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MEDIA RELEASE



‘REGIONAL COUNCILS LEADERS IN WASTE PROCESSING’

The Barwon Regional Waste Management Group comprising the Borough of Queenscliffe, ColacOtway Shire, SurfCoast Shire and City of Greater Geelong and the Shire of Golden Plains have all accepted regional tenders that will determine how the region’s household waste will be processed over the next 10-20 years.

Visy Paper Pty Ltd will continue to receive and process recyclables at its facility in Barwon Terrace, South Geelong and a new \$50Million facility will be built at Point Henry by DiCOM AWT Operations Pty Ltd for the processing of mixed and green waste into green power and compost.

These two contractors were selected from a tender process that identified nineteen different organisations from across Australia capable of providing these services.

Both contracts will commence in July 2010 with the Visy Paper Pty Ltd contract continuing until June 2020. The DiCOM AWT Operations contract will continue until June 2030.

Barwon Regional Waste Management Group Chair Cr. John Burgess said ‘It is exciting to see the regions Councils working cooperatively to meet the State resource recovery targets and achieve the Groups vision that no waste should go directly to landfill without the resources being recovered first by 2010.’

‘The recycling of packaging materials in the yellow lid wheelie bin is effectively ‘business as usual’ with the continuation of the excellent service provided by Visy over the past five years, however, the DiCOM facility is an exciting new addition to the Region’s waste processing system’ Cr John Burgess Chair of the Barwon Region said.

‘This facility will take all waste other than the packaging recyclables, separate out the food and garden organic material for processing in an enclosed vessel that incorporates an innovative combination of aerobic and anaerobic composting to produce green power and agricultural grade compost complying with Australian standards’ he said.

‘The operational advantage of this fully enclosed facility over other technologies is that it uses water separation to ensure a clean compost material is produced. Composting occurs in a fully enclosed static container and there are no external adverse environmental impacts such as odor or litter’ he said.

The first facility of this type is currently being built in Perth for the Western Metropolitan Regional Group of Councils. Final acceptance of this contract by the Barwon Region Councils will be subject to this facility meeting specific conditions including compost quality and meeting resource recovery targets.





'The responsible processing of our waste is critical to ensure that the environmentally harmful methane gas produced in landfill is reduced, With this technology we will meet our obligations towards climate change by maximizing the capture of food and garden organics and turning this into green power and compost' City of Greater Geelong Mayor Cr Bruce Harwood said

'In the City all household waste will be processed and at least 80 per cent will be diverted from landfill with the remaining 20 per cent being stabilised so that it will have no environmental impact when disposed of. There may also be further opportunities for this material to be used for a worthwhile purpose in the future' Cr Harwood said

'This processing package allows the current collection systems to continue without any changes across the Region and will allow all residents to continue with their very successful recycling practices.' Cr Burgess said

'For the City it is important that residents still separate their recyclables and green waste from the other waste. Keeping the green waste separate will enable this material to avoid the initial sorting process and ultimately produce a better compost at a lower cost.' Cr Harwood said.

The Shire of Golden Plains will supply materials from the southern portion of that municipality to these facilities while SurfCoast will supply recyclables and green waste in the short term and plan to ultimately send all its waste to these facilities following consultation with the Surf Coast community prior to the expiry of their existing contracts.

'The adoption of these processes will confirm Geelong and the Barwon Region's leadership role in environmental best practice waste management and enables our communities to play a role in protecting our environment and reducing green house emissions' Cr Harwood said.

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