

Tasmanian council leads the way in new glass recycling initiative



Glass is a packaging material consumed by millions of Australians every day. We're great at recovering significant tonnages of glass through kerbside, but each year around 30 percent (or 130,000 tonnes nationally) can't be recycled due to breakage and/or contamination.

This is why it is so important to start thinking outside the square and look to alternative uses for glass. In an environmental first for Australia, Tasmanian local government body Clarence City Council, has designed, developed and managed the construction of a car park using a break-through recycled glass product.

In partnership with Veolia Environmental Services, Hazell Brothers Group and the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, Clarence has constructed a new car park at the Rosny Park Tennis Club using 53 tonnes of recycled glass sand – equivalent to nearly 300,000 stubbies! The recycled glass sand was used in the pipe bedding, asphalt, sign pole footings, concrete footpath, kerbing and guttering.

This application of recycled glass has avoided the mining of 53 tonnes of virgin sand from southern Tasmania's rapidly depleting natural sand reserves and has given new life to glass that previously would have gone to landfill.

Using recycled glass as a substitute for sand may be new to Australia, but it's not so new to places like the UK, US and our neighbours in New Zealand. In fact, New Zealand now uses more than half of its recycled glass in alternative markets. Australia has been the laggard – that is until this project.

This project is the result of work that started in 2008, when the PSF, Veolia and Hazell Brothers formed an alliance to investigate the viability of developing alternative local markets for recycling glass bottles.

Veolia in association with Hazell Bros successfully applied for funding from the National Packaging Covenant which was granted in 2009 and new infrastructure was in place before the end of the year. From there it was a



L-R: Philip Wise Veolia, Peter Bennett Hazell Bros, Chris Jeffreys PSF and Lord Mayor Jock Campbell Clarence City Council

matter of getting a progressive council, Clarence City Council, to trial the use of glass sand in a major project.

Councils have a great opportunity to save money by reducing landfill costs and "close the loop" by using more recycled materials in their day to day operations. With the assistance of local companies like Veolia and Hazell Brothers, Tasmanian Councils are now well placed to bring together this kind of engineering and project management expertise.

The PSF is working to build on this and other projects currently underway to develop a solid business case for the use of recycled glass in alternative markets. This includes the development of a national specification for recycled glass sand which expected to be completed in May 2010.

For more information on how your council can take advantage of recycled glass sand please contact **Peter Bennett** at peter.bennett@hazellbros.com.au or on **0488 672 522**.

For information on the **PSF** and projects in glass recovery and recycling please contact **Chris Jeffreys** at chris.jeffreys@afgc.org.au or on **0403 486 454**.

