

To provide Gladstone Regional Council's management sector with information in the area of Conferences and their Organisational benefit.



Gladstone Regional Council Conferences Attended

LGAQ Waste Forum – Brisbane 29th and 30th August

1.0 Conference Attended and the Synopsis

LGAQ CEO Greg Hallam welcomed all delegates

- We have a chance for Local Government to lead in Waste strategies
- The next 12 months important with prospective partnerships critical – some are already advanced
- The activity in the waste space is unprecedented with the 10 year roadmap released
- Working on a plan for illegal dumping
- Waste data is critical
- MOU drawn up with Austral Bitumen to utilise waste
- We have to promote/educate communities on waste management

Tony Roberts (Deputy DG DES) – Queensland Waste Reform

- There is emerging concerns on what we can do with waste
- Building blocks are in place – vision of a zero waste society
- 45% waste is being recovered in Qld – Some Councils in Australia have a 75% recovery
- There has been under investment in recycling over many years
- We now have possibilities of waste creating circular economies
- Environmental ministers meeting forum late this year – strategy aim zero waste
- Funding available for illegal dumping hotspots, stockpiling container retainers, companion illegal dumping
- Managing organic waste – waste to biofuels
- Waste and resource plan – product stewardship scheme/boutique bags reduction of supply
- We need to have policies for used tyres and glass

Dr Chris Hill (ED DES) – Tracking illegal dumping through partnerships

- Misclassification of waste framework – data intelligence/compliance framework/legislation priority partnerships
- Compliance across the state using data analytics
- There has been 158 inspections across the state since July 1st this year – drones used
- Illegal dumping in Qld – Environmental, social, financial impacts/\$18.4 million spent on illegal dumping/incidents all reported to DES
- Data reporting is the key
- \$2 million funding available over 2 years – for additional Council officers, targeting training, boosting intelligence and pilot programs
- Pilot programs already commenced in Gold Coast, Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and Townsville with \$200,000.00 per Council

Bill Brett (Director QTC) – Navigating the investment and funding decisions

- Fair Share in Brisbane producing \$2million meals from waste
- Current state –some Councils soon to approach the market (Rockhampton one of them)/scale matters/long term funding costs have never been lower
- Comparing Council owning infrastructure and operation to contractors – researching whole of life costs
- Can Councils in partnership agree on available and acceptable sites
- Business cases used to test outcomes/options
- Council collaboration – data tools, models, business case
- Regional options – scale with partnerships required and the capacity of the proponents to develop
- Project development – go to market – operate and manage (not a speedy process)

Chris Hambling (DES) – Energy from waste discussion paper

- Reduce household waste by 25% by 2050
- Thermal, Biological, chemical processes proven
- Currently 10% direct disposal, 15% thermal, 75% Anaerobic
- Need to consider collection changes, recycling processing, volume
- Discussion paper released July 2019 – Literature review/Initial consultation/principals underlying EFW principal/emerging technologies/safeguarding waste hierarchy/additional considerations
- Policy completed late 2019

Greg Chemello (Interim CEO Ipswich Council) – Wasting community trust/social licence Ipswich

- Largest landfill in SE Qld – privately run
- No MRF – recycling to Brisbane
- Problems with old mining holes – many DA's for new landfills
- Lack of confidence in Ipswich Council
- Composting odour problems
- Receiving interstate waste
- Community perception that they were burning recycling
- Social licence not given
- Waste to energy considered evil

Pippa Ruddell –Simon Kalinowski (LG Sherlock) Mandolay – waste data

- Energy detective/fuel detective
- Disparate data into actionable insights
- MBE Dashboards – management by exception
- Current V future of waste in Qld
- Driving enhanced decision making
- Data accessibility instantly
- Standardise the data set
- Opportunity – cost of current data gap
- Unlocking the value of your data – data ingestion/descriptive analysis/Predictive analytics/reporting efficiencies

Gail Sloane (CEO Waste Management and Resources) – Panel

Our narrative is incorrect – Waste is a resource

- Logan – alliance with SEQ Councils/not sourcing waste to energy
- Brisbane – waste minimisation/organics successful/pushing back on community to recognise the value of their waste/elected members should push the case/watching developments on waste to energy
- Mackay – 20 year old waste strategy currently being reviewed/lead up work being done to engage community/formed a regional waste group/funding for regional strategies required
- Bundaberg – WEB Rock in operation with a collective procurement process being examined/problems with glass recycling/encouraging private sector to participate
- Rockhampton – rural areas being worked on/curb side recycling problems/review of RAP/regional collaboration meeting in April
- Cairns – challenges with curb side and glass/looking at organic collections/ new MRF being built
- Townsville – NQROC with 5 Councils having a history of working together and are on waste with a waste management strategy/MOU with other Councils/education (recycle right)/glass recycled for bricks/mulch project/water smart package (mulch and worm farms)

It is not about the cost of waste, rather it's about waste resources. Avoidance, reduce weight in bins, convince Councillors. We have to create resource companies. We have to get advocacy at the front end. Process flows in waste needs to be achieved prior to collaboration

Daniel Schleibs (Manager Arcadios) – Queensland Waste and Resource Recovery Plan

- Assessment of waste streams (30 years)
- Benefits – strategy targets and objectives/efficient infrastructure/support innovation/foundation for waste plans/informing
- Consultation – data surveys/engagement with peak bodies
- Mass flows – modelling waste flows/strategies and targets in each area
- Identifying and characterising existing infrastructure
- Transport and economics
- Land use planning – greater certainty for stakeholders

Robert Voss – Putting waste into roads

- Sprayed seals – rubber based/longer life
- Crumbing rubber – extra life and can be used in asphalt/introduced in 1970
- 55 million tyres used every year
- Regional processing may already be available
- Glass in asphalt – recycled asphalt/crushed glass business plan

Andy Street (SLR Consulting UK) – FOGO or not FOGO

- If you are looking at organics, look at all options
- Separating green and food waste is the best way, but more expensive.

Greg Hallam summed up the forum, with more waste update forums in the future.

2.0 Key Learnings from each session attended or speaker session

Council's future direction will be governed by State policies, with future projects relying on current legislation, robust needs and financial assessments

Our immediate future because of restrictions in tonnage (feedstock) seems to be in the area of composting and anaerobic digestion (even examining a regional approach)

Incineration requires minimum 400,000 tonnes per year feedstock

The future of the waste stream is in resource recovery

3.0 One thing you will use as a result of your learnings

Advocacy of Resource Recovery and the business that Council can do with private companies in this area.

4.0 One thing that the organisation could use to improve its operations

Focus more on the infrastructure required for separation and recovery of recyclables at the landfill gate.

5.0 Other comments

6.0 Conference attendance costs

Conference Registration Fee:	0
Travel Costs:	\$ 341.50
Accommodation:	\$ 186.00
Sundries:	\$ 140.00
Additional Costs:	0
TOTAL COST:	\$ 667.50