

Tackling Waste Management in Communities

A Collaborative Approach

Waste management in remote communities

- Mobile garbage bins and compactor trucks have improved household waste removal
- Littering and animal scavenging remain an issue in high trafficked areas
- Waste disposal practices and sites are poor and inconsistent





Consequences

- Infections and diseases
- Long term health problems
- Deterioration of drinking water quality
- Environmental degradation and destruction

Barriers to improvement

- Isolation
- Small populations
- Stretched resources and tied funding

Waste collaboration in the Big Rivers Region



The Big Rivers Region Waste Management Working Group



Pooling regional resources

- Regional grants
- Experiences, knowledge and trials
- Funding Coordinator role and project



Coordinators Role

- Funding is provided by the Department of Health NT (DoH) and the three Regional Councils with ongoing support from Katherine Town Council
- DoH wants to see the **landfills in three communities** (Wadeye, Ngukurr and Kalkarindji) **improved** to a standard where they can **obtain an Environmental Protection Licence**
- The Coordinators role is to **provide advice and support** to achieve this goal

Coordinator Progress

- Provided advice on landfills in 15 communities within the Big Rivers Region
- Provided advice and information for the 'Multi Town Landfill Tender'
- Developed Environmental Management Plans and Emergency Response Plans for Kalkarindji, Ngukurr and Wadeye
- Developed a suite of reporting documents and a waste recording system
- Provided advice on licencing and communication with the NT Environmental Protection Agency

Improving economies of scale

- Joint expression of interest for the collection of scrap metal encompassing 21 communities and towns in the region
- Use of Katherine the “Crossroads of the North” as a regional hub
- Crushing Cans!

Recycling cans in Kalkarindji

- Kalkarindji has a population of about 550 and is located 450km SW of Katherine.
- Large numbers of aluminium cans were ending up in the landfill.
- The local social club is a licenced venue and was identified as the main source of the cans.
- The club was approached and agreed to separate the cans which were then deposited at the council depot in bulka bags.



Recycling cans in Kalkarindji

- In mid 2016 the council purchased a **can crushing machine** to improve transport efficiency.
- The council negotiated with a CDS depot in Darwin to accept the crushed cans at the **10 cent rate**.
- Crushed cans are stacked on a pallet and **back-loaded to Darwin** on trucks servicing the community.
- Modifications to the can crushing machine have increased the bailing rate to 10,000 cans per hour.



Recycling cans in Kalkarindji

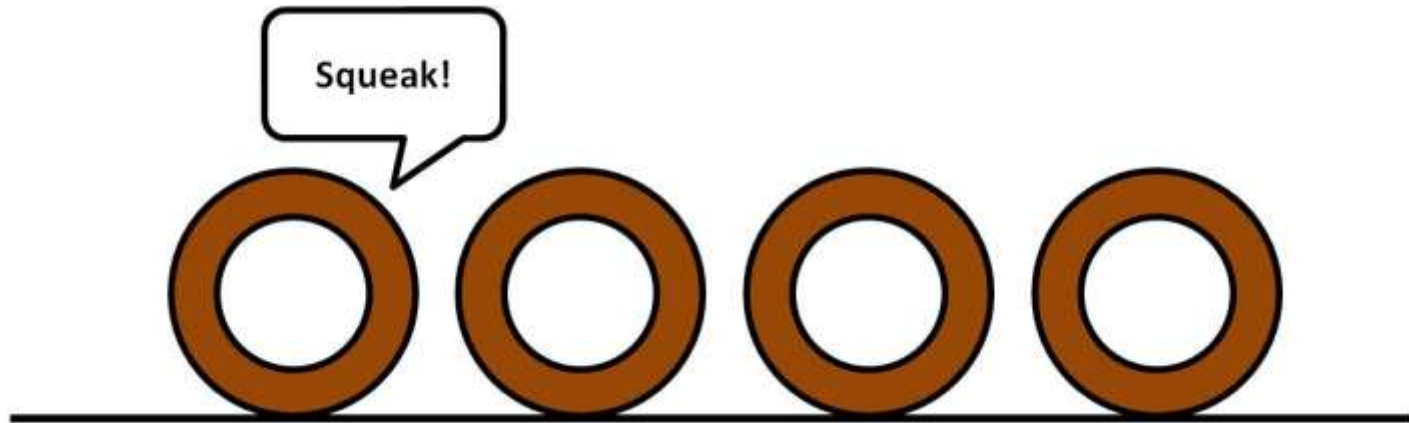
Outcomes

- Since beginning operations approximately **100,000 cans have been diverted from landfill.**
- The money collected from this process is **invested back into** projects that benefit **the community.**
- Investments in caged pallets are being investigated by the council to further reduce the waste generated.
- The council is also looking at how to best capture the rest of the containers in the community.



A region-wide voice

- Address industry groups with an organised strategy
- Attention from government in terms of grants, funding and publicity
- Louder whinging!



A bigger picture

- The Central Australia Waste Management Working Group formed in 2012
- In March 2017 the first joint group meeting was held to identify areas of collaboration between groups



What are we trying to achieve?

Upgrade
Landfill
Facilities and
Procedures

Create
Recycling
Facilities and
Opportunities

Improve Staff
Training

Promote Waste
Education and
Litter Programs

Better Waste Management

Greater
Waste
Awareness

Improved Health Outcomes