

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

RENEW NSW gets serious about waste in 2008

What do climate change, DECC Project Grants and waste resource and recovery have in common? They are the hot topics **RENEW NSW** will tackle when discussing rural and regional NSW waste management solutions during their two day meeting hosted by the South East Regional Group SERRROC in Bungendore, NSW from March 27th – 28th, 2008.

For **RENEW NSW**, the group focused on improving waste management solutions for rural and regional NSW, this is their first meeting for 2008 and provides an essential opportunity for its members to network, exchange knowledge and develop and implement projects across the regions. **RENEW NSW** has been able to achieve amazing results in waste and resource recovery in rural and regional NSW as a direct result of the networking and brainstorming conducted at these meetings. And it is during these meetings that **RENEW NSW** develops new initiatives aimed to improve the environment and address climate change. "By regions and their Councils working together we are able to see waste as a resource and have positive impacts on climate change into the future" Stephen Sykes Chair RENEW NSW

High on the meetings agenda is the amazing achievement of two **RENEW NSW** regional waste groups. The Riverina East Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) and the South Eastern Resource Recovery Regional Organisation of Councils (SERRROC) are the two groups who won Urban Sustainability 2007 Major Project Grants from the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Awarded in February, the Grants will be a main topic of discussion as the two groups detail their projects and how they aim to use the 2 million dollars they were each awarded to improve management of urban stormwater and make their urban centres sustainable. "Not only do these grants support positive environmental outcomes they provide opportunities for community members to get involved in the process, to learn and contribute valuable ideas" Stephen Sykes Chair RENEW NSW

With climate change an important issue facing not only Australia but the world, **RENEW NSW** has invited Rob Thorman, Director of Sustainable Programs and Projects at the ACT Government Department of Territory and Municipal Services, to discuss the newly released ACT Climate Change Strategy. **RENEW NSW** members will benefit from this presentation by looking at alternative strategies to addressing similar issues.

In addition, the eight Regional Waste Groups will provide updates on the 'Waste and Resource Recovery' projects in their regions as well as take part in an open discussion and brainstorm to determine ideas for future projects. Through these meetings, initiatives such as @ Your Library, Waste to Art competitions and the organic waste and scrap metal contracts have been developed and rolled out across the 8 groups.

The Agenda includes a day jammed pack with presentations, brainstorming and discussions as well as field trips including a tour of the ACT waste facilities and Queanbeyan Waste Minimisation Centre enabling **RENEW NSW** members to experience first hand successful implementation of waste facilities.

As a group, **RENEW NSW** has a strong framework to influence and improve waste reduction and resource recovery in rural and regional areas across NSW. The eight Regional Waste Groups and a combined membership of over 96 rural councils throughout NSW, make a formidable network to improve environment waste reduction.

Interviews are available with -
Stephen Sykes, RENEW NSW Chair, 0419 415 110

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

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