

WAR ON WASTE DECLARED IN GIPPSLAND

Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group is declaring a war on waste through the release of its plan to better manage the materials we discard in Gippsland over the next 10 years and beyond.

The Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan (Gippsland Implementation Plan), endorsed by the Minister for Energy, Environment & Climate Change, Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio and gazetted by the Victorian Government, sets out a vision for the necessary waste and resource recovery infrastructure and services that will improve the way we manage waste in our region.

Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group Board Chair, Cr Dick Ellis said the plan brings with it significant opportunities for new jobs and investment in the region.

"The opportunity to create new local jobs through resource recovery could be substantial, particularly in dealing with organics and areas such as the Latrobe Valley where heavy industry is well supported with land, infrastructure, logistics and services.

"This plan supports growth in major employment sectors such as food and fibre, manufacturing, tourism, health and human services. It also supports alternative opportunities for economic development and job creation through establishment of waste to energy facilities to supplement energy needs," Cr Ellis said.

Gippsland's population is projected to increase by more than 62,000 people over the next 15 years. This plan addresses the impacts this significant growth will have on infrastructure and services in the region.

"We will continue to work with local government, industry and other stakeholders to now implement the priority actions outlined in the plan. It will achieve greater material recovery, drive innovation in infrastructure and service delivery, facilitate continuous improvement and enhanced performance of waste and resource recovery infrastructure and systems, and coordinate proactive planning to reduce undesirable impacts to public health, the environment and neighbouring land users.

"This plan also acknowledges the challenges created by climate change and how we can support industry and community to combat the impacts it may have on service delivery, infrastructure and community resilience," Cr Ellis said.

The Gippsland Implementation Plan is one of seven regional implementation plans that will provide an understanding of their region's current waste infrastructure, environmental and financial performance, projected waste volumes, urban growth and industry demands. The alignment to the 30 year state infrastructure plan creates certainty of direction for those wishing to invest in this space. Information sessions about the plan will be held across Gippsland between 25 July and 4 August 2017.

For a copy of the Gippsland Implementation Plan or visit: www.rightcycle.com.au

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