

M E D I A R E L E A S E

RENEW NSW assists in winning Menindee landfill award

The Central Darling Shire Council was recently awarded the Local Government/Industry Landcare Partnership Award by the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority to acknowledge their outstanding land management practice with the highly successful upgrade of the Menindee Landfill.

Menindee Landfill was once an environmental concern as it was unsupervised and there was limited waste separation and diversion. The Central Darling Shire Council and NetWaste (a voluntary waste group within **RENEW NSW**) believed it was their environmental responsibility to take action!

This action was taken when NetWaste (which represents the Central and West of NSW) and Ms Leeanne Ryan, Central Darling Shire Council's Environmental Services Manager, visited the Menindee Landfill site in May 2006. The site had unrestricted access to the types of waste materials being disposed, local residents had developed dumping and burning behaviours and the extent of waste wind-blown into surrounding areas was unacceptable.

With shared commitment and determination to improve the landfill site, a partnership between NetWaste and the Central Darling Shire Council was formed. NetWaste began the upgrade with visitor and waste information signs. Waste was being dumped and not separated into stockpiles which was taking up valuable landfill space and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. To help increase the recovery on waste streams, waste separation signs were installed to advise visitors of the specific areas they could dispose of their waste.

Central Darling Shire Council implemented a new management process which saw the employment of a waste operator at the gate to supervise visitor access, restricted hours of opening, replacement of fencing and the installation of an entrance gate to be locked at night as well as a per load charge and the provision of a loader to cover putrescible waste on a daily basis. These improvements ensure that the landfill is no longer unsupervised and dumping behaviours of visitors are monitored.

Due to the success of the upgrade NetWaste presented the Menindee Landfill case study to delegates at the 2007 Waste Management Conference in Sydney as well as at the NetWaste Forum meeting. This presentation showcased the abilities of smaller and regional councils in NSW and what they are able to achieve. In addition NetWaste supported the Central Darling Shire Council in their application for Local Government/Industry Landcare Partnership Award.

The Menindee Landfill now provides improved environmental and community outcomes. Reduced levels of litter, air pollution and ground pollution were the significant management and physical results of this upgrade with it now being easier for visitors to correctly dispose of their waste and cause less harm to the environment.

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Menindee Landfill before upgrade



Menindee Landfill after upgrade



Further information on **RENEW NSW** can be found on their website: www.renewnsw.com.au

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Interviews available with –

Dara Clayton - NetWaste Projects Manager, 02 6393 8770
Stephen Sykes - RENEW NSW Chair, 0419 415 110

For further media enquiries, interviews or photo opportunities, please contact Amy Reiha or Lisa Butler at Niche Product Marketing on (02) 9331 6662 or via amy@nichepm.com.au or lisa@nichepm.com.au