

New skip bin to continue new approach to waste management

Last Wednesday, Waste Aid handed over a new skip trailer to the Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation, which will allow the local Aboriginal community to collect and remove bulky waste from their own land.

Waste Aid is a charitable organisation formed just last year to improve health, environmental and social outcomes in disadvantaged communities through improved waste management.

Thanks to a \$60,000 grant from the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) they have been working to manage and deliver a new waste management model in partnership with the Bourke and Enngonia Aboriginal communities.

Waste Aid has been working closely with the Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party (BACWP), and with the ten other agencies and Aboriginal organisations that form the Bourke Waste Advisory Committee (BWAC) to deliver the new approach.

To date, Waste Aid, along with BACWP, Maranguka, Nulla Nulla and Murrawarri land councils and the assistance of Bourke Shire, Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation and the Rural Fire Service, has now completed a number of projects in Bourke and Enngonia, including: Clean up of legacy waste in Alice Edwards Village; Clean up of illegal dumping on the Yaamma festival grounds; Removal of car wrecks from Alice Edwards Village - new bins in the Alice Edwards Village park and new household bins for residents; new public-space and household bins for Enngonia; and a collection trailer for Enngonia.

The handover of the new skip trailer means

the community is able to continue the waste removal program into the future.

"This is a Bourke and Enngonia Aboriginal community-led project and the litter clean-up in Alice Edwards Village and west Bourke is being undertaken by our local Aboriginal enterprise, the Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Corporation. It is fully supported by Nulla Nulla Land Council and Bourke Shire Council. Everyone in the Bourke community is playing a part," Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party Chair Alistair Ferguson said.

"Our communities are delighted to be involved in the creation and delivery of the trial program and this work is about empowering and supporting the Aboriginal communities in Bourke and Enngonia to improve waste management on their land."

Waste Aid CEO Anne Prince said Bourke and Enngonia are just two of the 62 discrete Aboriginal communities in New South Wales that are involved.

"There is a significant gap in the municipal services delivered to many of these locations and it is Waste Aid's long-term objective to work with all communities to identify and deliver waste services to improve community outcomes," she said.

"Throughout the Bourke and Enngonia trial, Waste Aid has listened to the needs identified by the Aboriginal communities and has provided the new waste infrastructure they need. Sulo, an early supporter of the Waste Aid initiative, donated 100 wheelie bins so that each house in the Alice Edwards Village at Bourke and Clara Hart Village at Enngonia has a new rubbish bin. The skip trailer delivered today was requested by the Bourke Aboriginal community as something they need to do the job themselves."

