

# Fraser Island Waste Management

## Background

**Roger Feely**  
**12 August 2004**

### Hervey Bay CC

Northern half of Island:

- Orchid Beach - 69 dwellings
- Happy Valley - 33 dwellings, 18 units, 1 x 9 room resort
- -Cathedral Beach - 8 cabins, 54 sites
- -FI Wilderness Retreat - 9 lodges

### Maryborough CC

Southern end of Island:

- -Eurong Township - 40 houses, 50 units
- -Eurong Resort - 114 units, 12 cabins
- -FI Beach Houses - 21 houses
- -Kingfisher Resort - 152 rooms, 110 villas, 180 bed lodge
- -Yidney Rocks - 5 units
- -Dilli Village - 60 bunkhouse

### Waste Management Report

- Received by Councils from QPWS July 2002
- Also invoice for period 1997-2001
- HBCC Total - \$330,451

### Joint Meetings of Councils

- Disagreement over costs distribution
- Councils agree to pay rates received effective current year

### HBCC Garbage Levy 2004/5

- Revenue is raised for the collection and disposal of garbage on Fraser Island
- Individual levy for current financial year is \$144.40 pa
- Total revenue is anticipated to be \$22,400
- 10% discount applies if paid within 30 days
- This represents some 155 occupancies

### Expressions of Interest

- New spirit of agreement between partners
- EOIs invited to prepare waste management strategy for Fraser Island
- 20 expressions received
- Four short listed
- Short listed applicants shown around Island

### **Tenders Invited**

- Shortlisted consultants invited to tender
- Tenders closed February 2004
- HLA Envirosiences successful
- Some delays due to verification of assumptions
- Report anticipated early August 2004

## **Over to Fiona Kennedy.....**

### **Purpose**

- Independent review of current waste practices and use of results to provide for development of a waste management strategy to 2010.

### **Major Existing and Future Development**

- Residential Development and Accommodation
- Resorts
- Camping (Primary and Secondary)

### **Other Waste Generators**

- Day Recreation Areas
- Eurong Township Transport Depot
- Happy Valley emergency services and workshop
- Orchid Beach Trading Post, Bennett's workshop, concrete and emergency services
- Toyota Fraser Island Expo

### **Implications of Development**

- Majority of development along eastern beach
- Future development restricted to existing freehold land
- Remote location of Orchid Beach and Ocean Lake and Waddy Point campgrounds
- Orchid Beach – some residences accommodate multiple families
- Irregular pattern of residency
- Under QPWS camping management plan additional developed camp sites proposed. Overall decrease in beach camping by 203 camp sites

### **Existing Waste Collection Service Issues**

- All vehicle routes are sand tracks
- High cost of vehicle and track maintenance
- Waste collection vehicles frequently out of service
- Large number of waste facilities imposition in distance and time for collection
- Collection times constrained by tides

### **Waste Disposal Issues**

- Maintenance of large number of waste facilities (including beach bins)
- No landfill on Fraser Island
- Long distance to transport general waste and recyclables to Hervey Bay

- Hervey Bay City investigation of new regional landfill site

### **Stakeholder Consultation**

- Questionnaire and interview format targeted all user groups
- All groups seeking to have positive input to waste management
- Polarisation of responses to waste management issues

### **Estimated Demand Issues**

- Industry accepted generation rates used
- Camper generation rates verified by independent waste survey (high variance)
- Existing and future demand exists for segregation of recyclables
- Number of beach bins or servicing frequency inadequate during peak visitation
- Dilli Village – future expansion will require provision of new waste facilities

### **Potential Strategies**

#### **Waste volumes and tracking**

- Waste generation estimates provided in excel format for future monitoring and tracking of performance

#### **High Activity Day Use Areas**

- No waste facilities recommended – take in / take out

#### **Eastern Beach Bins**

Removal of Eastern beach bins will:

- Reduce overall number of facilities and servicing times
- Reduce maintenance requirements
- Remove the opportunity to attract dingoes and potential for conflict with beach users
- Be in line with QPWS philosophy of providing high visual amenity
- Remove the potential for incorrect disposal

#### **Transfer Stations**

- Upgrade of existing facilities to provide for capacities and segregation of waste at:
  - Eurong
  - Central Station
  - Yidney Rocks
  - Orchid Beach
  - Dundubara
- Investigation for siting of new facility at Happy Valley

#### **Waste Minimisation**

Reduce demand for landfill space by:

- Encouraging commercial island operators to purchase goods in bulk
- Reuse of packaging and containers
- Use of green waste for track stabilisation and landscaping
- Local reuse of cardboard

- Encouraging commercial operators to offer goods for sale in recyclable containers

### **Education and Promotion**

Reinforcement of need for waste minimisation eg.

- Extracts in travel guides
- Clear identification of waste disposal facilities
- Promote “take in and take out”
- Information on web sites
- Introductory commentary on barge / fast cat
- Brochures supplied with permits
- Clear labeling of bins identifying wastes to be accepted

### **Banning Certain Waste Streams**

Strategies recommended include:

- Information to encourage visitors to remove packaging before arriving on the island
- Removal of all plastic bags from island (paper/textile/Hessian carry bags)
- Ban glass in favour of aluminium cans
- Requirement for removal of waste from building sites

### **Recycling Opportunities**

- Cans, bottles, scrap metal
- Cardboard and paper wastes
- Green waste
- Waste oils (rust proofing)

### **Other Incentives**

- Environmental levy
- Council Subsidy
- Use of delivery services
- Mainland regional solution investigated and not supported by Cooloola Shire

### **Future Management and Costing**

- Remote location and size of Fraser Island difficult to service
- Apportionment of costs between QPWS and Councils important
- Possibly seeking Expression of Interests from commercial sector for future waste servicing