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DULVERTON WASTE

Pioneering Waste Management



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WATER MANAGEMENT

Best Practices in Tasmania





About 12 years ago, four Tasmanian Local Councils, Central Coast, Devonport City, Kentish and Latrobe found that their regional landfills were reaching the end of their lives. This turn of events sparked the melding of the Councils' waste management facilities, and Dulverton Waste Management (DWM) was formed. Since then, DWM has been servicing the waste management needs of their local area as well as the wider Northwest community in many ways.

THIS JOINT AUTHORITY has two Owner Representatives for each Council who have

appointed a skills-based Board of Directors. Currently, there are four Directors and they have appointed a CEO, Mat Greskie, who has held this position for the last two years.

He describes his experience in business since his move to Tasmania as very positive; "Tasmania has provided me with a breadth of opportunities. I also find that contractors and suppliers really safeguard their reputations and care about the services they provide. It is a great place to do business." As part of this Tasmanian business culture, Greskie takes great pride in the practices that Dulverton carries out everyday to benefit the environment, the community and its customers.

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Diverting Waste to Benefit Business

Greskie reports that DWM runs the largest regional landfill in North-West Tasmania. And while this is a significant part of their services, there is much more to DWM. A major example is their sizable composting facility. In fact, it is five times the size of its nearest competitor in the state. They accept green waste from the regional transfer stations and also take other industrial waste such as fish waste, manure waste and milk sludge waste that would otherwise end up in landfill. In doing so,

DWM diverts over 20,000 tonnes of waste from landfill each year. "It is equivalent to taking over 30,000 vehicles off the road a year, which makes a substantial difference," Greskie declares.

In addition to the obvious environmental benefits of their compost facility, Greskie affirms that the compost product manufactured at DWM is of the highest standard. All of their raw ingredients are analysed in a laboratory and specific recipes for each type of input have been produced. He explains further, "We have specific ratios for the type of waste we use to be sure to get our carbon nitrogen ratio correct. Then, we have a regimented monitoring schedule that measures temperature, moisture and oxygen over 16 weeks." Their rigorous systems and processes are in place to enable



composting to occur at an optimum level, which yields a premium product.

Currently, DWM compost is being sold to commercial businesses including to 12 nurseries, high profile orchards, vineyards, flower growers and customers who are at the cutting edge of biological farming. "Consistently producing high quality compost is paying us back in dividends because companies are starting to come to us to purchase our product," says Greskie.

Customers are reaping the benefits of DWM compost. Greskie explains that they have been able to prove that if you get the soil health right, healthy plants are produced and everything else takes care of itself. DWM's compost has been greatly improving pasture growth for its dairy farmer customers and has allowed them to use

fewer chemicals, sprays and fertilizers, all while reducing their costs. "We believe we run our process more scientifically than anyone else in this state or the country and that it will compliment the rise in biological farming trend," he adds.

Providing Industry Expertise

DWM provides waste management consultation and project management to their clients. One of their main customers is the Cradle Coast Regional Waste Management Group. All Councils in this region volunteered to contribute five dollars per tonne of waste to any landfill into a pool to optimize waste management practices and outcomes in the region. In 2012, the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group, with Dulverton, developed a five-year strategic plan. One hundred per cent of the funds collected by each Council have been allocated towards the implementation of the initiatives within the strategic plan. Now, DWM is managing 22 different projects totaling up to nearly half a million dollars to improve waste outcomes for the entire region.

Collaborating to Improve Services

Working closely with other regional waste management groups has created productive results for DWM. In addition to working with the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group, they have also more recently been cooperating with Northern Waste Management Group. In fact, DWM collaborated with them on the development of their

strategic plan. In the future, this will allow them to deliver some projects across both regions simultaneously. "We have found this partnership to be very constructive because we offer each other support and independent objectivity in everything that we do," explains Greskie.

Another particularly beneficial partnership has been made as a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with all three regions to share a statewide waste website. Greskie states that he sees this as a substantial turning point for waste from a communication standpoint. "We are quite excited about rolling out this website in the next three months to provide a solid resource for Tasmania on waste," he remarks. All three regions will save substantial funds and their message will be streamlined for the community.

Looking Out for DWM and its Customers

The Carbon Pricing Mechanism (Carbon Tax) put in place by the Federal Government affects all landfills who produce over a threshold of 25 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. At this point, Greskie maintains that DWM will not be impacted by the tax because of the sizable amount of carbon waste that is diverted through their compost facility. Also, DWM is currently negotiating to have gas recovery infrastructure installed by the end of the year. "We are doing everything we can to ensure that our customers won't have any Carbon Tax liability and it is highly unlikely that we will incur any liability for the foreseeable future," he states.

Greskie is always aware of how their facilities affect the people who live in the area. "We want to ensure that sound land use planning practices are carried out and that we are able to maintain our buffers so our operations do not impact other more sensitive uses of land," he comments. At this time, land encroachment is not an issue, but Greskie intends to diligently protect the positive environmental and social outcomes of composting, so it can continue without negatively affecting the community.

Through their work with the Cradle Coast Waste Management Group, DWM has been working towards finding new recycling and employment opportunities for the area. They are in the beginning stages of this initiative but have ideas such as looking into specific waste streams that are difficult to recycle, like mattresses, to see whether it is viable for these materials to be processed and recycled locally. These are programs that will divert waste from landfill but also generate some local employment, creating win-win situations.

DWM's dedication to best practice for the environment and its customers is apparent by their initiatives and daily operations. Greskie accredits much of his company's success to the positive attitude and work ethic of his staff and will continue to strive for business excellence and sustainable environmental solutions with his team looking forward. **AUBJ**