

MEDIA RELEASE

NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT MODEL BEING IMPLEMENTED IN NSW ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) have awarded funding to Waste Aid to implement its seven step waste management model, in partnership with the communities of Goodooga, Weilmoringle and Brewarrina for a total project value of around \$550 000.

Waste Aid is a charitable organisation formed in 2014 to support remote and disadvantaged communities to improve waste management.

The 7 step waste management model was piloted by Waste Aid in 2015 in partnership with the Aboriginal communities of Bourke and Enngonia. It has achieved the removal of 160 cubic metres of bulk waste and 52 car wrecks from Bourke community alone and contributed new garbage bins, public litter bins and collection trailers to both communities.

The 7 step waste management model includes:

1. Creation of a project working committee
2. A clean-up of historical waste
3. Employment of Aboriginal Community Environment Advisers
4. Educational campaign (including training)
5. Infrastructure needs analysis (audit)
6. Infrastructure installation
7. Waste management evaluation.

“It’s refreshing to now have major stakeholders assist our communities address a range of historical waste management issues” Alistair Ferguson, Chair Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party

Waste Aid’s Acting CEO, Mr Mark Conlon explained that since the waste model was announced and promoted in 2015, Waste Aid had received great interest from many Aboriginal communities seeking to establish more sustainable systems.

“The communities we work in are regularly listed as the most disadvantaged communities in NSW. There is a significant gap in municipal services delivered to some of these locations and it is Waste Aid’s long-term objective to work with the communities to identify and deliver waste services that are appropriate for them.

“Waste Aid is delighted to receive this funding to work with an additional three communities in 2016.”

“We trust that as the programme moves from strength to strength, that Waste Aid will attract further supporters to enable collaboration with more Aboriginal communities to create the right system suitable for their respective lands,” Mr Conlon said.

Waste Aid thanks the partners who supported the 2015 pilot including the NSW EPA, APC, Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party, Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation (MPREC), NSW Health, Rural Fire Services, SULO, NSW Aboriginal Affairs, Bourke Shire Council, Bourke Aboriginal Health Service, NetWaste, Waste Aid, the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet and Lend Lease.

