the 'yellow lid bins'.

SKM Recycling won via a competitive tender process, from which VISY chose to withdraw earlier this year. The 10-year materials recovery contract commences on 1st July 2010.

Cr. John Burgess Chair of the Barwon Regional Waste Management Group (BRWMG), said, "This is a very exciting contract that has enormous benefits to the region.

"Partnerships that involve planning how to manage waste, cut down on waste processing and actively reduce waste are central to improving the environment for future generations," said Cr. Burgess.

He said SKM Recycling will bring the latest technology to this region and that the contract between the councils and SKM combines leading edge technology with a dedication to finding solutions for waste materials.

"For example, broken glass was traditionally considered a contaminant and excluded from materials recovery contracts. The SKM contract includes broken glass as SKM Recycling have found an end use for what used to be a problem."

It is this kind of recycling and reuse approach to that is driving leading edge solutions in waste management. Charged with leading the State in waste management planning the BRWMG's mission is to minimise waste production and, ultimately work towards a target of zero waste to landfill.

"It is about changing the way we consider what we consume and what we discard and with that new perspective come a raft of opportunities. For many businesses, what was waste is now being seen as a range of resources," said Cr. Burgess

The RWMG and Councils are working with SKM Recycling to identify an appropriate site for the materials recovery facility, which will improve the processing of packaging materials and reduce the region's waste to landfill.

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