



MEDIA RELEASE

NIRC RECYCLING FUNDING - A NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT FUTURE FOR NORFOLK

Waste Management on Norfolk is about to receive a significant funding boost from the Commonwealth Government to fund critical recycling and waste infrastructure that will provide opportunities to recycle materials on island, as well as reuse key waste products including glass, cardboard and plastics.

The funding will be used to purchase a range of waste and recycling equipment including a glass pulveriser, shredder, grinder, open-top containers, small-scale plastics processor, and a reuse shed.

In a joint statement earlier this month, the Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek and Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Member for Eden-Monaro, Kristy McBain, announced up to \$3.2 million in funding to address waste management challenges on island.

Council is changing the way it manages waste on Norfolk Island, following a strategic review of waste management practices and operations by Anne Prince Consulting ([Waste Management Community Consultation Report | Norfolk Island Regional Council \(gov.nf\)](#)).

After extensive community consultation on potential options, a circular economy approach was supported by the NIRC Sustainability Advisory Committee and resolved by Council as the path forward. This approach focuses on reusing as much waste material on-island as possible and reducing the volume of general waste for export.

Some of the more exciting outcomes of this funding include:

- Plastic processing equipment, with options for production of recycled plastic products such as bollards, fence posts or park benches, or a composite aggregate material for use in civil applications
- Large-capacity glass crusher and screen, able to process up to 2 tonnes of glass per hour. This will produce a range of glass sand products for construction and civil engineering uses.
- Biochar unit, for the production of activated carbon. Activated carbon can be used as a soil enricher or can be added to Council's Hotrot composter for a high quality compost product. The biochar will process cardboard and other organic waste types
- Shredding and grinding equipment for processing of green waste. This will replace Council's existing green waste shredder, which is nearing the end of its useable life. The machine is also expected to process bulky and construction waste for volume reduction, where this is required to be exported
- Development of a new community "Reuse Shed" facility. Council recognises there is significant opportunity to divert multiple items and products from the waste stream and repair or upgrade them for reuse by the community. Council hopes to work with the community to develop the facility, deliver value and to provide improved social and environmental outcomes.

Council is extremely thankful for the funding provided by the Commonwealth. It will result in a system that protects the environment, in particular our marine waters, complements our existing waste infrastructure such as the Hotrot composter, provide value back to the community and may become a best-practice waste management model for remote communities across the world.

NIRC has engaged the business Revolve Your World (RYW), which develops sustainable solutions in waste management for communities, to deliver processes for plastics, glass, cardboard and organics recycling. Through these processes, the cost of waste management will be substantially reduced by lowering the amount of waste exported for landfilling. RYW are committed to working with the community to provide a service that best fits Norfolk Island.

The equipment will be purchased over the coming 6-12 months, with the first changes to our waste management system expected to be visible at the start of 2023. Updates will be provided to the community over the coming months.

Phil Reid
Environment & Planning Manager
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