

## REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ALIGNMENT PROJECT

- At the June Forum meeting, members received advice that, with the conclusion of the regional and rural landfills audit project, a waste management alignment proposal was under development.
- Each of the five Local Government regions in SA – Central Local Government Region, South East Local Government Association, Murray and Mallee Local Government Association, Southern and Hills Local Government Association and Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association – have been involved in the development of regional waste management plans.
- Partly as a result of the variations in timing of regional waste management plans, the development of each region's plan has been relatively autonomous, with little cross-over and contemplation of the fit with either neighbouring regions or the State as a whole.
- As identified at the LGA's Resource Recovery and Waste Summit, February 2006, an important aspect of coherent waste reform is the review of these plans to align priorities for implementation consistent with *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2005-2010*. The strategy seeks to maximise the recovery of resources and reduce the disposal of waste to landfill resulting in good economic, social and environmental outcomes. This process would allow more effective decision-making by providing a statewide basis for assessment of regional waste priorities for Local Government.
- Funding for the project, which is being led by Zero Waste SA, was secured through the Local Government Association's Research and Development Scheme and the Office for State/Local Government Relations. The project is designed to identify common themes emerging across regions from the regional local government waste management plans and key strategic issues confronting country councils.
- Consultant, Mr Chris Brideson, Water and Waste Innovations Pty Ltd., was appointed in August to analyse all regional waste management plans and produce a report. Zero Waste SA has dovetailed this theoretical research into work being progressed under its Regional Implementation Program.
- ZWSA has established a Regional Implementation Program Taskforce that is responsible for managing regional funding applications. The Taskforce, chaired by Judith Jones, comprises the Environment Protection Authority, Local Government, Industry and Zero Waste and is driving regional workshops to discuss regional plans and next steps. Mr Brideson is participating in these sessions to hear of "on the ground" waste management issues. Accordingly, the project starts from where the regions are at and how the regions can practically make progress.
- A draft of the report of the Regional Waste Management Plan Alignment project is due in January 2007 and the final report anticipated in March 2007. The next Forum meeting will have a project progress report.